



PANSY: MACAU MUST DEVELOP OWN BRANDS
Pansy Ho said at the Global Tourism Economy Forum that Macau must give tourists a reason to keep coming back

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UK OFFICIAL OPTIMISTIC
A British diplomat was in Macau to reassure investors that the UK will remain an attractive destination even after Brexit

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PORTUGAL WILDFIRES KILL AT LEAST 35

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Oct 2017

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WORLD BRIEFS



MADAGASCAR As plague cases rise in Madagascar's capital, many city dwellers are panicking. They waited in long lines for antibiotics at pharmacies and reached through bus windows to buy masks from street vendors. Schools have been canceled, and public gatherings are banned. The plague outbreak has killed 63 people in the Indian Ocean island nation, Madagascar's government says.

More on backpage

2
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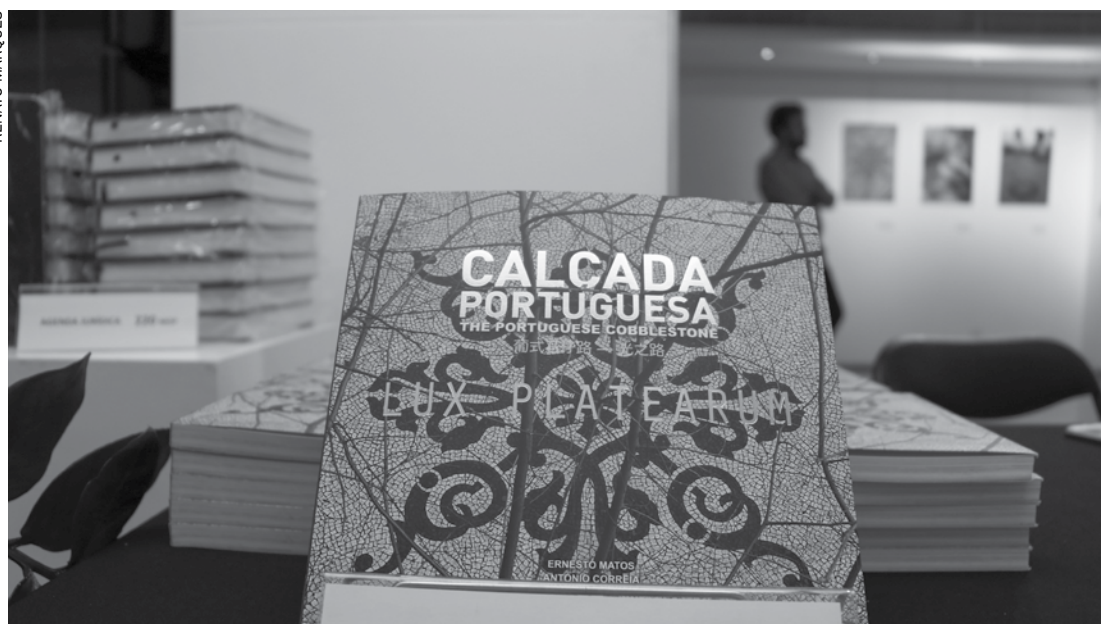


TALEB RIFAI | WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

'China takes tourism very seriously, that's why it benefits from it'

P3 INTERVIEW

RENATO MARQUES



Portuguese pavement 'a way to transmit values through the stone'

Renato Marques

THE Portuguese-style cobblestone pavement, seen in cities around the world, was the topic of a series of events last week, including a book launch and an exhibition of photographs, paintings and illustrations.

The event was inaugurated on Thursday at the Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery, which also hosted a talk with the artists on the origins, artistic aspects and special characteristics of this cobblestone.

The book, titled "Calçada Portuguesa (Portuguese Cobblestone) - Lux Platearum" comprises photographs of drawings and graphic applications of the Portuguese cobblestone by designer and photographer Ernesto Matos. These are accompanied by explanations in three languages (Portuguese, Chinese and English) and the poetry of António Correia, a well-known lawyer

who worked in Macau for many years.

As Matos explained when addressing the topic of "The Portuguese Cobblestone in the World," the traditional-style pavement is the perfect match for poetry, since it is a form of expressing thoughts, ideas and feelings that resemble the poetic form.

For him, it is a little more than that. Matos shared that the Portuguese cobblestone is a "way to transmit the values of a certain people [the Portuguese] through the stone," a legacy that he considers to be of great importance, although it is often overlooked.

"When we do one of these simple drawings (just in black in white) with the stones, aren't we trying to pass our cultural values? What is inside of us?" he asked the audience, which included professionals from multiple industries such as architecture and design.

The book launch follows Matos' tour of more than 17 countries – which took him over a decade to complete – to learn why Portuguese cobblestone is still in use around the world.

He said this was not just any regular task but a huge investment to bring the traditional Portuguese paving streets method to remote parts of the world, which were devoid of the raw materials and labor skills necessary to complete such a task.

He continued that the explanation lies in the "way the Portuguese are" and compared it to the Portuguese tradition of always receiving guests by rolling out carpets and rugs.

In the photographer's opinion, that is what the Portuguese pavement represents: "A way to tell our guests they are welcome [to visit or walk by] in a certain area," a concept that was also followed in Macau.

"Contrary to other places in the world like London and Paris – which certainly have their beautiful aspects – in places where Portuguese have a large tradition and history, we don't walk over grey floors, but instead over geological materials of great value," Matos reaffirmed.

During his presentation, Correia, who also shared a few short poetic moments included in the book, said, "The great painter is the sun, but [in Macau] I've discovered that neon lights can also perform that task," referring to the casino and shops lights that popularize the region and that in his opinion also serve as inspiration as they "paint the streets in different colors and shapes."

Regarding the construction of such pavement today, Matos said, "we can say that nowadays and in many cases, we lost a bit of the perfection on how we used to do the Portuguese cobblestone." He added that this is

due mostly to the "municipalities that do not pay so much attention anymore and do not demand anymore the perfection they used to."

"If we want to bring the Portuguese cobblestone to [UNESCO] World Heritage level, we need to do things the right way," he warned.

In Matos' opinion, Macau is a great place for people to come to see and study the Portuguese cobblestone. "One of the best works [of] the entire world [in what concerns the artistic aspects of the paving] is here in Macau in Camões Garden." He noted that such work had been created by Chinese professionals in the field, whose skills he described as "very good."

The short-term exhibition, titled "The poetic light on the Portuguese Cobblestone" by Ernesto Matos and Teresa Portela, lasted for just over a day but was said by Portela to be "another vision of the love [which she nurtures] for Macau." The painter tried to combine Chinese and Portuguese artwork in several pieces, such as by matching the famous Chinese "Red Packets" with Portuguese stone paving.

19th NPC hides information about SARs delegates

THE 19th National People's Congress of China (NPC) will convene tomorrow and more than 40 delegations have been revealed, including the delegations of the Liberation Army, and China's state level entity. However, the delegations from Macau and Hong Kong are still confidential, according to reports by Ming Pao and

Apple Daily.

Apple Daily states that a few sources have claimed that only nine delegates of the Macau and Hong Kong delegations can be identified clearly, and that these people are from the Liaison Office and from Chinese enterprises, including the China Merchants Group and China National Travel Service

Group Corporation.

In turn, the report by Ming Pao states that there is a total of 18 delegates from Hong Kong and Macau, but the identity concerning four of these delegates remains unclear. Three of the four unknown delegates are women.

The NPC's Hong Kong and Macau delegates

comprise people from the Communist Party of China's (CCP) working committee in Hong Kong and in Macau.

According to Ming Pao, in every NPC meeting held in China, there are delegates with unclear identity, who represent the working committees of Hong Kong and Macau offices. These people

are normally CCP's ground level representatives working in Hong Kong and Macau, and are more often women than men.

It is reported that they might not be using their real name in order to attend the NPC meetings.

In addition, the delegates of Tailian, a group self-proclaimed to be formed by Taiwanese people,

vows to push Taiwan's and China's unification forward.

According to a report by HKO1, CCP's Hong Kong and Macau working committees have always existed in Macau, despite the identities of their members not being disclosed. Both committees rarely engage in open activities. **JZ**

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Q&A TALEB RIFAI WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

China benefits from 'serious' attitude to tourism

Daniel Beitler

BASED in the Spanish capital Madrid, Taleb Rifai is the current Secretary General of the United Nations' World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), having been unanimously elected to the position in 2010 and reaffirmed in 2014.

Selected as a keynote speaker at this year's China-centric Global Tourism and Economy Forum (GTEF), Rifai gave a presentation yesterday titled "A Journey Well-Traveled".

Remarking on the latest wave of intrepid Chinese tourists, who are willing to travel more extensively than ever before, the high-ranking United Nations official said that he regards China as "one of the most important countries for tourism today."

"Not only has Chinese tourism contributed to the global economy, but I see [Chinese] tourism as a political and social tool for promoting China in the world



today," he said, alluding to the people-to-people exchanges promoted under state-sponsored programs like the Belt and Road Initiative.

In an interview with local and international media, Rifai said that China is demonstrating how seriously it takes tourism and this

provides fertile ground for the GTEF to become a major calendar event in the global tourism sector.

- How is the Global Tourism and Economy Forum developing as a platform for studying tourism?

Taleb Rifai (TR) - This forum

is an example of the success of tourism on the ground [in China]. I think this forum will become one of the most important [platforms] for tourism [discussion] in the world. After only six years [of GTEF], you can already see the results. There are forums that are now 30 or 40 years old and they have not accomplished half of what has been accomplished here.

- What is making this possible?

TR - There is a need today for the world to hear what China has to say about tourism.

We know that most of these meetings used to take place in Europe and North America. [But] the establishment of this forum has turned the equation around. There is now a need in the world to come to China and discuss issues sincerely. It tells the world: 'You want to know, you want to learn, you want to discuss? You have to come here to us.' And the world has responded in an extremely positive way.

- Do you expect anything on the tourism industry to emerge from China's Party Congress this week?

TR - I am perhaps not the best person to comment on this, but I hope that this conference will continue to strengthen the relationship China has with the tourism industry. China is one of the most serious countries in the world when it comes to tourism. The problem that we normally have with tourism is that governments don't take it seriously. China takes it very seriously and that's why it is benefitting from it.

- Can terrorism and security issues be considered a threat to the development of the global tourism industry?

TR - The UNWTO has identified three major threats: safety and security, technological disruption and sustainability. In terms of safety and security, we recognize that this is a major challenge, but not one that is insurmountable.

We should not approach safety and security by closing borders, or imposing travel bans or building walls. That does not help; actually that is surrendering to the agenda of the terrorists, who are trying to make us mistrust and hate each other. Travel must be safe and secure and this is a major challenge, but we know it can be because it has been done in many situations [before].

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Oktoberfest 2017

MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 12 to 23. We are giving away a total of 10 sets of entry tickets and F&B coupons. Readers will have to correctly answer today's question to be in with a chance of winning. Each prize set includes:

Oktoberfest entry tickets x 2	\$340
F&B coupons	\$200
Oktoberfest sunglasses x 2	\$80
Total value	\$620

MGM MACAU will bring the ninth Oktoberfest Macau at MGM between October 12 and 23 this year! Locals and guests will again get to experience Macau's most authentic bierfest outside of Germany!

History of Oktoberfest
Oktoberfest began in Munich with over 200 years of long history. It was originally launched for the Münchners to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the royal wedding, as well as to promote the good Bavarian harvest. Nowadays, Oktoberfest has transformed into one of the most influential annual beer carnivals in the world.

Since 2009, MGM MACAU has welcomed over 110,000 beer lovers with over 106,000 liters of beer, 23,485 kilograms of pork knuckles, 10,416 roasted chickens and 15,238 pieces of homemade pretzels served.

The 11-day beer fest at MGM MACAU captures the essence of Bavarian festivities through German beers, cuisines, live entertainments and the Bavarian party atmosphere. MGM MACAU will serve Löwenbräu, one of only six official Oktoberfest brews from Munich, with other wheat beer to pair with classic German comfort foods. Enjoy the rhythmic accordion, oompah music and folk dances along with the Bavarian beer maids in dirndls. The huge beer tent with traditional decorations, including ceiling wreaths, bunting and carnival game booths, will be a guaranteed fun and alive experience that is just like the Munich Oktoberfest. Once again, MGM is flying the beloved Högl Fun Band all the way from Munich over to Macau to fill the nights with dynamic live performances.

For guests who would like to enjoy the authentic German party with children and family, the Special Day Time Oktoberfest between 11am and 3pm on October 21 is the perfect option. Non-alcoholic beers and a range of beverages are also available as alternatives.

Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2017 will be held in The Vista II between October 12 and 23. Admission tickets and food and beverage coupons will be available for sale from September 11. The number of tickets and tables are limited, so get them soon before they are out!

Ticket & reservation counter:
Date: September 11 - October 23, 2017
Time: 1 - 8pm daily
Venue: Oktoberfest Reservation Counter, 1/F, MGM MACAU (opposite Pastry Bar)
Entry ticket: MOP 170 per person (including one standard beer or drink)
Phone: (852) 8802 2666

Question for readers:

How many liters of beer have been served by MGM MACAU since 2009?

Please email the answer to: oktoberfest2017@macaudailytimes.com along with your name and contact details.



GLOBAL TOURISM ECONOMY FORUM

Pansy Ho: Macau must develop own brands to mature tourism

Daniel Beittler

THE Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) 2017 kicked off yesterday at Grand Hyatt Macau with secretary general Pansy Ho saying it was necessary for Macau to develop its own brands in order to give tourists a reason to keep coming back to the city.

Now in its sixth year, and continuing to gather ministerial officials, leaders of global corporations, experts and scholars from around the world, the homegrown GTEF is perhaps the most high-profile event in the city for discussing issues concerning the global tourism sector.

The Forum Chairman of GTEF and former MSAR chief executive, Edmund Ho, addressed the opening ceremony yesterday by praising the development of the event over the past few years.

“Hosted in Macau for six consecutive years, GTEF has established itself as a prominent annual international tourism event,” he said. “After years of dedicated effort, GTEF has gained extensive international attention and high-level acknowledgment and support from the Central Government.”

“When we started [GTEF] six years ago, the objective was to create for Macau its own Macau-branded event,” said Pansy Ho, secretary general of GTEF and managing director of Shun Tak Holdings, separately, on the sidelines of the event.

“One might say that Macau is the most successful [development of a] tourism destination in the past decade,” she continued. “However, although we



“Although we have been successful in bringing all of these [hospitality and gaming] brands to Macau, they do not belong to Macau.”

PANSY HO

have been successful in bringing all of these [hospitality and gaming] brands to Macau, they do not belong to Macau. They are hotel brands, and they have properties in different parts of the world.”

Ho said the success lay in creating homegrown events and attractions that belong to Macau, thereby giving tourists a reason to visit the city besides wanting to stay in a particular hotel or play baccarat in a particular casino. Stage one was to build the infrastructure, she added, but stage two involves Macau developing unique offerings based on what only it can offer.

“We don’t want people to come [to Macau] because they want to stay in a particular hotel. We want them to come [... for] Macau.”

Although it is ostensibly an “international tourism platform designed to promote the sustainable development of the global tourism industry,” the Forum is predominantly focused on China and the policy initiatives introduced by Beijing. This year it specifically aims to support China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the “16+1” economic framework

between China and Central and Eastern European countries.

The 16 Central and Eastern European countries covered in the framework are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia. They are partnered with China’s ethnically diverse Guizhou Province in the southwest of the country.

One keynote speaker during yesterday’s conference sessions,

He Yafei, the leader of a Gui-zhou-based environmental protection institution, used his time to overtly criticize Washington and the U.S.-led international system, claiming that the country has “upended itself and become the single most troubling uncertainty in the world today.”

Though his speech contained almost no mention of tourism, He took a particular interest in condemning the notion of American exceptionalism, while advancing a form of Chinese exceptionalism as a basis for the country’s foreign relations.

“The key is to examine closely the cultural and civilization DNA of China that guides its domestic and international policies,” said He, according to the transcript of his speech. “China, different from previous major powers, will by no means become a hegemonic power as it grows stronger. Instead it is a powerful force for world peace and economic growth by maintaining a global and regional governance system as agreed and accepted by the international community as a whole.”

The global tourism sector today makes up more than 10 percent of the world economy, and most experts believe it has the potential to grow much larger.

China accounts for more outbound tourists than any other country worldwide, and the country’s economic growth in the years ahead suggests that the attraction of Chinese tourists will increasingly serve as a key driver in the economies of other countries, particularly those in Europe, North America and Southeast Asia.

TYPHOON DAMAGES MACAU’S TOURISM IMAGE

MGTO HEAD Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, believes that Typhoon Khanun has damaged the region’s tourism image after many tourists were forced to stay at the Border Gate bus and taxi stops during the typhoon. Speaking

on the sidelines of the GTEF, the MGTO director has vowed that her department is considering sending messages to tourists prior to their arrivals into Macau, and providing information regarding the city’s situation.

THE Traffic Committee’s proposal to establish different fares for the use of public buses for residents and non-residents might not move forward, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, hinted yesterday.

On the sidelines of the ceremony of the inauguration of the president of the Legislative Assembly, Rosário said: “I reaffirm in a very clear way that this was a proposal and not a decision. Nothing is decided yet.”

Nevertheless, the Secretary continued to note that “it is normal everywhere that local ci-

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

No decision on different bus fares for residents and ‘blue card’ holders

tizens benefit more than the others.”

Rosário also explained that the idea of raising the bus fares in MOP1 came along with the idea of “slightly” reducing the share of the government’s subsidy. According to Rosário, the real fare at the moment should be MOP6.60, noting, “if people pay only MOP2 that means that they are paying not even one third

of the real cost,” adding that such fares are have not been updated for as long as 10 years and fares are higher in neighboring regions.

“We were asked to keep our budget as low as last year, a situation that we know that isn’t really possible but we will try our best to keep the budget in a similar rate,” he said, noting that the growth should be somewhere in

between “2, 3 or 4 percent at the most.”

Rosário mentions that contributing towards such expenses is the subsidy conceded to the three bus companies which had reached over MOP1 billion last year. The Secretary wants it to be lowered to around MOP700 million with the increase of the bus fare. **RM**

PAULO BARBOSA





Frances Mofett-Kouadio

British official optimistic on HK, Macau investors

Lynzy Valles

THE UK still remains Europe's top destination for inward investment projects even after the 2016 "Brexit" referendum, and will likely remain so in the long term, contrary to what economists expected after its departure from the EU last year.

Frances Mofett-Kouadio, UK director of Trade at the Department for International Trade for Hong Kong and Macau at the British consulate in Hong Kong, said that the department is also looking at investors from Macau and Hengqin.

During a British Business Association of Macao event last week, the official also noted that the de-

partment is focusing on creating strong links between local and UK universities, along with the city's creative sector.

"The creative sector [is also a focus for the department] because of the growth of integrated resorts both here and across Hengqin. I think we have a huge amount to offer in terms of entertainment and creative com-

panies," said the official.

Mofett-Kouadio disclosed that Hong Kong and Macau's high value campaigns and value targets for infrastructure projects in 2017/18 stand at £145 million (MOP1.55 billion), while its investment target for creative, and education and training stands at £80 million and £65 million respectively.

Currently, the trade provides bespoke market information, along with an access to relevant contacts in the public and private sectors in the UK for interested Hong Kong and Macau investors.

According to the official, the single largest foreign investor in the UK is from Hong Kong and there have been over £9 billion of investments made into real estate, property development and infrastructure so far this year.

"The UK still attracts the highest inward investments in Europe and we don't expect that situation to change, so we're really looking for innovative companies, young startups," said the director.

The UK's international trade secretary, Liam Fox, earlier disclosed that the country has attracted over 2,200 new inward investment projects in 2016-17.

However, reports noted that statistics published by UK's Department for International Trade (DIT) revealed that new jobs created by foreign investment fell by 9 percent last year.

Meanwhile, Kouadio noted that the department is keen on assisting young companies that put themselves forward, adding that the team backs these companies to participate in FinTech spaces in the UK.

The official also expressed that the team remains optimistic about acquiring quality investors from both Hong Kong and Macau.

"The investments are doing really well against their targets. We want investments [that have] high value, [...] bringing value to the economy long term. We're optimistic," Kouadio said.

"What we've seen [after Brexit] is a reverse [of what was expected], partly because of the weak pound, so it is a great time to invest. [...] It remains a popular place to invest, particularly for this part of the world," the official added.

Further, the UK government will host a 'GREAT Festival of Innovation,' which features a series of keynote speakers, master classes, showcases, installations and performances involving industry leaders in Hong Kong in March.

The event will also showcase UK innovation and technology. With the upcoming International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) slated to take place in December 8 to 14, Kouadio noted that the event organizers are anticipating collaboration with the UK.

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RENATO MARQUES



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Ho Iat Seng almost uncontested

Renato Marques

THE newly inaugurated Macau Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session re-elected president Ho Iat Seng, to a new mandate, the second after his election in 2013.

The election, which took place at the chamber yesterday afternoon, saw Ho take 30 out of the 33 possible votes from the lawmakers, with the other three being distributed as two to lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong and one left blank.

The voting session was conducted by lawmaker Vitor Cheung Lup Kwan, as he is the oldest lawmaker of the hemicycle, and scrutinized by the pair Sulu Sou and Song Pek Kei, who are some of the younger ones.

Sou, who is the youngest lawmaker of the Macau AL, had the task of announcing the results.

The session was interrupted by Sou, as he questioned the rules governing such an election, his first intervention as a lawmaker.

Sou was questioning the system, calling for a presentation from several lawmakers as "all can be elected for such position."

To this request, Kwan replied that besides the new lawmakers, all others were widely known and that was "unnecessary and time-consuming" to perform such a task.

Kwan added, "according to regulations, when there are at least eight lawmakers that state their interest in being president [of the AL] clearly, we should do that [presentation]."

On the sidelines of the session, Sou explained the aim of his question saying that he wanted to bring to attention that such positions (of president and

vice president) of the AL should be given to directly elected lawmakers as they "are more entitled" since "they were elected by the people."

Following the appointment of the new president of the AL by the Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, which took place at the Macau Cultural Centre, Ho told the media that he plans to fulfill his mandate for the entire period of four years. "If I'm in good health I will," he said, reaffirming, "this is the task that I need to fulfill," pushing away the possibilities of running for CE at mid-mandate.

Regarding his mandate, Ho believes that the newly elected lawmakers can contribute a "wider range of opinions," noting that, "as long as they follow the rules of the AL, as president I'm not afraid to have more voices at the AL. On the contrary, I don't like when nobody speaks and nobody presents their opinions."

After being re-elected, Ho said: "I'll accept this position and promise to fulfill it according to the Macau Basic Law and the Assembly regiment, taking in note also the statute of the lawmakers."

Chui Sai Cheong elected as AL vice-president, sees no nepotism

AS the Times revealed last week, indirectly elected lawmaker Chui Sai Cheong was elected as the vice-president of the AL yesterday with 29 out of 33 possible votes.

In an election that resembled that of AL president, Ho Iat Seng, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong got two votes again, while the remaining two were blank votes.

After the election, Chui expressed his thoughts, accepting the position and the trust given by his fellow colleagues.

Kou Hoi In, a veteran lawmaker who comes from the business sector, and Chan Hong, a representative of the welfare and education sector, were respectively elected to occupy the position of first and second secretary of the board.

Chui, who is 63 years old and the brother of the Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On, is the general manager of the property and development department of Chui's family business, Companhia de Investimento Predial Chui's, Lda.

Among other duties and positions already mentioned, he also presides the Macau Ma-



Chui Sai Cheong votes

nagement Association and is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Chui was also questioned by the media on the sidelines of his inauguration on the possibility of a conflict of interest, given the fact that his brother is the CE and he is the vice-president of the AL. "Macau, is a very small community. So, different people have different positions, or many positions. This is very common, so I don't think it's a problem," he said. **RM/JZ**

NEW LAWMAKERS TAKE OATH

The 33 lawmakers that compose the new Legislative Assembly for the sixth legislature took their oath at approximately noon yesterday at the government's headquarters. The oath was taken in the presence of Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On without any unforeseen

events, with all lawmakers making their oath in-group and represented by lawmaker Kou Hoi In in the stand. The oath was led by China's National Anthem and followed by an individual exchange of compliments between the new lawmakers and the CE.

corporate bits

MGM EXTENDS OKTOBERFEST FOR A DAY



MGM announced yesterday that it has extended its annual event "Oktoberfest Macau at MGM 2017" until Monday, October 23.

This year's event also includes the Family-Friendly DayTime Oktoberfest, which

will run on October 21 from 11am to 3pm. Guests can enjoy a Bavarian entertainment brunch with children and family. Non-alcoholic beers and a range of beverages will also be available.

At the event, locals and tourists can experience Löwenbräu beer, authentic German delicacies and live music by Munich's Högl Fun Band.

Last year, the band composed a theme song for the event titled "Nei Hou, Macau," which included a few Cantonese catchphrases – an example of cultural exchange, MGM stated in a press release.

CESL ASIA HOLDS SEVENTH 'KIDS MOVIE DAY'

CESL Asia held its "Kids Movie Day" for the seventh consecutive year with an aim to spread the love and care to kids from local child institutions.

The CESL Asia Social Investment (CSI) Team gathered some 100 children and 30 volunteers to enjoy an animation movie and disseminate the idea of building a harmonious society, the company said in a statement.

Held on Saturday, children from Macau Special Olympics, Cradle of Hope, Fountain of Hope, and the Fountain of Love and Joy Integrated Family Services Centre participated in the event.



As has been the case in past years, the party at the McDonald's restaurant at Macao Science Center was a highlight in the program to further delight the kids with brunch and entertainment.

The children also participated in an educational visit at the Macao Science Centre.

CTM TO OFFER IPHONE 8 ON FRIDAY

CTM yesterday announced that it will start selling the new Apple iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus.

Customers can now pre-register at CTM's stores or on its website, and both will be available at our stores starting on Friday.

Vandy Poon, CEO of CTM said, "with the cutting-edge technology and innovative features of iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus, riding on CTM's exclusive 'China-City Link (Macau, HK & Taiwan)' 4G Data Sharing Service, we are confident that customers will enjoy an unpa-

ralleled, unprecedented experience as part of their smart lifestyle."

The iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus are a new generation of iPhones featuring a new glass and aluminum design in three finishes - space gray, silver and gold.

The iPhone 8 Plus features dual 12-megapixel cameras and introduces Portrait mode with Portrait Lighting, bringing studio lighting effects to the iPhone that will allow customers to capture portraits with a shallow depth of field effect in five different lighting styles.



The all-new Maserati Levante. The Maserati of SUVs.

The practicality and versatility of an SUV or the power and panache of a Maserati? Now you can enjoy both, courtesy of the new Levante. Featuring potent 3.0 V6 diesel (Variable Geometry Turbo) engine, Q4 intelligent all-wheel drive system, an 8-speed ZF transmission and sophisticated air suspension, the Levante is every inch a refined SUV. Meanwhile, its exclusive Italian styling, luxurious interior and unique exhaust note affirm its Maserati DNA. So that's one less difficult decision to make.

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ENVIRONMENT

More factories go dark as China's expansion hangs in the balance

IN pockets of China's industrial heartland, a government push to clean up the environment and cut excess output is starting to bite: Furnaces have gone cold, the lights have been switched off, migrant workers are drifting back home.

Liu Xiaoping, a resident of the sprawling, smoggy, steel-making hub of Jinan in the northeast is among the campaign's collateral damage. Standing in a cul-de-sac where most factories were closed on a recent weekday visit, he says officials ignored his pleas for more time to comply with regulations at his 20-year-old plastic mold business. As officials threatened to cut off electricity, Liu shut down his factory before they could do so.

"It was like a knife falling," Liu said, claiming that the chop in mid-September left him with 1 million yuan (USD152,000) of idle equipment and 10 unemployed staff in a city where more than 7,000 businesses labeled "messy and polluting" have been targeted for clean-up or closure. "None of us know what to do."

While it may be little consolation to Liu, the impact from efforts to cut capacity is proving double edged - factory profits have surged and deflation has taken root across industry, giving a much needed boost to indebted companies. Third-quarter gross domestic product numbers due Thursday are likely to show the world's second-biggest economy remains in a sweet-spot, with a 6.8 percent pace of growth expected, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists.

And if comments made by Zhou Xiaochuan, Governor of the People's Bank of China are any guide, a shift in the economy to consumption and away from investment and exports may yet produce an even stronger performance. Speaking in Washington late Sunday, Zhou said he hoped that a 7 percent expansion for the second half was possible, according to a statement.

China's reflation also continues, with producer prices rising 6.9 percent in September from a year earlier, data released yesterday showed.

Still, the drag from industrial restructuring may intensify. Economists estimate the expansion will slow to 6.4 percent next year and 6.1 percent in 2019.

For China's leadership - gathering this week at the 19th Communist Party Congress - cleaning the noxious skies and filthy rivers has become a priority. In contrast to previous leaders' growth-at-all-costs approach, President Xi Jinping and his premier



Aluminum ingots move along a conveyor belt at the China Hongqiao Group Ltd. aluminum smelting facility in Zouping

have declared war on pollution, spurred by the anger of citizens enshrouded in smog that's sometimes more than 50 times more toxic than levels deemed safe by the World Health Organization.

That political will overlaps with an economic need to rein in surplus production of steel, aluminum and other basic materials after years of over-investment. How and when that capacity gets replaced will be a key factor in the economy's performance beyond 2017.

"The last time we saw this kind of effort to cut capacity was at the end of the last century, when Premier Zhu Rongji was determined to shut down money-losing state enterprises," said Tao Dong, vice chairman for Greater China at Credit Suisse Private Banking in Hong Kong. "There'll be short-term consequences for growth and jobs but it's hard to quantify at this moment, all depending on whether the capacity will remain shut after the Party Congress."

Capacity shutdowns are rippling across the nation with officials estimating hundreds of thousands of small enterprises may be closed. State enterprises aren't being spared the knife either, though policy makers are cushioning the impact of those cuts.

Jinan Steel, a unit of Shandong Iron and Steel Co. with about 20,000 employees, was among those shuttered in July, the furnaces falling cold. Many workers though were relocated to a group plant at the coastal town of Rizhao, about four hours' drive away. Premier Li Keqiang visited the company in April and told workers that while the closure

would take a toll, the nation would work to ensure employees are shifted to new positions rather than laid off.

Stock filings show the company planned lower production of crude iron and steel this year than last. Calls to the company for comment went unanswered and it didn't immediately respond to emailed questions.

■ For China's leadership cleaning the noxious skies and filthy rivers has become a priority

BIGGEST SMELTER

In Zouping county, about a two-hour drive from Jinan, privately-owned China Hongqiao Group Ltd., the nation's biggest aluminum smelter, said in August that it would cut annual production capacity by 2.68 million metric tons, or about 29 percent of the total. In response to questions from Bloomberg, a Hongqiao spokesperson said there have been no redundancies, early retirements or forced holidays at the company.

More interruptions loom. Jinan's government will close most construction sites until further notice to cut pollution in coming months, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday.

In its latest report based on anecdotes on the economy ga-

thered from more than 3,000 firms, China Beige Book found that progress on reducing debt and industrial capacity is proving elusive. Steel plants are still increasing output while they can ahead of a separate set of temporary, winter-time production curbs designed to lower pollution.

That may be because remaining furnaces are working overtime. Morgan Stanley estimates net capacity reductions of steel - accounting for new plants as well as those shuttered - will reach nearly 200 million tons in total for 2016 and 2017 combined. That exceeds Japan's capacity of 130.5 million tons, and isn't far off the European Union's 222 million tons.

The country's last wave of mergers and closures of moribund state enterprises, in the late 1990s under then-Premier Zhu, cleaned up corporate balance sheets, improved efficiency, and paved the way for the following decade's economic boom, says Cui Li, head of macro research at CCB International Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong.

GROWTH IMPACT

The seasonal campaign may shave up to 0.25 percentage point off growth during the next six months, estimates Societe Generale SA. In July the Ministry of Environmental Protection said up to 176,000 businesses would be forced to shut down in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei by the end of September. As the Party Congress approaches, there's still a question mark hanging about the country's longer-term industrial and environmental policies.

"In the short term, stricter en-

vironmental regulations are bound to slow growth," says Frederic Neumann, co-head of Asian economics research at HSBC Holdings Plc in Hong Kong. "The coming leadership re-shuffle offers an opportunity to revisit the medium-term policy agenda. This may entail an even sharper focus on environmental issues and the managing of potential risks in the financial sector."

Even before the crackdown on polluting companies gained momentum in recent months, efforts to reduce industrial capacity had exceeded many analysts' expectations. It fueled a rally in global metal prices, a surge in China's factory profits, and a frenzy over commodity stocks. Consolidating industries account for half of total fixed-asset investment, according to CCB's Cui. The materials industry, including iron and steel, has been hardest hit, she says.

Shandong is among places feeling the most collateral damage, with locals affected by job losses or reduced wages, and left with uncertainty over their futures.

Zouping's Hushan village is a rubber recycling hub that officials shuttered in one sweep last month. Piles of used tires were stacked as high as two stories in many idled workshops, and some factories were locked up, on a Thursday afternoon last month.

IDLED WORKSHOPS

At Liu Shuhua's convenience store, located on a quiet road just outside the village, stocks of cigarettes, liquor and snacks are piled high, where once migrant workers snapped them up. Liu says sales have slumped 50 percent, and she fears that's permanent.

"It's impossible to say I'm not worried," says Liu. "At least half the township population is affected by these closures."

Some hope workshops will reopen after passing environmental reviews. Liu Qingyong's family of six made 6,000 yuan a month recycling old tires but now has no income, he says. "The closures are all temporary," he says. "Sooner or later it will all start again."

The township is trying to find a way out for the rubber workshops, and has invited a Beijing company to discuss a plan, according to a statement on its website. "Closures are not the ultimate solution, but innovation and a clean environment are necessary," it said.

"If Xi is going to maintain support for the Party among China's middle class he'll need to focus on quality of life issues," says David Loevinger, a former China specialist at the U.S. Treasury Department and now an analyst at TCW Group Inc. in Los Angeles. "Stronger enforcement on environmental rules is here to stay, particularly in the northeast. I expect it will be a material drag on growth next year."

Bloomberg

Tom Mitchell in Beijing,
Financial Times

ON his first trip as the Chinese Communist party's newly installed general secretary, Xi Jinping travelled to the southern city of Shenzhen in December 2012 and laid a wreath at a larger-than-life bronze statue of Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Xi's homage to Deng, who used Shenzhen as a testbed for his historic economic reforms, appeared to signal continuity with the policies of modern China's founding father. "The Communist party must stick to the correct path of reform and opening up," Mr Xi said. "We must be unwavering on the road to a prosperous country and people."

As Mr Xi prepares to preside over a party congress starting tomorrow that will mark the start of his second term in office, the question is whether China's leader intends to use his power to continue the Deng legacy of "opening up" or whether he will instead pursue a narrower agenda of defending the position of the ruling party and his own allies.

The president's supporters argue that his ruthless anti-corruption campaign and more muscular defence of the country's territorial claims enjoy popular support, which has allowed him to accrue vital political capital. For his first term, Mr Xi was largely surrounded by men and women groomed by his predecessors. But with his "A-team" in place after this party congress, the argument goes, he will finally begin to deliver on difficult economic and financial challenges.

Yet Mr Xi has also signalled that he intends to loom over a new period in China's modern history distinct from the ones defined by Deng and Mao Zedong, the party's revolutionary leader. "Mao beat the foreign invaders and Deng ended hunger," says Li Xiguang, a professor at Beijing's Tsinghua University and a Xi admirer. "Xi talks about having confidence in our [political and economic] system ... it's a total breakthrough."

In one big departure from the Deng era, Mr Xi has deliberately blurred the division of labour Deng drew between the Communist party and the Chinese state, while also halting or reversing a range of financial and economic reforms as soon as they encountered turbulence.

This has inspired grumbles in Beijing that Mr Xi has proved himself a master of the party's internal power dynamics, purging his rivals and cowering others. But when it

China's next five years: 'Only Xi is



comes to using his accumulated power to push through difficult reforms, as Deng did, the president's critics argue that he is a paper tiger.

"Xi knows, like Machiavelli said, that it is better to be feared than loved," says one person who advises Chinese policymakers but is wary of the authoritarian turn the country has taken. "Yet as a strategist Xi is much smaller than Mao and Deng in every respect. Deng rarely - and Mao never - took charge of everything. They only took charge of the big things. Xi Jinping takes everything, big and small, in his own hands."

"Mao and Deng paid attention to substance first," the person adds. "Xi worries about appearance. When Mao and Deng made their minds up, they would stick with it because it can take years to see the real effects of your struggle."

Mr Xi's ambitions will be laid bare at this week's 19th Party Congress, where he will be nominated for a second term as general secretary. Mr Xi's second term as state president will not formally begin until March, when his government appointment is rubber-stamped at the annual session of parliament.

In a political ritual whose secrecy is rivalled only by that surrounding the selection of a new Pope, after about a week of deliberations Mr Xi and his new leadership team will walk on to a stage and stand before the world's media.

■ Mao and Deng paid attention 'to substance first'. 'Xi worries about appearance'

Even the number of seats on Mr Xi's new Politburo Standing Committee, the party's most powerful body, will not be known until the last minute. Moments before the previous standing committee performed this ritual in 2012, the only clue that it had been shrunk from nine seats to seven were the seven small pieces of tape that marked where the new members were supposed to stand.

When they did emerge, six of the seven men, inclu-

ding Mr Xi, were dressed in dark suits and red ties. Only Wang Qishan, the powerful head of Mr Xi's anti-corruption campaign, broke the identikit uniform by wearing a blue tie.

Mr Xi's dominance is such that, as Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing, says, "guessing who will be on the next standing committee is in a sense irrelevant - everyone will be Xi's man. No one except Xi is indispensable."

The one possible exception to the widespread perception that "only Xi matters" is Mr Wang, who is also the party's most accomplished financial technocrat. Now 69, his reappointment to the Politburo Standing Committee - and possible elevation to premier, replacing Li Keqiang - would be widely welcomed by reformist officials and the private sector as a sign of Mr Xi's determination to deliver economic reforms.

"Everybody hopes Wang will stay on and it seems like he's more in than out at the moment," says one senior Chinese business executive in Beijing. "But only Xi knows." According to an informal convention enforced

since 2002, cadres aged 68 or older are ineligible for reappointment to party positions. If Mr Xi breaks with convention by retaining Mr Wang, the precedent could potentially allow him to serve a third term as party general secretary from 2022 to 2027.

Mr Wang has recently met a number of international dignitaries, including Singapore's prime minister Lee Hsien Loong and former US presidential adviser Steve Bannon, stoking speculation that he is not about to step down.

This week's party congress is expected to enshrine "Xi Jinping Thought" in the party's constitution, which would be only the third "named" addition alongside Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping Theory. The congress will also fill the party's central committee (traditionally comprising about 200 members), politburo (25 members) and its standing committee with Xi loyalists.

If Mr Xi's name is written into the party constitution alongside Mao and Deng's, it will further strengthen his hand, just a year after he was officially designated China's "core leader". Earlier

indispensable'

in 2016, he also added the title "commander-in-chief" of China's armed forces, a position that had not formally existed since 1954.

But such aggrandisement is seen by some as a sign of weakness rather than strength. Deng made just this point in a 1980 speech on the relationship between party and state. "Over-concentration of power is liable to give rise to arbitrary rule by individuals at the expense of the collective leadership."

Deng was secure enough in power that he dominated Chinese politics through the mid and late-1980s while having only one formal position - chairman of the party's central military commission that oversees the People's Liberation Army.

Deng's reign continued into the next decade without even this one formal title. In 1992 he revived his own economic reform programme, which had stalled after he ordered the PLA to crush the Tiananmen Square student protests in 1989. The Deng statue that Mr Xi visited in December 2012 was erected in memory of the late leader's now-famous "southern tour" of cities including Shenzhen and Shanghai.

Jude Blanchette, an analyst at The Conference Board who is writing a book on modern Chinese politics, argues that Mr Xi's eagerness to blur clear boundaries between the Communist party and Chinese state is "a direct rebuke to [Deng's] idea of political reform".

Mr Xi has, for example, reduced his premier and the State Council's traditional authority over the economy by taking charge of "party leading groups" that have been micromanaging economic and financial policy since 2015, when Mr Li, the premier, ordered a chaotic rescue of China's crashing stock markets.

According to two people close to the internal policy debate at the time, officials in Mr Xi's leading groups believed the State Council's market intervention would ultimately backfire and allow them to assert more power.

One government official says he now worries that Mr Li is widely regarded as "the weakest premier in the history of the People's Republic of China".

In contrast to the risky but ultimately successful reforms unleashed by Deng, since 2013 Mr Xi has reversed a number of hard-won financial liberalisations at the first

sign of instability, notably after the 2015 market crash and a run on China's currency in early 2016. More recently, his administration has cracked down on overseas direct investments by large state-owned enterprises and private-sector groups, which had been encouraged to "go out" by Beijing.

This has disappointed some officials who feel that Mr Xi has not followed through on the pro-reform rhetoric of both a landmark party policy document in November 2013, which declared that the market should play a "decisive role" in the economy, and his defence of an open global trading regime at the Davos World Economic Forum in January.

With Xi's 'A-team' in place after this party congress, he will finally begin to deliver on difficult economic and financial challenges

In its most recent assessment of China, the International Monetary Fund reviewed the Xi administration's record on 14 challenges related to reducing corporate debt and financial risk, relaxing foreign exchange controls and reforming China's state-owned enterprises. The IMF concluded that Mr Xi had achieved only "some" or "limited" progress in 12 of these areas.

Mr Xi has focused on merging big SOEs into even bigger ones, further consolidating their grip on the world's second-largest economy. And rather than truly opening state-dominated sectors, private companies have instead been encouraged to take only minority stakes in a handful of SOEs and state-led infrastructure projects.

"The critical questions are whether Xi will be able or willing to use [his] accumulated power effectively and to what purpose," Tony Satch, an expert on the Chinese leadership at Harvard University, wrote in a recent paper.

As an indication of Mr Xi's determination to see through reforms, his de-

AP PHOTO



fenders point to a series of key appointments at China's banking and securities regulators as well as the National Development and Reform Commission. Some are men the president previously worked with in provincial postings. Others are well-respected protégés of Zhu Rongji, the former premier who negotiated China's 2001 entry into the World Trade Organisation and oversaw an overhaul of SOEs and banks.

"It is not easy to establish yourself as 'the core' of the party," says one senior government official, arguing that Mr Xi had to consolidate

power and restore confidence in the strength of China's party-state system before tackling potentially destabilising reforms.

"We draw lessons from our own reference points," the official adds. "China does best under strong central government, a strong leader and a unifying ideology. Then the country prospers."

Reflecting this, Mr Xi has embraced a "confidence doctrine" that takes pride in the Chinese party-state's unique political economy. US president Donald Trump's chaotic start in office and the ruc-

tions from Britain's decision to leave the EU have both given Beijing unprecedented faith in its political system and economic development model.

"Xi has problems to deal with but look at the US," says Prof Shi at Renmin University. "Their president is crazy, Congress divisive and people divided, [while] Europe has a solvency problem. Xi believes China will continue to be vigorous, strong and rising. He has great hope that by the end of his tenure, China's national resurgence can be fundamentally realised."

MDT/FT Exclusive

Three to watch: The next generation of leaders?



Chen Min'er, 57
CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Many believe the recently appointed party boss of Chongqing is one of the few senior officials regarded by Mr Xi as a possible future president. He is likely to be one of the youngest members of the new politburo.



Wang Yang, 62
POLITBURO MEMBER

Mr Wang was a surprise addition to the politburo in 2007, when he was just 52, but failed to advance to the Politburo Standing Committee in 2012. Also a vice premier, he is the Chinese government's point person for annual strategic and economic negotiations with the US.



Cai Qi, 61
Worked under Mr Xi in Zhejiang province and is known in Chinese politics as a fast-rising "helicopter". He was recently appointed party boss of Beijing despite not being a member of the central committee. Mr Cai previously ran the general office of Mr Xi's National Security Commission. (FT)

AP PHOTO



MOST WANTED TERRORIST

ISNILON TOTONI HAPILON

Conspiracy to Commit Hostage Taking Resulting in Death; Hostage Taking; Murder of a United States National Outside the United States; Hostage Taking Resulting in Death; Conspiracy to Use and Carry a Firearm During a Crime of Violence; Using and Carrying a Firearm During a Crime of Violence; Aiding and Abetting and Causing an Act to be Done



Photograph taken in 2000

PHILIPPINES

Last leaders of IS-tied siege killed in Marawi

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE last two surviving leaders of a deadly siege in the southern Philippines, including a top Asian terror suspect, were killed yesterday in a push by thousands of troops to retake the last pocket of Marawi city still held by pro-Islamic State militants, top security officials said.

Four military and police officials told The Associated Press that Isnilon Hapilon, who is listed among

the FBI's most-wanted terror suspects, and Omarkhayam Maute were killed in a gunbattle and their bodies were found yesterday in Marawi.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to make a public announcement of the latest developments in Marawi, a mosque-studded center of Islamic faith in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation. Defense Secretary Lorenzana later confir-

med the militant deaths.

"Yes, they are confirmed dead," Lorenzana said, adding DNA tests would be done on the remains of the two militant leaders to pave the way for the payment of huge U.S. and Philippine bounties offered for the two.

A top Malaysian militant, Mahmud bin Ahmad, who uses the nom de guerre Abu Handzalah and is a close associate of Hapilon, has not been found and was among the remaining militants

being hunted by troops, he said.

The U.S. State Department has offered a reward of up to USD5 million for Hapilon, whom Washington blames for ransom kidnappings of several Americans, one of whom was beheaded in 2001 in southern Basilan province. Hapilon had been indicted in the District of Columbia for his alleged involvement in terrorist acts against U.S. nationals and other foreigners.

Military leaders had said last month that three leaders of the militants who began the siege of the lakeside city on May 23 were killed in the months of fighting but the two still alive were leading a final stand.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the Marawi violence, including more than 800 militants. Army Col. Romeo Brawner said Sunday about 40 militants were still fighting in a small hilly residential area by Lanao Lake, including 100 relatives of the gunmen and civilian hostages.

On Saturday, troops attempted to rescue several hostages but only snatched a 16-year-old female captive because of intense militant fire, which wounded an army battalion commander and more than 20 other soldiers, Brawner said. The rescued hostage provided the crucial information that allowed troops to locate Hapilon and Maute in one building, Lorenzana said.

Among the last batch of surviving fighters were about 10 foreigners, mostly Malaysians and Indonesians, but there were no immediate word about their condition, the military said.

At least 17 hostages, including an infant and women, were rescued by troops in the scene of the battle, which the officials said may finally end this week. U.S.-trained army and police commandos crawled toward militant positions overnight and launched an assault.

Several gunmen holed up in low-slung buildings and houses remained fighting and were holding hostages, delaying military efforts to finally end the siege. President Rodrigo Duterte declared martial law in the south, scene of decades-old Muslim separatist uprising, to deal with the siege, the worst crisis he has faced since rising to power in June last year.

Among the last batch of surviving fighters were about 10 foreigners, mostly Malaysians and Indonesians

Duterte has gone to the battle area a number of times to rally the troops, once firing a sniper rifle toward militant position. He has vowed to have the militants killed to the last man because of the deaths and destruction wrought by the violence in Marawi. The Islamic city's 200,000 people, along with tens of thousands of others in nearby towns, abandoned their homes and businesses as the fighting began to rage and crammed evacuation shelters outside Marawi, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

The siege has sparked fears that the Islamic State group may gain a foothold in Southeast Asia by influencing and providing funds to local militants as it suffers battle defeats in Syria and Iraq.

The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance aircraft to help Filipino troops battling the Marawi attackers. **AP**

South Korea and US begin naval drills amid North Korean threat

SOUTH Korean and U.S. troops began five days of naval drills yesterday after North Korea renewed its threat to fire missiles near the American territory of Guam.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries regularly conduct joint exercises, often enraging North Korea, which views such training as an invasion rehearsal. The latest drills in the waters off the Korean Peninsula come amid fears of a possible military clash following the exchanges of insults and fierce rhetoric between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The drills involve fighter

jets, helicopters and 40 naval ships and submarines from the allies, including the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, according to South Korea's navy. Spokesman Jang Wook told reporters the drills are aimed at practicing how to respond to a potential naval provocation by North Korea and improving the allies' combined operational capability.

The drills were to include live-fire exercises by naval ships and aircraft and anti-submarine training, but South Korea's military didn't release any photos or video.

In a possible show of

force against North Korea, the United States also sent four advanced fighter jets — two F-22s and two F-35s — for an air show and exhibition in Seoul that are to begin today. Last week, the United States flew two B-1B supersonic bombers from its air base in Guam to South Korea to try to demonstrate its power against any North Korean aggression.

North Korea didn't immediately respond to the start of the drills. On Friday, the North's foreign ministry accused the United States of provoking the country by mobilizing the aircraft carrier and other war assets near the

peninsula.

"Such military acts compel [North Korea] to take military counteraction," said Kim Kwang Hak, a researcher at the Institute for American Studies at the ministry. "We have already warned several times that we will take counteractions for self-defense, including a salvo of missiles into waters near the U.S. territory of Guam."

In August, North Korea issued a similar threat, saying its military had presented Kim Jong Un with plans to launch intermediate-range missiles to create "enveloping fire" near Guam, a key U.S. mi-



South Korean Air Force's Black Eagles aerobatic team performs during the press day of the 2017 Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition yesterday

litary hub in the Pacific. The North has yet to carry out its threat.

Lobbing missiles close to Guam would be deeply provocative for the United States, and a miscalculation on either side could lead to a military conflict.

Under Kim's leadership, North Korea has been ac-

celerating its efforts to bolster its weapons arsenals and acquire the capability to fire nuclear missiles at any target in the U.S. mainland. The North conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test in September and test-launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July. **AP**

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Rod McGuirk, Canberra

WIKILEAKS

Clinton brands Assange 'tool of Russian intelligence'

HILLARY Clinton has told an Australian state broadcaster that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was a tool of Russia in his release of hacked emails that hurt the U.S. Democratic presidential nominee's campaign.

Clinton told Australian Broadcasting Corp. in an interview broadcast yesterday that the Australian whistleblower had "become a kind of nihilistic opportunist who does the bidding of a dictator," Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"He's a tool of Russian intelligence, and if he's such a [...] martyr of free speech, why doesn't WikiLeaks ever publish anything coming out of Russia?" she said.

Clinton was complaining about WikiLeaks' publication during the 2016 election campaign of politically damaging emails from the Democratic National Committee.

Assange, who is holed up in Ecuador's embassy in London, hit back at Clinton's interview, tweeting that she was "not a credible person."

"It is not just her constant lying. It is not just that she throws off menacing glares and seethes thwarted entitlement," he tweeted. "Watch closely. Something much darker rides along with it. A cold creepiness rarely seen."

In the interview, Clinton rejected reporter Sarah Ferguson's proposition that Assange was simply performing a journalist's role by publishing information.

"There was a concerted operation between WikiLeaks and Russia and most likely people in the United States to, as I say,

AP PHOTO



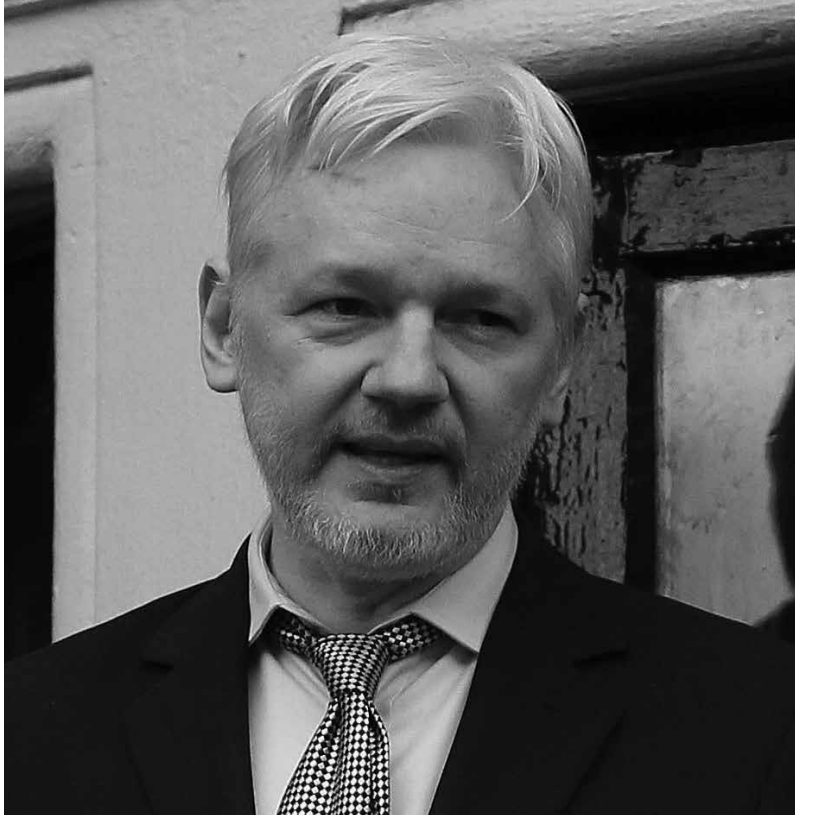
weaponize that information, to make up stories, outlandish, often terrible stories that had no basis in fact, no basis even in the emails themselves, but which were used to denigrate me, my campaign, people who supported me, and to help [Donald] Trump," Clinton said.

"WikiLeaks is unfortunately now practically a fully owned subsidiary of Russian intelligence," she said.

The 45-year-old Australian fled to the embassy in 2012 to

avoid extradition to Sweden over an investigation of sexual offense allegations. Despite a Swedish prosecutor announcing in May that he was no longer the target of an active rape investigation, Assange remains in the embassy for fear of extradition to the United States on charges over WikiLeaks' aggressive publication of thousands of pages of classified U.S. government documents.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo in April denounced WikiLeaks as



a "hostile intelligence service" and a threat to U.S. national security. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Assange's arrest was a priority as the Justice Department steps up efforts to prosecute people who leak classified information to the media.

Their condemnation of WikiLeaks differed sharply from President Donald Trump's past praise of the organization. Before last year's election, Trump said he was happy to see WikiLeaks publish private, po-

litically damaging emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign manager, John Podesta. He was less happy about the release of CIA tactics, which the White House said was different because it involved information about secretive national security tools.

The president said in April that he was not involved in the decision-making process regarding charging Assange but that the move would be "OK with me." AP

MIDDLE EAST

US-backed Syrian force expects Raqqa victory in 'a few days'

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

A U.S.-backed Kurdish-led force battling the Islamic State group in Syria will be in control of Raqqa "within a few days" after attacking the last militant-held pocket of the city, a spokesman for the force said yesterday.

Mustafa Bali of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF, also said that fierce street battles were underway near the main hospital in Raqqa, once the de facto capital of the extremists' self-proclaimed caliphate.

SDF fighters launched an operation to retake the last IS-held pocket of the city

after some 275 militants and their family members surrendered over the weekend. The extremists still hold about 10 percent of Raqqa, including the hospital and the main stadium, which is believed to be used by the militants as a jail and an arms depot.

Activists said those who surrendered were taken to an SDF-run prison in the nearby town of Tabqa, where they are being interrogated before being put on trial.

"We believe that it will be all over within a few days," Bali said. "Those [Islamic State] fighters who are still inside will fight to death."

Bali says SDF fighters are

marching toward the hospital and the stadium under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

A senior Kurdish commander with SDF in Raqqa said that since Sunday night until yesterday, civilians had trickled out of IS-held part of the city. The commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said that more than 400 civilians have reached SDF fighters "and are now with us."

More civilians are still expected to come out, he said, adding that 15 more IS fighters have surrendered. The fighting has

calmed down to allow civilians to leave.

"We know there are groups of Daesh, specially the foreigners. We want to speed up the campaign, no more than two or three days," the commander said. Daesh is the Arabic name for IS.

Meanwhile, Syrian government forces and their allies began a major offensive on IS-held neighborhoods in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, according to state TV and the opposition's Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said government forces are pushing through two nei-

AP PHOTO



Syrian Islamic State group fighters who surrendered entering a base of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in Raqqa, Syria

ghborhoods under the cover of airstrikes by Russian warplanes.

The move by government forces came just two days after Syrian President Bashar Assad's troops captured the IS stronghold of Mayadeen, south of Deir el-Zour, in another blow to the extremists in eastern Syria.

The loss of Raqqa and Deir el-Zour would hand another major blow to IS, which has lost most of the territory it once held in Syria and Iraq. Iraqi forces captured the northern Iraqi city of Mosul — the largest ever held by IS — in July, and Syria's Mayadeen, near the border with Iraq, was retaken by government forces on Saturday. AP

AP PHOTOS



IBERIA

Portugal wildfires kill 35; four dead across border in Spain

WILDFIRES in Portugal killed at least 35 people, injured dozens more and left an unconfirmed number of missing in the country's second such tragedy in four months, officials said yesterday. In neighboring Spain, at least three deaths were reported.

The deaths occurred in densely forested parts of central and northern part of Portugal after blazes broke out in "exceptional" weather circumstances, Civil Protection Agency spokeswoman Patricia Gaspar said.

The situation was still "critical" because of unseasonably high temperatures, Gaspar said. But cooler, wetter weather is

approaching, which may give some respite to firefighters tackling the blazes.

In addition to the dead, 51 people have been injured, including 15 in serious condition. Gaspar said. She also said that an unknown number of people were still missing.

Portugal has been especially hard hit by wildfires this year, including one that killed 64 people in June. An independent investigation into the June fires found last week that authorities failed to evacuate villages on time. The fire destroyed about 29,000 hectares.

A prolonged drought and mid-October temperatures of more than 30 C have fueled the recent spate of fires.

Across the border in Spain, more than 130 fires were reported in the northwestern Galicia region. Authorities said that four people had died, two of them trapped in a car. Thousands of people have been evacuated.

At least 17 fires were close to inhabited areas, many of them in the Vigo province. Schools were closed yesterday and at least 20 planes were joining 350 firefighting units in tackling the blazes. Light rainfall early yesterday was expected to help extinguish the flames.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy traveled to Galicia, where he is from, to visit an emergency response center. **MDT/AP**

From bottom to top, clockwise: Spain (Chandebrito, Pontevedra) and Portugal (Óbidos)

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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 SHUI 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

Offbeat

HOGWARTS EXPRESS RESCUES STRANDED FAMILY IN SCOTLAND



As if by magic, the Hogwarts Express has come to the rescue of a stranded family in Scotland.

The train that took Harry Potter to school was played on-screen by the Jacobite steam train, which runs on a remote and scenic route through the Scottish Highlands.

On Friday, it made an unscheduled stop to pick up a family of six that was stranded when a storm washed away their canoe.

Jon Cluett, his wife and four children between the ages of 6 and 12 were staying in a lakeside hut on Loch Eilt when they awoke to find their canoe was gone.

Faced with walking several miles over boggy ground to get back to the family car, Cluett called police to see if any form of rescue was available.

"The policeman said, 'We've arranged for the next train passing to stop for you, and you're not going to believe this but it's the Hogwarts Express steam train. Your kids are going to love it,'" Cluett said Sunday.

Cluett said his children, all Harry Potter fans, were "really excited" by the adventure.

"They know the Harry Potter films and they know that are filmed in the Highlands," he said. "But they hadn't put all of that together in their heads until they saw the train."

Cluett, the pastor of a church in Stirling, central Scotland, is hopeful someone will find his canoe and give the story a perfect happy ending.

"It's got to turn up at some point. The thing is 16-foot-long, red and floats," he said.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Zig Zag
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	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League: RB Leipzig x FC Porto (Live)

cinema



CINETEATRO

12 - 18 Oct



GEOSTORM

ROOM 1

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

Director: Dean Devlin

Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Daniel Wu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



BLADE RUNNER 2049

ROOM 2

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

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Harrison Ford, Jared Leto, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



WHAT HAPPENED TO MONDAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Tommy Wirkola

Starring: Noomi Rapace, Glenn Close, Willem Dafoe

Language: Chinese

Duration: 123 min

this day in history



1968 BLACK ATHLETES MAKE SILENT PROTEST

Two black American athletes have made history at the Mexico Olympics by staging a silent protest against racial discrimination.

Tommie Smith and John Carlos, gold and bronze medallists in the 200m, stood with their heads bowed and a black-gloved hand raised as the American National Anthem played during the victory ceremony.

The pair both wore black socks and no shoes and Smith wore a black scarf around his neck. They were demonstrating against continuing racial discrimination of black people in the United States.

As they left the podium at the end of the ceremony they were booed by many in the crowd.

At a press conference after the event Tommie Smith, who holds seven world records, said: "If I win I am an American, not a black American. But if I did something bad then they would say 'a Negro'. We are black and we are proud of being black. 'Black America will understand what we did tonight.'"

Smith said he had raised his right fist to represent black power in America, while Carlos raised his left fist to represent black unity. Together they formed an arch of unity and power.

He said the black scarf represented black pride and the black socks with no shoes stood for black poverty in racist America.

Within a couple of hours the actions of the two Americans were being condemned by the International Olympic Committee.

A spokesperson for the organisation said it was "a deliberate and violent breach of the fundamental principles of the Olympic spirit."

It is widely expected the two will be expelled from the Olympic village and sent back to the US.

In September last year Tommie Smith, a student at San Jose State university in California, told reporters that black members of the American Olympic team were considering a total boycott of the 1968 games.

He said: "It is very discouraging to be in a team with white athletes. On the track you are Tommie Smith, the fastest man in the world, but once you are in the dressing rooms you are nothing more than a dirty Negro."

The boycott had been the idea of professor of sociology at San Jose State university, and friend of Tommie Smith, Harry Edwards.

Professor Edwards set up the Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR) and appealed to all black American athletes to boycott the games to demonstrate to the world that the civil rights movement in the US had not gone far enough.

He told black Americans they should refuse "to be utilised as 'performing animals' in the games."

Although the boycott never materialised the OPHR gained much support from black athletes around the world.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

That evening, the silver medallist in the 200m event, Peter Norman of Australia, who was white, wore an OPHR badge in support of Smith and Carlos' protest.

But two days later the two athletes were suspended from their national team, expelled from the Olympic village and sent home to America.

Many felt they had violated the Olympic spirit by drawing politics into the games.

On their return both men were welcomed as heroes by the African-American community but others regarded them as trouble-makers. Both received death threats.

Thirty years after their protest, the two men, who went on to become high school athletics coaches, were honoured for their part in furthering the civil rights movement in America.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your plans may not go off exactly as you'd expect - in fact, they probably can't.

Taurus April 20-May 20 It may feel like the universe, or some important part of it personally has it in for you - making you late whenever possible, causing problems with directions and tossing whatever seems most inconvenient in your way.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It might not be easy for you to deal with the delays, roadblocks, and hindrances coming your way today, but at least you've got your famous versatility to fall back on.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You may have more than your share of frustrating encounters with one of your superiors, or maybe an important client. Believe it or not, though, the situation may not be entirely their fault.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You'd better muster up as much of that famous bravery as you possibly can because you're sure to be dealing with something far more stressful than an irritated lover for a while.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The good news is that you're well equipped to handle all the messy, irritating little details - the ones that keep trying to come between you and where you want to be.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Anything that can possibly be misunderstood or confused is exactly what you can expect for the time being. Your least favorite part of this situation is sure to be its impact on your one-on-one encounters.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You just can't really rush things along right now - as much as you, and everyone around you would like to. You need to hurry up and wait, which may be a drag - but at least it's a drag you're sharing with everyone else.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The odds are good that you've got big plans coming up. That sounds wonderful, and if you're lucky, they'll go off just as planned.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Whatever you do to deal with frustration, make sure that you've got it in reserve today. None of your best-laid plans are likely to work out the way you want them to for a little while, which is hard for you.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're not exactly the soul of patience, at least according to those closest to you. Today, though, you may be even a tad less patient - with good reason.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're going to need all the patience you can muster to get through today - and that's quite a lot, as you well know! Frustrating experiences in the realms of communication and travel are lined up and ready to go.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

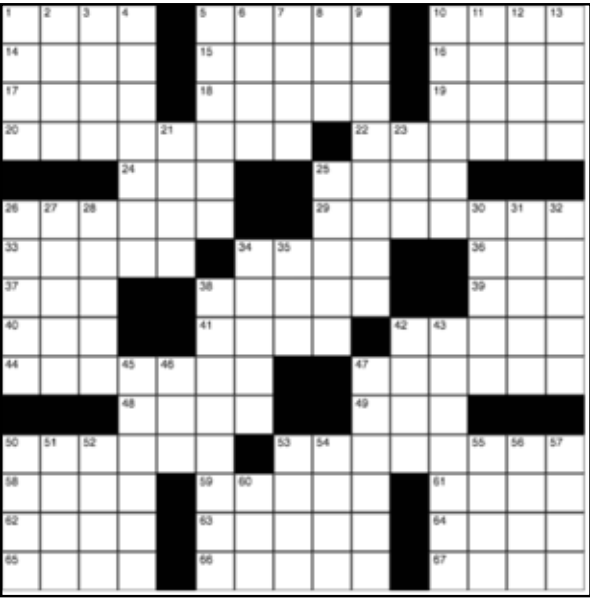
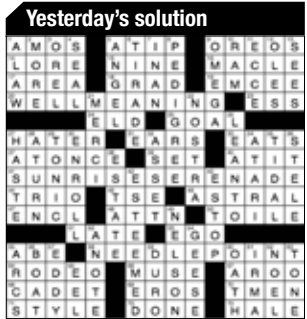
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 5- Brando's birthplace; 10- Soft drink choice; 14- London art gallery; 15- Capital on the Atlantic; 16- Enthusiastic liveliness; 17- When Hamlet dies; 18- Mennonite sect; 19- Equestrian's control; 20- Adjustable resistor; 22- Deceives; 24- ___ kwon do; 25- Greek cheese; 26- Fondle; 29- Some sausage; 33- Put up with; 34- Cab; 36- Society-page word; 37- Large, brown-capped mushroom; 38- Dig find; 39- Off-road wheels, for short; 40- Greek cross; 41- Part of MIT; 42- Heavy metric weight; 44- Make better; 47- Become visible; 48- Skeptic's scoff; 49- Reggae relative; 50- Cream cake; 53- Person who betrays; 58- Singer Sedaka; 59- Tied; 61- Romance lang.; 62- Waste allowance; 63- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 64- TV's "Nick at ___"; 65- Indifferent; 66- Bygone birds; 67- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto);

DOWN: 1- The closest one to us is the sun; 2- Per; 3- Kitchen addition?; 4- Zealous; 5- Speaks publicly; 6- Doll's word; 7- Some; 8- Holds; 9- Physically active; 10- Breakfast food; 11- Bullfight cheers; 12- CafA@ au ___; 13- Part of A.D.; 21- Manuscript enc.; 23- Call ___ day; 25- Mr. ___ (handyman); 26- Desert bloomers; 27- Perpendicular to the keel; 28- Shred; 30- Mindlessly stupid; 31- State Farm rival; 32- Not once; 34- Dogma; 35- Capp and Capone; 38- Channel; 42- Toll rds.; 43- Like a milky gem; 45- Theater district; 46- Kimono accessory; 47- Parenthetical comments; 50- Tolkien tree creatures; 51- King mackerel; 52- Untruths, tells falsehoods; 53- Jail; 54- Reverse; 55- How sweet ___; 56- Turner and others; 57- Exultation; 60- Acapulco gold;



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TENNIS

Pavlyuchenkova overcomes bad weather to win in Hong Kong

ANASTASIA Pavlyuchenkova of Russia won her third WTA singles title of the year this weekend, beating Daria Gavrilova of Australia 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (3) in the Hong Kong Open final.

"We were ready to share this trophy and I actually think we both deserve this trophy," sixth-seeded Pavlyuchenkova said after the match lasting 3 hours, 11 minutes. "It was a really close match, just I was maybe lucky a little bit in the end."

The match started after 9 p.m. local time after it was delayed by several hours because of a typhoon warning that lasted most of the day in Hong Kong.

The windy conditions made late-night play difficult at both ends of the court with a total of 103 unforced errors — 62 by Pavlyuchenkova.

The 21st-ranked Pavlyuchenkova went ahead 3-0 in the first set. Seventh-seeded Gavrilova fought back to break Pavlyuchenkova in the seventh game and again in the ninth when Pavlyuchenkova was serving for the set. Finding her stride, Gavri-



lova took the opener.

Pavlyuchenkova again had a 3-0 lead in the second set before receiving medical treatment at the changeover. Gavrilova tried once again to come back but went off court to receive treatment at 5-2 down.

The match was suspended for rain at 5-5 in the third set. The players returned to court shortly before 1 a.m. local time.

Pavlyuchenkova had three match points in the tiebreaker but needed just one after Gavrilova netted. **AP**



Germany tops the ranking

RUSSIA 2018

FIFA confirms eight top-seeded teams in World Cup draw

FIFA has confirmed the seven highest-ranked nations joining host Russia as top-seeded teams in the World Cup finals draw.

France rises one place to No. 7 to edge out Spain, as defending champion Germany heads an unchanged top six.

After a busy qualifying program last week, Brazil, Portugal, Argentina, Belgium and Poland are also top-seeded for the Dec. 1 draw in Moscow.

FIFA uses October

rankings to decide all four seeding pots despite nine places in the 32-team World Cup finals lineup to be decided in November.

Russia is top-seeded for the World Cup despite being ranked No. 65.

Chile at No. 9 is the highest-ranked team eliminated from the World Cup.

Mexico at No. 16 heads CONCACAF teams. The eliminated United States is No. 27.

Tunisia at No. 28 is Africa's best, and No. 34 Iran leads Asia.

AD

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Wednesday, 2:45am
Man. City v Napoli
H 1.64, D 4.75, A 6

FOOTBALL

Something must give as City, Napoli meet in Champions League

SOMETHING has to give when the formidable attacks of Manchester City and Napoli meet in Group F today [Wednesday, 2:45 am].

The Premier League and Serie A leaders have been dominant in domestic football, scoring freely. The only time either team has failed to win was when City drew with Everton back in August.

In Europe, however, it is City which possesses the perfect record — having defeated Feyenoord and Shakhtar Donetsk — while Napoli lost 2-1 when it travelled to Ukraine.

And so the Italian club is under pressure to get a result when it travels on Manchester to take on City at the Etihad Stadium.

City thrashed Stoke 7-2 in the Premier League on the weekend and that was without striker Sergio Aguero, who is likely to make his return from the rib injury he sustained in a car crash in Amsterdam last month.

City's sometimes-shaky defense will be tested though, with Napoli scoring at least three goals in all seven of its Serie A games before a hard-fought 1-0 victory away to rival Roma on Saturday. Napoli has won 11 of 12 matches overall this season.

Having reached the final twice in the last three seasons, Juventus appears to have taken a dip in form this year.

The Bianconeri have dropped points in two straight Serie A matches and made a series of errors in a 2-1 home loss to Lazio on Saturday.

The unexpected transfer of center back Leonardo Bonucci to AC Milan in July has highlighted the diminished impact of aging defenders Andrea Barzagli and Giorgio Chiellini.

Barzagli and Chiellini were at fault for both of Ciro Immobile's goals for Lazio.



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus

Atletico Madrid has thrived in the Champions League in recent years, but may not get past the group stage if it fails to win

Juventus also badly misses the influence of fullback Dani Alves, who was a key player last season and very popular among teammates. He has joined Paris Saint-Germain, where his astute passing and rampaging runs down the right flank are already proving a hit.

Mattia De Sciglio, signed from AC Milan, has struggled to fill the void left by Alves.

Still, Juventus will be favored to win against Sporting Lisbon in Group D on Wednesday.

Barcelona, which hosts Greek club Olympiakos, leads the group with six points, Juventus and Sporting have three each and Olympiakos has none.

Atletico Madrid has thrived in the Champions League in recent years, but may not get past the group stage if it fails to win

at Qarabag in Group C tomorrow [early Thursday].

Anything but a victory in Baku will leave Diego Simeone's team close to elimination after four straight seasons reaching at least the quarterfinals. It lost in the final to cross-city rival Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016.

Atletico has only one point, trailing AS Roma by three and Chelsea by five. Qarabag should offer a limited threat, however, having lost both of its games so far.

Wednesday, 2:45am
Real Madrid v Tottenham
H 1.55, D 5.1, A 7.75

Two-time defending champion Real Madrid can take the lead in Group H when it hosts Premier League Tottenham today [Wednesday, 2:45am]. Ma-

drid and Tottenham have two wins each.

Sevilla can keep its Group E lead when it visits Spartak Moscow. Sevilla has four points, two more than Spartak and Liverpool.

When Jupp Heynckes was last in charge of Bayern Munich, he led the club to a Champions League, Bundesliga and Cup treble in 2013.

Now the 72-year-old German is back after being coaxed out of retirement to replace Carlo Ancelotti, who was fired following Bayern's 3-0 loss at Paris Saint-Germain.

Heynckes, who oversaw a 5-0 rout of Freiburg in his first game back on Saturday, will hope for another convincing performance against visiting Celtic in Group B tomorrow [early Thursday] to shake off any lingering uncertainty after the team's unimpressive start to the season.

"We still have a lot of work ahead of us," he said.

After starting with losses to Tottenham and Real Madrid, Dortmund needs a win at APOEL Nicosia to kick start its campaign in Group H.

Peter Bosz' lineup lost its 41-game unbeaten record at home in the Bundesliga on Saturday, when Leipzig inflicted a 3-2 defeat.

Leipzig is now aiming for its first win in European competition when it hosts Porto today [Thursday, 2:45am] in Group G.

Containing Paris Saint-Germain's strike force of Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani is already a big enough

test for the Anderlecht defense on Wednesday.

But with PSG favored to record a third straight Group B win, Anderlecht has another threat to worry about: defender Thomas Meunier.

The Belgium right back has seven goals and seven assists in his last 10 games for club and country; including both goals in Saturday's 2-1 win at Dijon.

The attack-minded Meunier is becoming a vital part of the PSG lineup with his quick feet, accurate passing and eye for goal.

"I used to be a striker when I was younger," said Meunier, who scored three goals and set up four in a 9-0 win against Gibraltar in a World Cup qualifier on Aug. 31. "There's no better feeling than when you score."

He will not have fond memories, though, of playing against Anderlecht with his former team Club Brugge.

It was his late own goal that gave Anderlecht a 1-0 win against Club Brugge late in the 2013-14 campaign. Anderlecht went onto to win the league title that season.

Monaco welcomes back top scorer Radamel Falcao and key midfielder Fabinho for must-win home match against Turkish team Besiktas in Group G.

Falcao was rested for Friday's match against Lyon while Fabinho was suspended. Monaco lost 3-2.

Monaco reached the Champions League semifinals last season but has one point so far, while Besiktas leads with six and Porto has three. AP

GOLF

England's Hatton wins Italian Open for second straight title

TYRRELL Hatton sunk a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to win the Italian Open yesterday [Macau time] for his second European Tour victory in two weeks.

Last week, Hatton retained his title at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship on the storied Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland.

Now the Englishman is up to fifth in the Race to Dubai rankings.

It looked like Hatton was heading for a three-man playoff before he rolled his final putt into the bottom of the cup and unleashed a series of fist pumps to celebrate the Rolex Series victory.

"I had a good feeling standing over it, even though my hands were shaking and my knees were shaking," Hatton said.

A day after celebrating his 26th birthday, Hatton birdied five of the last seven holes for a bogey-free 65 to

finish at 21 under.

"It was a battle with myself today," said Hatton, who had a slow front nine. "But my caddie kept saying it would come in the end and it did. [...] I got a hot streak with the putter, which helps a lot."

Fellow Englishman Ross Fisher and Kiradech Aphibarnrat of Thailand tied for second, one stroke behind, while third-round leader Matt Wallace finished fourth at 19 under.

Defending champion and home favorite Francesco Molinari finished in a tie for sixth.

Hatton took home a first-place check of around USD1.1 million, the biggest prize in an increased purse of \$7 million this year as part of the buildup to the 2022 Ryder Cup outside Rome.

Crowds were large throughout the week at the Golf Club Milano, next to Monza's Formula One circuit. AP



Tyrrell Hatton, of Britain, hits the ball during the 74th Italy Open Golf tournament in Monza

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



CAPITAL AIRLINES, MACAU-BEIJING-LISBON

Recently, Capital Airlines launched a flight route connecting Lisbon to Beijing, and, in July, the route was extended from Beijing to Macau.

During September and October, I travelled this route and have decided to write an opinion about my experience.

Nevertheless, readers should be aware that every individual has their own preferences. That said, I will recount my experience in taking said flights for the reader's benefit.

The flight from Macau to Beijing took off at 4:40 p.m. and landed at 8:05 p.m. (different now). Later that night, the aircraft took off from Beijing at 1:15 a.m. and arrived in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, at 7:30.

First of all, the boarding passes. The boarding pass from Macau to Beijing, and the one from Beijing to Lisbon cannot be given together while in Macau. Therefore, when in Beijing, I had to formally enter the city in order to get my boarding pass to Lisbon. Luckily, luggage can be checked through to Lisbon from Macau.

After checking in, next up was boarding. In the absence of a boarding bridge, I had to take a shuttle bus (albeit a short trip) from the airport to board the aircraft, after which we flew for around three hours.

Upon arrival of my flight to Beijing, the aircraft landed in the T2 zone at the Beijing International Airport at approximately 8 p.m. Again, I had to take a shuttle bus from the aircraft to the T2 building.

Based on my (late) acquired information, there were a few counters available at the T2 building to help transiting passengers get their boarding pass without them having to pass through the checkpoints. However, nobody was working on that day when I arrived, and so I had to go through the immigration checkpoints. A warning to future travelers of this trip: do prepare a printed version of your tickets from Beijing to Lisbon, or an electronic file, if you are a non-Chinese passport holder!

I had to wait for three hours before checking in for my flight from Beijing to Lisbon.

The departure time of the Beijing-Lisbon flight is the time of the night when most shops and restaurants at Beijing's T2 are closed. When the time to board finally came, I took another shuttle bus from the T2 building to the aircraft. Then came the 12 hour-flight to Lisbon.

Upon arriving in the city, I took another airport shuttle bus to get to Lisbon airport's checkpoint building.

The trip back to Macau followed the exact same steps in reverse order. Check-in at Lisbon, waiting at immigration, shuttle bus, boarding, flying to Beijing, immigration, check-in, immigration checkpoints, waiting for shuttle-bus, boarding, flying, shuttle bus and finally immigration in Macau.

In the last episode of this adventure, there were seven people, me included, who had flown from Lisbon to Macau. My luggage was delayed due to unexplained reasons.

Other things related to the airline's service must be experienced and duly judged by whoever is planning to take this flight.

A little reminder: do get well prepared mentally, physically and financially for choosing seats online prior to your departure, the flight crew's English proficiency, the crew's service quality, other passengers, your check-in luggage, the food and the airline's website.

Lastly, I want to remark that airline service itself has never been too important to me. For me, flights are just like any other kind of transportation, they get me from one place to another.

I like to spend the least time possible passing government checkpoints and to encounter as few troubles as possible, while being quite comfortable during my trip to the destination.

Hence, as long as I have a clean toilet on the plane, nothing (aside from safety) else concerning the airline's service truly matters.

THE BUZZ EURO BACK UNDER PRESSURE FROM POPULIST POLITICS

For months, the euro has been strengthening as fears over the rise in populism in Europe abated. Now, following elections in Germany and Austria, the currency is back under pressure.

Yesterday, it's down a further 0.3 percent at USD1.1785. While that decline is modest, it comes on top of recent losses — just last month the euro was above the \$1.20 mark for the

first time in two years.

One of the reasons it's been retreating relates to the electoral success of populist forces. That was evident in Sunday's Austrian election, which saw the right-wing Freedom Party come second with 27.4 percent of the vote — enough to possibly become part of a government led by the People's Party.

Passengers describe terror aboard Indonesia AirAsia flight



Image made from video shows a crying passenger after the airplane returned to safety in Perth

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

PASSENGERS on an Indonesia AirAsia flight from Australia to the holiday island of Bali described a panicked flight crew announcing an emergency and oxygen masks dropping from the ceiling after their airliner lost cabin air pressure and rapidly descended.

Flight QZ535 returned safely on Sunday to the airport at Perth city where many of the 145 passengers spoke to media about the fear and confusion on board.

"The panic was escalated because of the behavior of staff who were screaming, looked tearful and shocked," passenger Clare Askew told reporters.

"Now, I get it, but we looked to them for reassurance and we didn't get any, we were more worried because of how panicked they were," Askew added.

The budget Indonesian airline said in a statement the pilot turned back "following a technical issue to ensure the safety of passengers."

"We commend our pilots for landing the aircraft safely and complying with standard operating procedure," AirAsia Group head of safety Captain Ling Liang Tien said.

"We are fully committed to the safety of our guests and crew and we will continue to ensure that we adhere to the highest safety standards," he added.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau, an accident investigator, said it was investigating the airliner's depressurization at 34,000 feet (10,363 meters).

The plane rapidly descended to around 10,000 feet (3,048

meters), an altitude to which cabins are pressurized and at which oxygen masks are no longer needed.

Data from FlightRadar, a website which tracks flights globally using GPS, shows the plane descended 23,800 feet (7,250 meters) in the space of nine minutes.

Perth Airport said in a statement that emergency services were on hand when the plane landed 78 minutes after it took off.

A passenger named Leah told Nine Network television: "I actually picked up my phone and sent a text message to my family, just hoping that they would get it."

"We were all pretty much saying goodbye to each other. It was really upsetting," she added.

Passenger Mark Bailey told Seven Network television: "Hostesses started screaming: 'Emergency, emergency.' They just went hysterical."

"There was no real panic before that, then everyone panicked," Bailey added.

Passenger Norman Pearce told Seven the flight crew said: "Emergency. Crash positions and that was it. Nothing for about five minutes and then the oxygen fell down."

Peter Gibson, spokesman for Civil Aviation Safety Authority, the Australian industry regulator, said the airline had been asked for information on what occurred on board.

"Our job as the regulator is to gather information on these sorts of events and review that to see whether we're satisfied that everything was managed properly and determine whether we should dig any deeper," Gibson said.

A Malaysia-based AirAsia X flight from Perth to Kuala Lumpur turned back in June after one of the Airbus 330's engines failed. An aircrew member was criticized for suggesting that passengers pray.

In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the Java Sea, killing all 162 passengers and crew on board.

Indonesia AirAsia said passengers on the Sunday's aborted flight had been transferred to the next available flight and "provided with all necessary assistance."

"The safety of passengers and crew is our priority," the airline said. "AirAsia apologizes to passengers for any inconvenience caused." AP



Image made from video shows the AirAsia plane at an airport in Perth

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

WORLD BRIEFS



VIETNAM Some villages in Vietnam are still isolated by landslides and destroyed bridges after a tropical depression last week that has become one of the country's worst natural disasters in years. The Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said in a statement yesterday the death toll has risen to 72 with 30 people still missing.

PHILIPPINES The last two surviving leaders of a deadly siege in the southern Philippines, including a top Asian terror suspect, were killed yesterday in a push by thousands of troops to retake the last pocket of Marawi city still held by pro-Islamic State militants, top security officials said.

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IRAQ Kurdish forces were withdrawing from Kirkuk yesterday as Iraqi federal forces moved in to the disputed city and seized oil fields and other infrastructure amid soaring tensions over last month's Kurdish vote for independence.

SPAIN A Monday morning deadline came and went without the president of the Catalonia region clarifying whether he had declared independence from Spain, and the Spanish government says he now has until Thursday to backtrack on any steps the region has taken toward secession.



ANTARCTICA Almost the entire cohort of chicks from an Adelie penguin colony in the eastern Antarctic was wiped out by starvation last summer in what scientists say is only the second such incident in over 40 years.

VENEZUELA Pro-government candidates have swept to an unforeseen victory in Venezuelan gubernatorial races according to official results that have quickly been challenged by the country's opposition.