



LOCAL WRITER TURNS TO THRILLER STORIES
 Azita Crerar's "Ghostly Whispers: thirteen ghost stories set in Macao" hopes both to entertain and educate **P2**



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OBAMA'S PLAN TO BOOST CLEAN POWER
 Barack Obama unveiled the final version of his plan to dramatically cut emissions from U.S. power plants **P14**



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Five men arrested for St Lazarus illegal graffiti **P3**

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN-INDIA Pakistani and Indian border guards trade gunfire and mortar shells along their disputed border in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, killing two Pakistanis and an Indian. At least 14 civilians also are wounded by Indian fire, Pakistan says.

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban urges followers to disregard "enemy propaganda" about internal fractures following the death of longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and to unite behind his chosen successor.

PHILIPPINES About 20 communist rebels fire on a platoon of Philippine army troops and police on two trucks, triggering a 15-minute clash that kills four rebels and a soldier.

SINGAPORE U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry calls for countries negotiating a major Pacific Rim trade deal to overcome differences that have stalled its conclusion. Speaking in Singapore, Kerry said the so-called "Trans Pacific Partnership" would benefit the people of all nations involved and serve as a model for responsible global industry and commerce.

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Airport traffic up in July, new Vietnam routes to be launched **P3**

Locally based writer turns to thriller stories



Azita Crerar

THRILLER novels can be more than just scary tales intended to give readers goose bumps, especially when they carry underlying educational messages. A local writer, whose latest horror story is now available on Amazon's Kindle, hopes to enlighten readers with stories set in town and written in English.

Located in different well-known destinations across the region, "Ghostly Whispers: thir-

teen ghost stories set in Macao," is Azita Crerar's first attempt to bring a combination of chills, chuckles and her own beliefs to her readers through historical and contemporary scenarios. "When somebody's reading the story, they can be entertained and at the same time learn something about Macao," said the 41-year-old Canadian mother of three. "Some of these stories have a moral. I have this story where a young man gets lost in

a forest in Coloane, and he's on a hike, and he gets separated from his group. He sees some ghost babies, aborted babies, so this is a story about abortion, something that I don't agree with, and I thought: 'How can I pass this message along,' so I put it in a ghost story."

It was not until four years ago that the former English teacher of a local international school found herself intrigued by her new living environment, despi-

te having lived in the region for 16 years. Her curiosity for this historically abundant city came with writing ideas for minors.

"When I became interested in Macao history a number of years ago, I also started writing children's stories about Macao," she said.

The writer's long-term penchant for writing grew throughout her girlhood, when she once believed that she could be as famous as Agatha Christie, an English novelist who is world-famous for her detective stories. Although her goal has yet to be realized, Crerar's passion has never waned, despite occasional hiatuses because of work and family.

"I wrote before I taught, I wrote while I taught and I wrote after I taught," said the prolific writer, who has already released three other tomes.

It did not take long for the 169-page ghostly storybook to develop from preliminary ideas into words, Crerar revealed, especially since the concepts came into her mind long ago. Proofreading of the stories, instead, was comparatively more time-consuming.

"Some of them remained as

I became interested in Macao history a number of years ago

AZITA CRERAR

vague ideas in my head for quite a while. But once I decided to write the story, I thought: 'Ok, I am going to write thirteen because thirteen is a superstitious number, and this is going to be about that.' Once I sat down to write each one, I think each one was written in a few days," she said.

To make every single detail about the past in the tales as historically accurate as possible, the scrupulous Canadian writer even consulted her local husband in order to give her characters "old-fashioned enough" names.

Speaking of the salient changes over the past twenty years since she started to dabble in story writing, Crerar said that the digital era has evolved to require a lot of background research into the setting of the stories.

"Many things have changed over time — the writing and publishing world has also changed, I don't know if it has become easier or harder, or remained the same. At that time, there was no Internet, you had to go to the library to do all your research and open up a book," she said, citing a previous experience where she needed to flick through books to ensure whether the doorbell appearing in her story had already been invented in that age.

Inside Crerar's home, there has always been an inundated bookshelf for her kids, so full that the writer had to give away some of the books. In the quest to foster reading habits in children, she reckons that parenting plays a very important role. **Staff reporter**

WYNN Macau has donated MOP80 million to the University of Macau Development Foundation (UMDF) in support of education and young people's determination to succeed, the casino operator said in a press release.

Wynn said that sponsoring educational institutions through scholarships and donations is among the company's "far-reaching corporate social responsibility initiatives."

"To support the long-term development of the University of Macau and its Asia-Pacific Academy of Economics and Management (APAEM), Wynn

Wynn makes donation to UM

Resorts (Macao) S.A. recently donated MOP80 million to the University of Macau Development Foundation," it announced.

The casino operator says that its recent donation is part of a long-term commitment to UMDF that dates back to 2011. The donation is intended to support APAEM's "independent and pioneering research conducted by outstanding researchers, societal leaders, and business managers."

"APAEM boasts a strong teaching and advisory



team comprised of well-known scholars and business leaders, including

three Nobel Prize laureates serving on its Honorary Advisory Body," it added.

The president of Wynn Macau Ltd, Gamal Aziz, said, "We are committed

to supporting Macau's pursuit of quality education," adding that "we believe developing future local leaders is crucial to the city's success and sustainability. With our ongoing commitment to supporting UM, we aim to prepare Macau's younger generation for bigger opportunities and to play a significant part in contributing to the city's future."

UM's rector, Wei Zhao, thanked Wynn Resorts for its donation, and said that UM is committed to pursuing academic excellence, as well as nurturing outstanding graduates and the future leaders of Macau.

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Five men arrested for St Lazarus illegal graffiti

Brook Yang

FIVE Filipino men were arrested on Monday for spraying black graffiti on the heritage architecture in St. Lazarus district. The Judiciary Police (PJ) believes that the “playful act” constitutes a criminal offense and that at least seven offenders are involved, some of whom are still at large.

According to the PJ, the group of suspects spray-painted the exterior of two historical buildings after drinking on the evening of July 11. The graffiti comprises sets of English letters, Roman numerals and other symbols across a total of seven spots in the alley, which is renowned for cultural and creative activities.

A PJ spokesperson announced yesterday that four of the five suspects [in custody]



have admitted to conducting the crime and said the reason “was just for fun.” “Their behavior has damaged the exterior and outward appearance of the cultural heritage spot. We thus appeal to citizens to beware of their own behavior and never in-

dulge in a playful action that infringes upon the law or penal code,” he stated in a press conference.

The five suspects have been transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office, where four of them will be charged for the crime of property

damage. The fifth suspect is also believed to have participated in the defacement, as “there are strong indications.” Meanwhile, the PJ will continue to look for the rest of the offenders presumed to be involved.

The spokesperson further revealed that the restoration of the damaged building exterior will cost MOP21,000, and the cost will be temporarily paid by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

The IC reported the offense to the police purportedly ten days after it occurred. It then issued a statement demanding that the police find the authors of the graffiti and demand compensation from them. As the Times reported previously, after the incident occurred the bureau stressed that it would reinforce inspections in order to protect the city’s heritage sites.

Special Olympics delegation brings home 87 medals

The local delegation participating in this year’s Special Olympics in Los Angeles has claimed a total of 87 medals, including 35 gold, 24 silver and 28 bronze medals. Macau’s athletes excelled in bocce, tennis, bowling, badminton, racing, aquatics, and running, among other sports. A delegation won 40 medals four years ago at the Special Olympics held in Athens. The Special Olympics World Games takes place every two years, alternating between summer and winter games. It is an international competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities. The first international Special Olympics World Summer Games was held in 1968 in Chicago, USA.

Tap water proven safe in second test

The government’s second phase of water quality testing for the new social housing units has suggested that there are no excessive levels of lead to be found in their drinking water. All of the 48 samples extracted from the kitchens in unoccupied flats were said to measure up to the World Health Organization standard. The sample with the highest lead level detected – 3.2 micrograms per liter – is still far below the international par of 10 micrograms per liter. The initial phase of the examination concluded last week, revealing a similar result to this second round of testing. Up to 50 blocks were subject to the two-time water quality tests, which were prompted after an excessive amount of the chemical was found in tap water in the neighboring SAR.

Airport traffic up in July, new Vietnam routes to be launched



THE Macau International Airport (MIA) has recorded an increase in both passenger traffic volume and aircraft movement for the month of July, according to a press release issued yesterday. New routes are in preparation, but the only one specified in the statement was the resumption of Jetstar Pacific’s route between Macau and Ho Chi Minh.

A Jetstar Pacific Airlines daily flight between Macau and Hanoi was launched in March 2014; however, it was suspended shortly after, when violence escalated in Vietnam over a disputed oil drilling area that was claimed by both Vietnamese and Chinese authorities. Jetstar is also said to be interested in the launch of a new route between Macau and Haiphong, the third-largest city in Vietnam and an important seaport.

Regarding the traffic volume in July, passenger volume surpassed 510,000, representing a year-on-year increase of 3.6 percent, and aircraft movement was recorded to be over 4,800, a 10.7-percent increase when compared to the same period last year.

The airport stated that it “aims to provide more holiday destination options for travelers. Some airlines have increased their flight frequencies over the summer holidays, as well as offering seasonal charter flights to enrich the travel options for passengers.” At present, passengers passing through MIA are mainly from East Asian routes, making up 40 percent of the overall market, followed by mainland China and Taiwan, accounting for 34 percent and 26 percent of passengers respectively.

Two locals fall ill after eating Horng Ryen Jen sandwiches

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has confirmed that two Macau citizens sought treatment at Kiang Wu Hospital after eating sandwiches from popular Taiwanese brand Horng Ryen Jen.

The Hong Kong food watchdog has banned imports and sales of the product this week as yet another food safety scandal unfolds.

South China Morning Post reported that, since last week, a total of 46 people have fallen ill after eating the sandwiches. The latest victims include five groups of people aged between three and 69 who developed symptoms of gastroenteritis – diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting, and fever – about 31 hours after eating the sandwiches.

The two local residents who have been affected arrived at Kiang Wu Hospital presenting symptoms of gastroenteritis, SSM said in a statement.

Two boxes containing eight sandwiches were purchased in Taiwan and taken to Hong Kong. One of the boxes was then later taken to Macau. Members of two different families ate

the sandwiches on July 28 and 29. The two people in question fell ill and sought treatment at Kiang Wu hospital between seven and 20 hours after they had eaten the food.

One of the patients fell into a serious condition after having a septic shock. His condition has now stabilized, but he still requires hospital treatment. The other patient has already recovered.

In another case, three friends in Hong Kong who ate sandwiches from the same pack of boxes brought from Taiwan also fell ill, developing symptoms such as fever, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea. They sought treatment in the neighboring SAR.

SSM has warned citizens not to eat Horng Ryen Jen sandwiches brought to Macau from Taiwan, given the recent gastroenteritis cases in Hong Kong.

The Center for Health Protection in Hong Kong has identified salmonella, a type of bacteria that causes food poisoning, in samples collected from the sandwiches that affected the six people. **CP**

Proposal to ban duty-free cigarettes in Taiwan

A proposal encouraging the Taiwan government to eliminate sales of duty-free cigarettes at airports has been received with reservations by government agencies. According to the Taipei Times, the Health Promotion Administration Director-General, Chio Shu-ti, said that the administration needs to conduct further discussions with relevant agencies before law amendments can be made and put into practice. Compiled by a team of experts, the proposal suggests that the government should either ban airline passengers from bringing duty-free cigarettes into Taiwan, or at least cut the current permitted level of 200 cigarettes to 19 per person. If introduced, the rules would be similar to the recently imposed restrictions in Macau, where visitors are allowed to bring in only 19 cigarettes in opened packs. In Singapore, the sale of cigarettes at the airport is already banned.

Motion for public hearing on idle land plots denied

Lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San have filed an appeal against the Legislative Assembly president’s decision to deny their latest motion, which proposed a public hearing on the subject of idle land plots. The legislators had tabled a motion requesting that the government attend an AL debate, and respond to lawmakers’ enquiries regarding 16 idle land plots that have been excluded from the administration’s recovery list. The government has been working on recovering unused land. However, it recently announced that at least one third of the 48 idle plots of land that were attributable to leaseholders but not being properly utilized could not be recovered. AL’s president, Ho Iat Seng, denied the lawmakers’ motion, arguing that their request does not comply with Macau’s Basic Law. He believes that the AL has no grounds to hold such a public hearing.

Good Shepherd Center takes in two underage sex trafficking victims

THE Good Shepherd Center has provided shelter to two underage girls who have been lured into practicing prostitution here since January, Sister Juliana Devoy told newspaper Tribuna de Macau.

Authorities have recorded a total of four cases of human trafficking in Macau in the first half of 2015.

Sister Juliana said that one of the girls had a new passport but the other girl had come to Macau several times in 2014. Therefore, she urged police authorities to remain vigilant in order to spot and report potential human trafficking cases.

The director of the Good Shepherd Center added that she's unaware of the reasons why the number of human trafficking cases in Macau has dropped over the past two years. "It's difficult to believe that syndicates are no longer active



Juliana Devoy

ve. Maybe they are less active due to all the publicity generated after the Hotel Lisboa case, although no underage victims were involved," she stated.

Data from the Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee shows that, until June, there had only been two cases of human trafficking, combined involving two victims and one suspect. One of the cases was reported by the victim herself, a woman from

Guizhou, China. A Brazilian woman also filed a complaint in January this year. She stated that she had been offered a well-paid job in Macau and later found out that it would involve prostitution. The woman who lured her into accepting the job was also from Brazil, and has been arrested in Macau.

The U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, recently released, stated that the region remains a

source territory for sex trafficking and forced labor, despite governmental efforts to combat any related activities.

The report found that authorities prosecuted cases under the crime of "procuring prostitution" instead of human trafficking. Procurement of prostitution is easier to prove in court but carries lighter sentences than the anti-trafficking law.

Last March, the Good Shepherd Center called on local businesses and casino operators to incorporate "a zero tolerance" policy on human trafficking, and for further training of staff to be conducted in order to encourage them to spot and report any potential cases.

The center, together with Vital Voices USA, held a one-day summit themed "Business Leadership to End Human Trafficking & Modern Day Slavery." **CP**

Talents committee promotes 'elite nurturing'

THE Talents Development Committee's task force subgroup promoting its "Elites Nurturing Plan" held a meeting last Friday. There it listened to Melco Crown Entertainment's chief human resources officer introduce the gaming operator's demand and its suggestions for the cultivation of industry talents.

At the meeting, Melco Crown's executive vice president and chief of human resources and corporate social responsibility officer, Ms Akiko Takahashi, introduced to committee members the operator's training plans and internal promotion opportunities.

In addition, the subgroup briefed its members about the admission of the subsidy scheme for the University of Cambridge's Global Leaders Master Course. Moreover, members discussed the Committee's plan to cooperate with Portuguese universities and UNESCO.

The subgroup, led by Wu Zhi Liang and joint by local universities' rectors, recognized that "promoting the talent cultivation programs would help the MSAR government enhance the quality of talent training," as stated in a press release by the committee. It further pledged to collect information on each government department's training of youths, and to strengthen local universities' collaborative programs with world's top universities under the "Elites Nurturing Plan."

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22/7 - 20/8/2015

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The text of the call for public opinion can be downloaded from the following websites:
www.gsasc.gov.mo
www.lcm.gov.mo
www.dsej.gov.mo
www.sport.gov.mo

The text is also available in print at:

The Cultural Affairs Bureau Building on Tap Seac Square, and libraries under the Cultural Affairs Bureau including the Macao Central Library (Main Library), IACM Building Library, Sir Robert Ho Tung Library, Iha Verde Library, Meng Ha Library, Red Market Library, Taipa Library (Central Park) and Coloane Library

Residents are encouraged to provide their opinions through the aforementioned websites, by post or in person at the Cultural Affairs Bureau Building on Tap Seac Square

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MGM China 1st half revenue down 33 percent

MGM China announced yesterday the selected unaudited financial data of the company and its subsidiaries for the three-month and six-month periods ending in June. During the six-month period, MGM China recorded a total revenue of HKD9.2 billion, a decrease of 33 percent year-on-year. The adjusted EBITDA was HKD2.4 billion.

According to a statement issued by MGM, main floor table



game wins dropped 19 percent and slot wins dropped 26 percent. VIP table game wins were down 46 percent. The group

maintained its dividend payout of 35 percent by declaring an interim dividend of HK15.6 cents per share, a dividend return it

shared with its shareholders.

Regarding the MGM Cotai project, the gaming operator said it is on target to have all floors in the hotel tower completed by early November this year. The majority of the interior fit-out contracts have been awarded and MGM is looking to commence the fit-out of the casino area this month. According to the data provided by MGM China, the Cotai resort will feature approximately 1,500 hotel rooms and up to 500 gaming tables, with over 85 percent gross floor area to be used for non-gaming elements. The project remains on target for a fourth quarter 2016 opening.



Studio City opening date to be announced today

Melco Crown's newest casino in Cotai may get 150 new-to-market live gaming tables, less than half of what it is hoping for, analysts say. Deutsche Bank's (DB) team outlined that they believe Studio City will be granted a similar number of new units to rival operator Galaxy Entertainment Group, which was 150. The authorities are currently imposing a 3 percent cap on annual compound growth. Melco Crown chief executive Lawrence Ho will be announcing Studio City's opening date today. DB predicts that the property will open in late October. "Market conditions are very challenging but the construction process for our project has been very smooth. So far, progress is good. But we're working hard on the remaining 5 per cent," Mr Ho said late last month. The Deutsche Bank team estimated Studio City might use 110 of the new tables for mass play and 40 for premium mass and "direct VIP". Deutsche analysts Carlo Santarelli and Danny Valoy stated that the gaming floor is expected to open with 1000 slots and 200 live dealer multi-terminal stations.

TRANSPORT

New Era tops citizens' complaints

PUBLIC bus operator New Era is at the top of the list of citizens' complaints over Macau's public bus system, according to data provided by the Transport Bureau (DSAT) to Radio Macau.

Between July 2014 and June this year, DSAT received a total of 2,218 complaints, 47 percent of which were linked to services provided by New Era – the company that took over Reolian's operations last year.

In total, there were 1,043 complaints about New Era's services, 663 complaints about Transmac (30 percent) and 512 regarding operations run by TCM.

Reasons listed for filing the complaints included delays, refusal to take passengers, failing to stop at signaled bus stops and bad attitudes of drivers.

DSAT reiterated that it reviews every complaint it receives, urging bus companies to provide clarification on the is-

sues and rectify problematic situations. Furthermore, DSAT made assurances that it takes citizens' opinions into account when deciding on improvements to the public bus network and regularly monitors the bus operators' activities regarding stops and itineraries, as well as route frequency.

New Era took over operations from Reolian in July last year, after Reolian filed for bankruptcy in 2013. The Macau government temporarily took over its operations until it granted New Era permission to operate Reolian's routes. New Era's major shareholder is TCM, one of the city's three bus operators.

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Vietnam officials sent to Macau to study special economic zones, casinos

THE Vietnamese government has reviewed a major plan to establish a special economic zone on Phu Quoc Island off mainland Kien Giang Province and has assigned the Ministry of Planning and Investment to present it to the Politburo, The Saigon Times Daily revealed yesterday. A group has also been dispatched to study Macau's experience.

The paper revealed that updates on the long-awaited plan were revealed this week at a review meeting in Can Tho City of the working group in charge of devising supporting policies and mechanisms for the development of Phu Quoc Island. Kien Giang presented the plan to the Ministry of Planning and Investment late last year, before it was submitted to the government for review.

Le Van Thi, chairman of Kien Giang and deputy head of the working group, said that "the Prime Minister had scrutinized the plan and assigned the ministry to present it to the Politburo on behalf of the Government."

According to The Saigon Times Daily, Nguyen Phong Quang, head of the working team and deputy head of the Southwest Steering Committee, told the meeting that "after the plan was sent to the relevant agencies for comment, the group dispatched its staff to Macau to draw on [the SAR's] experience in the



Phu Quoc Island map

development of special economic zones, especially in the fields of finance, services, seaports and casinos."

According to Thi, after the Prime Minister issued Decision 80 on December 27, 2013 to approve a special development mechanism for Phu Quoc, the island was upgraded to a grade-two town. It now has a seaport, airport and clean water supply facilities; access to the national power grid; and a north-south road – all of which are believed to help attract more investors and to fuel tourism growth.

A total of 164 projects worth a combined VND168.93 trillion (USD7.7 billion) have been approved on Phu Quoc. Twenty-three of them, with registered capital totaling VND25.81 trillion, have been put into operation and 14 others worth VND11.38 trillion are under construction.

However, a lack of incentives and special policies, especially in terms of zoning and personnel, have resulted in some problems with development. For instance, land prices in many places on the island have skyrocketed, reads the Saigon daily.

Kien Giang is considering canceling delayed projects and assigning them to new investors with strong financial capability.

In addition to a zoo, which is home to 500 animals, a cable-car system stretching seven kilometers could be built to connect Phu Quoc Island and Thom Islet, which is envisioned to become a tourism complex, Thi said.

Asked by the Daily about the negative impact of garbage and wastewater on the island, Thi said that the province would invest in garbage treatment, and that enterprises would be required to

build their own wastewater treatment facilities.

The province will ask the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to support major wastewater treatment projects like the one costing more than VND200 billion near Truong Beach, Thi noted.

Thi added that the Government has agreed on a scheme to upgrade the district island of Phu Quoc into a city, and the National Assembly's approval is being sought for this.

Under the zoning plan, there will be around 4,300 hectares for tourism projects, 3,325 hectares for tourism and residential areas, and 1,234 hectares for forests. The island will also have an international passenger seaport in Duong Dong Town, a general port in Dat Do Bay, a square, also in Duong Dong, and a casino in Bai Dai.

Golden Triangle casino sets clocks to Beijing time

THE Laotian section of the Golden Triangle, which intersects with Thailand and Myanmar and has long been known for producing drugs, has become a gambling destination for Chinese gamblers.

According to the AFP, the Chinese-owned Kings Romans casino in Ton Pheung, the centerpiece of a 10,000-square meter special economic zone (SEZ), receives a steady stream of Chinese gamblers. However, its scale is dwarfed by its rivals in Macau, and also by its Southeast Asian neighbors Cambodia and Vietnam.

The AFP article describes venturing inside the SEZ – which was set up by the Laos government with investment from China – as "stepping into mainland China." "The clocks are all set to Beijing time, while Mandarin and other Chinese dialects are commonplace and the main currency is the yuan," it noted, adding that most employees are Chinese or from Myanmar.

The report also cited observers saying that the SEZ has become a place to wash dirty money from China, as well as a haven for local criminal networks. "Cash-based commercial activities, such as casinos, currency exchange shops or even just restaurants, offer better opportunities to introduce to the legitimate economy money [that has been] obtained through illegal activities," warned Giovanni Broussard of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, as quoted by the AFP.

Moreover, the author noted that the SEZ also caters to those with illegal culinary tastes, as visitors can openly buy products from endangered species. These include tigers, leopards, elephants, rhinos and bears, as there are restaurants offering sautéed tiger meat, bear paws and live pangolins on their menus.

The article cited the NGO's report, pointing out that "one business kept a live python and a bear cub in cages, both of which were available to eat on request," before adding that the unmasked businesses were no longer seen open in April.

corporate bits

MGM ORGANIZES "CARE CAMPAIGN" FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR



In the last two weeks of July, MGM Macau rolled out a two-week Community Care Campaign, which served over 400 underprivileged locals, tallying 1,300 community service hours.

The third "Community Care Campaign" this year, which ran from July 20 to 31, launched a

host of activities that served various underprivileged groups including the elderly, the mentally challenged, low-income families and youths. The highlight events were Haircut for the Elderly, Paint for Love, Fuhong Creative Workshop, Fun Culinary Day and Love Moments @ Grande Praça.

FREE CTM WI-FI SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE AT 7-ELEVEN

Under the collaboration of 7-Eleven, as of yesterday, free CTM Wi-Fi services are available at more than 30 7-Eleven convenience stores in Macau. At the same time, CTM Wi-Fi One Day and Three Days passes are also available at 7-Eleven.

At all 39 7-Eleven stores in Macau, residents or tourists can enjoy free CTM Wi-Fi service for 15 minutes after successfully logging in to the SSID: 7-WiFi network. Every device can use CTM's free Wi-Fi service once per day, at a maximum of 15 minutes per login.

Furthermore, CTM Wi-Fi "One Day Pass" and "Three Days Pass" cards are available at all 7-11 stores, so residents and tourists can use Wi-Fi services at more than 500 CTM Wi-Fi Hotspots covering banks, the airport, ferry terminal, shopping malls and convenience stores.

SANDS CHINA ORGANIZES RESPONSIBLE GAMING TRAINING

Sands China Ltd. has organized its annual Responsible Gaming Team Training Programme at The Venetian Macao for the third consecutive year, in an effort to enhance team members' knowledge of problem gaming and awareness of the importance of responsible gaming. Certificates were presented Thursday and Friday to over 100

participating team members, who came from the gaming operations, security and human resources departments to attend one of three training sessions July 30-31. To recognize their achievements, responsible gaming ambassador walls have been created in the back-of-house areas of Sands China properties.



AUTO INDUSTRY

BMW earnings slip on China, costs for new models



David McHugh, Frankfurt

GERMAN luxury automaker BMW saw net profit slip 1 percent in the second quarter amid higher costs to bring out new vehicles and a tougher market in China, a major pillar of its profits.

The company said yesterday that net profit fell to 1.75 billion euros (USD1.92

billion) from 1.77 billion euros in the April-June quarter of last year.

Munich-based BMW AG also said it sold a less profitable product mix containing more compact cars, which typically earn less per vehicle.

The profit margin before interest and taxes, a key earnings figure, fell to 8.4 percent in the quarter from a strong 11.7 percent in the

year-ago quarter.

Analysts say key BMW models such as the 5 Series and 7 Series sedans are nearing the end of their life cycle, which can hurt sales as customers see newer products from competitors. The company has already unveiled a new 7 Series, which will go on sale this fall.

Renewing models is costly but pays off if the new version sells better than its competi-

tors. BMW faces tough competition for luxury car sales from Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz and Volkswagen AG's Audi.

The company also cautioned that the Chinese market — a source of rich profits for German carmakers in the past several years — is “normalizing” and becoming more competitive. BMW sales there slipped 1.4 percent in the quarter. Chinese economic growth has slowed in recent months.

BMW's new CEO, Harald Krueger, said in a conference call that the company remains “positive about China for the medium- and long-term.” Krueger took over May 13 from Norbert Reithofer, who became board chairman.

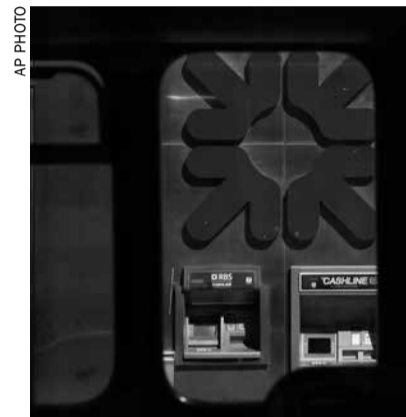
The company says it remains convinced China has strong potential due to the comparatively low level of vehicle ownership and growing middle class.

Overall, BMW sales boomed 20.2 percent to 23.935 billion euros, thanks to record numbers of vehicles sold around the world but also strongly boosted by currency exchange rate shifts.

BMW shares traded down 1.1 percent at 90.55 euros in midday trading in Europe. **AP**

BANKING

UK state raises USD3.3b from first sale of Bank of Scotland stake



A Royal Bank of Scotland logo is seen through the windows of a London bus in the City of London

THE U.K. government said yesterday it sold 5.4 percent of taxpayer-owned Royal Bank of Scotland for 2.1 billion pounds (USD3.3 billion) as it begins to shed a majority stake acquired at the height of the financial crisis in 2008.

The Treasury sold the shares for 330 pence each, or 2.3 percent less than Monday's closing price.

Though RBS's shares are trading at far less than the 502 pence that the government paid for them, analysts suggest that selling a small piece of the government holding now will make it easier and more profitable to sell the rest in the future.

“This is an important first step in returning the bank to private ownership, which is the right thing to do for the taxpayer and British businesses,” Treasury chief George Osborne said.

The government pumped 45.8 billion pounds into RBS to keep the bank afloat, acquiring a stake of about 80 percent. Tuesday's sale puts the government stake at about 73 percent.

“It's an important moment and reflects the progress we are making to become a stronger, simpler and fairer bank,” said Ross McEwan, the CEO of RBS. “There is more work to be done but we're determined to build a bank the country can be proud of.”

The proceeds will be used to pay down the national debt.

Shore Capital analyst Gary Greenwood underscored that this was only the start.

“While this share sale represents an important milestone for the group, and perhaps signifies that political risk associated with the stock is reducing, we still anticipate that it will still be a number of years before the government fully exits its shareholding,” he said. **AP**

Toyota's quarterly profit up 10 pct on cheap yen, cost cuts

Yuri Kageyama

TOYOTA'S profit for April-June rose 10 percent on perks from a cheap yen and cost reduction efforts that offset lower vehicle sales.

Toyota Motor Corp. had a fiscal first quarter profit of 646.3 billion yen (USD5.2 billion), up from \$587.7 billion a year earlier. Quarterly sales increased by 9 percent to 6.98 trillion yen (\$56.3 billion), the automaker said yesterday.

But it sold about 127,000 fewer vehicles compared to last year, at 2.1 million vehicles during the quarter, as sales languished in Japan, other parts of Asia, and Europe. Vehicle sales were healthy in North America.

Toyota, the world's top automaker for the last three years, was outpaced by Volkswagen AG of Germany in global vehicle sales for the first half of this year.

The manufacturer of the Prius hybrid, Lexus luxury model and Camry sedan was hit by a major embarrassment re-

cently when an American it promoted with great fanfare, as a sign of greater diversity at the company, was arrested in Japan on suspicion of drug law violations.

Julie Hamp, 55, who resigned from her post, was released without charges after nearly a month in custody. She was suspected of importing oxycodone, a narcotic pain killer. The drug is tightly controlled in Japan.

Toyota has announced a board member as her replacement, but has not announced another female senior executive.

Toyota President Akio Toyoda has said the company is on track toward sustainable growth, after having survived the 2011 tsunami disaster in Japan that crimped production, as well as massive recalls, especially in the U.S.

The Japanese automaker left its profit forecast unchanged at 2.25 trillion yen (\$18 billion) for the fiscal year through March 2016.

“Favorable foreign exchange rates and cost reduction efforts were main



AP PHOTO

positive factors, while decreased vehicle sales and increases expenses to support initiatives for enhancing competitiveness were negative factors,” said Toyota Managing Officer Tetsuya Otake.

After the recalls surfaced, Toyoda announced a halt to expansion such as new auto-assembly plants and instead focused on cost cuts, quality controls, personnel training and making more of existing plants. But that three-year hiatus was lifted earlier this year. **AP**



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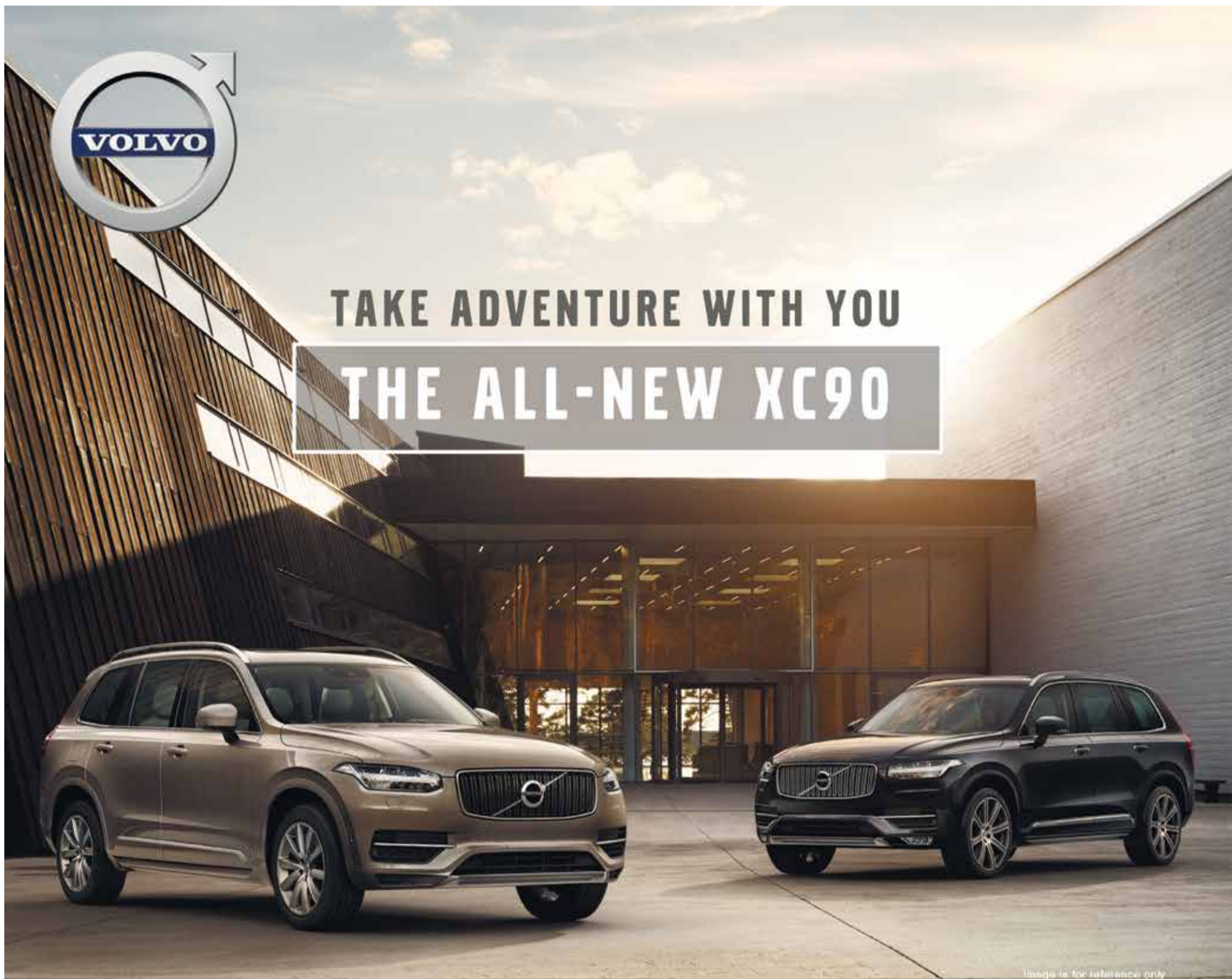


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*Optional Features

Chinese group with highest proposal to buy Novo Banco

THE most interesting financial proposal for the purchase of Portugal's Novo Banco is the one from the Chinese insurance group Anbang, offering 3.2 billion euros in currency and a further million euros to recapitalize the institution, asserts the Portuguese daily Público, citing Portuguese media.

The newspaper specifies that the three candidates to buy Novo Banco submitted bids well below the 4.9 billion applied in the institution, which led the Bank of Portugal to request improved proposals and extend the deadline to close the matter.

Since the collapse of Banco Espírito Santo, culminating in the announcement of state intervention on 3 August 2014, Novo Banco has remained under the authority of the Bank of Portugal, whose head stated that the bank would shift to the private sphere "by the end of July 2015."

Doubts surrounding the



new institution, namely legal cases that should last for years, most likely contributed to the Bank of Portugal's decision in the last tender phase (late July) to send back the binding offers from the three candidates.

The Chinese of Anbang (with no activity in Portugal) and Fosun (which bought Fidelidade from the state and Saúde Luz from Novo Banco) and the US investment fund Apollo (which acquired Tran-

quilidade from Novo Banco) expressed firm acquisition intentions far from the 4.9 billion that would permit the central bank and the government to consider the operation a success.

The state lent the Resolution Fund anchored in the financial sector 4.4 billion from the state line negotiated with the troika for financial support to Portugal; the Fund, managed by the Bank of Portugal, placed the re-

maining 500 million in Novo Banco.

Any proposal below 4.9 billion would thus imply a loss to be supported by the whole system, which would affect the state financial group Caixa Geral de Depósitos, with 30 percent of the market, and hence taxpayers.

Additionally, by having to absorb "damages" the banks' results decline; that would also be reflected in less revenue for the state. **MDT/Macauhub**

East Timor gains support to join ASEAN

Indonesia will renew its defense of East Timor's admission to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) during the 48th meeting of foreign ministers from that organization's member countries, held this week in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur, said a high-ranking Indonesian foreign ministry official. The acting director for dialogue partners and interregional cooperation, Mohammad Iskandarsyah Derry Aman, specified that the Indonesian government will persistently continue to support efforts for East Timor to become a member. Derry Aman reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to the admission of the country as a full member of ASEAN, guaranteeing that his country would raise the question. The time has come for the association's member countries to consider East Timor's membership request, he said. "Indonesia is thus the first South East Asian nation to formally support Timor-Leste's admission to ASEAN," he added. Last April the foreign minister of Timor-Leste, Hernâni Coelho, met with ASEAN secretary-general Le Luong Minh and reiterated that ASEAN continues to be a priority for Timor-Leste's foreign policy. Coelho said at the time that East Timor was making progress in efforts to improve institutional capabilities and build personnel capacities so it can fully take part in ASEAN activities. He added that one of the goals is to have embassies open in all ASEAN countries by early 2016.

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Volleyball chief in corruption probe

China's sweeping drive against corruption has again turned to the country's sports programs, with the head of the national volleyball program the latest to be targeted. The ruling party's corruption watchdog said in a statement yesterday that Pan Zhichen has been placed under investigation for "serious violations of discipline and law"; the standard term used for corruption. No details were given although such investigations routinely lead to trials and convictions. Pan was the chief official in charge of China's volleyball and beach volleyball programs. He was credited with helping to coax back former U.S. coach Jenny Lang Ping, formerly China's most illustrious spiker known as the "Iron Hammer," to lead the Chinese women's program again. In June, the vice minister of sport responsible for basketball, Xiao Tian, was placed under investigation for corruption. Xiao was also one of basketball's international governing body FIBA's three vice-presidents. Chinese President Xi Jinping is pursuing a broad anti-corruption campaign spanning the government, Communist Party, military and state industry. In its quest for Olympic glory, China has lavished funds on its system of sports schools, leagues and playing facilities, creating ample opportunity for graft. Growing commercial tie-ins in recent years have also provided occasions for bribery and kickbacks.

9 swept away by flash flood; 8 bodies recovered

A flash flood has struck a scenic area outside the city of Xi'an in central China, sweeping away nine Chinese tourists, state media reported yesterday. Eight bodies have been recovered. The flood struck Xiaoyuhecun Valley on Monday afternoon amid the heaviest rains recorded in the area in 30 years, the reports said. A team of about 200 police officers, firefighters and paramilitary troops searched the area overnight, recovering eight bodies by yesterday morning, the Xinhua News Agency said. A former imperial Chinese capital, Xi'an lies in a greenbelt along the ancient Silk Road surrounded by the mountainous, mostly arid, province of Shaanxi. Many Chinese scenic sites suffer from chronic mismanagement, poor crowd control and other safety issues. Emergency services in Xi'an either did not answer calls or said they had no information about missing people or an investigation into the incident.

Police rescue infant girl from pipe in public toilet

A Beijing policeman rescued a newborn baby who was stuck face-down in a public toilet, reaching his arm down into the pipe to gently pull out the infant, police and reports said yesterday.

The baby girl was in stable condition at a hospital in the Chinese capital, and authorities were trying to identify her parents and find out how she ended up in the toilet, police and Beijing Television said.

The local broadcaster aired a video taken by police of the rescue Sunday by officer Qian Feng following reports of cries in a public restroom in a Beijing alley.

"I am probably the first one to hold this child," Qian told the TV station in a later interview.

Unmarried mothers in China sometimes abandon newborns because of social stigma associated with out-of-wedlock births. Sometimes parents also discard children born with defects.

In 2013, rescuers in the eastern Chinese province of Zhejiang gingerly cut open a sewer pipe to save a baby boy, who his mother said accidentally slipped into the toilet where she delivered the child. Local media reports said the woman became pregnant after a one-night stand but hid the pregnancy from her parents. She later admitted to police she was



A Beijing Tianqiao police photo handout shows an abandoned baby moments after rescue from a public toilet

the mother.

On Sunday, police spotted the child's feet in the toilet pipe and called for help from firefighters, but before they could arrive, Qian got down on the ground to pull the baby out, the TV station reported.

Quoting neighbors, police and medical staff, the TV report said a woman may have given birth to the 2-kilogram baby directly into the toilet and left without the child, whose umbilical cord was pulled off, instead of cut off. Beijing police confirmed the

report but gave few details on their official microblog. They said the infant did not appear to have any physical defects.

Medical staff told the television station that the baby had infections but otherwise was doing fine. **AP**

Shanghai group to salvage South Korea's sunken ferry



Kim Tong-hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korea said yesterday that it had agreed to a 85.1 billion won (USD73 million) deal with a Chinese-led consortium to salvage a ferry that sunk in an accident that killed more than 300 people in April last year. The formal contract could be signed as early as today.

The consortium led by China's state-run firm Shanghai Salvage Co., which was picked as the preferred bidder for the project last month, plans to raise the 6,800-ton Sewol by July next year, according to Seoul's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. Shanghai has experience in salvaging large ships and was involved in lifting a river cruise ship that sank in China's Yangtze

River. More than 400 people died in that accident in June.

"Since the typhoon season usually comes around late July or August, we think it would be best to deploy all equipment and personnel before that period to give ourselves the best shot," a ministry official, Yeon Yeong-jin, told a news briefing.

South Korea formally approved plans to salvage the Sewol in April, after demands from the victims' families who staged protests in the capital Seoul for months. The relatives hope that raising the ship will reveal details about the cause of the sinking and help find the bodies of nine passengers still missing.

Experts say lifting the Sewol from a channel notorious for strong currents could be dangerous and much harder than previous efforts around the world to salvage giant ships, which sometimes ended up costing much more than originally estimated. Two divers died searching for bodies inside the vessel last year.

The South Korean government had originally planned to drill dozens of holes into the side of the ferry, which would allow it to be tied to two huge naval cranes that would lift the vessel from the seafloor. However, Shanghai Salvage questioned the logic of relying on cables attached to a weakened ship and instead offered to lift the ferry with a frame built with metal beams. **AP**

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA yesterday called for more efforts to find a peaceful solution to rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea, as the U.S. and the Philippines said they would demand that China stop land reclamation and other actions there.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi defended Beijing's moves, saying they were in Chinese territory and that there should be no double standards on the issue, in reference to land reclamation work by other claimants.

He urged all parties to support China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in speeding up negotiations for a code of conduct that governs behavior in the resource-rich and busy waterway.

"It's not a constructive move to exercise double standards on the issue," Wang told reporters. "China and ASEAN are capable enough to work together to maintain the peace and stability in the South China Sea."

China, Taiwan and several ASEAN members — the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Brunei — have wrangled over ownership and control of the South China Sea in a conflict that has flared on and off for decades.

Tensions rose last year when China began to build artificial islands in the Spratly Islands, which the U.S. and Beijing's rival claimant countries fear could impede freedom of navigation and overflights in a major transit area for the world's oil and merchandise.

The disputes have led to deadly confrontations between China and Vietnam, and Washington and governments in the region are concerned that boosting military deployments increase the risk of miscalculations and accidental clashes that can spiral out of control.

U.S. officials have said that the amount of land reclaimed by Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan in the dis-



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is surrounded by journalists at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

ASEAN

Malaysia seeks amicable solution to China sea dispute

puted area over the last 45 years totaled a mere 40 hectares, a fraction of the more than 1,200 hectares reclaimed by China in the last 18 months alone.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said ASEAN must play a role to ensure an amicable settlement in the dispute over the sea.

"Above all, we must be seen to address these issues peacefully and cooperatively," he said at the start of a meeting with his ASEAN counterparts. "We have made a positive start but we need to do more."

Washington has said it would call for a halt to aggressive actions by China and other rival nations to allow a diplomatic solution to a problem that threatens regional stability.

Washington is not a party to the conflict and has a policy of

not taking sides in the territorial dispute, but says a peaceful resolution of the problem and freedom of navigation in the disputed waters were in the U.S. national interest. China rejects any U.S. involvement.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday that Manila would support the U.S. call in the meetings this week, but would not agree to be bound by it unless China and other countries locked in the conflict also do so.

"As a means of de-escalating tensions in the region, the Philippines fully supports and will pro-actively promote the call of the United States on the 'three halts' — a halt in reclamation, halt in construction and a halt in aggressive actions that could further heighten tensions," del Rosario said in a statement.

"We have to emphasize, however, that this should not in any way legitimize the status of the features reclaimed by China," he said.

Australia will also register its concerns over rising tensions in the South China Sea at the

This is a forum in which critical security issues need to be brought up and discussed

MARK TONER
U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN

Malaysian meetings, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement.

ASEAN foreign ministers will meet their U.S., Chinese, Australia and several other foreign counterparts in the ASEAN Regional Forum, an annual Asian security gathering, in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Monday that Secretary of State John Kerry would tackle the territorial issues in Malaysia.

"This is a forum in which critical security issues need to be brought up and discussed," Toner told reporters, adding the U.S. would view as "provocative" any moves to "significantly increase the physical size or functionality of disputed features, or to militarize them." **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

President to replace health minister after MERS outbreak



South Korean President Park Geun-hye presides over a cabinet meeting at the presidential house in Seoul

SOUTH Korea's president has decided to replace her health minister, officials said yesterday, in the wake of criticism over the government's handling of the MERS virus outbreak that killed 36 people and infected nearly 200 others.

Last week, South Korea announced that it was virtually free of Middle East

respiratory syndrome, which had rattled the country since an outbreak was declared in May. More than 16,000 people had been isolated at hospitals and homes as the government tried to contain the disease's spread.

South Korean media have criticized the government for failing to swiftly cope with MERS in the

initial stage of its landing in the country.

President Park Geun-hye nominated local medical professor Chung Chin Youb to replace Moon Hyung-pyo as health minister, Park's office said in a statement. The statement described Chung as a person who can bolster South Korea's public health care.

Chung is required to have a confirmation hearing, but his nomination does not need parliamentary approval.

MERS, discovered in 2012, is caused by a coronavirus in the same family as the common cold and SARS.

The disease usually does not spread easily, but experts suspect South Korea's

crowded emergency rooms and hospital wards might have contributed to a wider-than-expected transmission here. South Koreans' habits of "doctor shopping" — visiting multiple facilities to treat the same illness — and having many friends and relatives visit hospitalized patients also might have contributed. **AP**

INDIA

Building collapses outside Mumbai after heavy rain; 12 dead



Twelve people were killed early yesterday when an old building on the outskirts of Mumbai collapsed after days of heavy rain, an Indian official said. The seven other residents of the building were rescued after it collapsed shortly after midnight, said S.S. Guleria, Deputy Inspector General of the National Disaster Response Force. The building, located in the Mumbai suburb of Thane, was more than 50 years old and had been damaged by the rain, Guleria said. Mumbai and its surrounding areas in the western Indian state of Maharashtra experience heavy rainfall during the monsoon season, which runs from June through September. The rains routinely damage buildings, especially those that are either old or poorly built.

MYANMAR

Floodwaters moving downriver pose new threat



New devastation is feared in Myanmar as water from the badly flooded central and northern regions flows down rivers to the country's more populous areas. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported yesterday that water levels have receded in the main town in hard-hit Sagaing Division in the northwest. But it warned that as water moves downriver, floods are likely to expand and affect additional areas. Officials say the death toll from weeks of almost continuous rain is 46, with more than 200,000 people affected by flooding in 11 of the country's 14 states and divisions.

Nick Perry, Wellington

A New Zealander who was the last surviving pilot from the specialized World War II "Dambuster" mission targeting German infrastructure died yesterday. Les Munro was 96.

The team of top pilots secretly trained in 1943 to master flying at high speeds, low altitudes and in the dark. The British team was tasked with flying over Germany and dropping a specially designed bouncing bomb to destroy dams.

More than 50 of the 133 air- men died during the raid, but it was considered a success after two dams were destroyed that flooded factories and killed more than 1,000 German citizens in the Ruhr valley, while also boosting morale back in Britain.

Munro himself was unable to complete the mission after his Lancaster bomber was hit by enemy fire and was forced to return to base.

The mission inspired a book and a 1955 movie, "The Dam Busters."

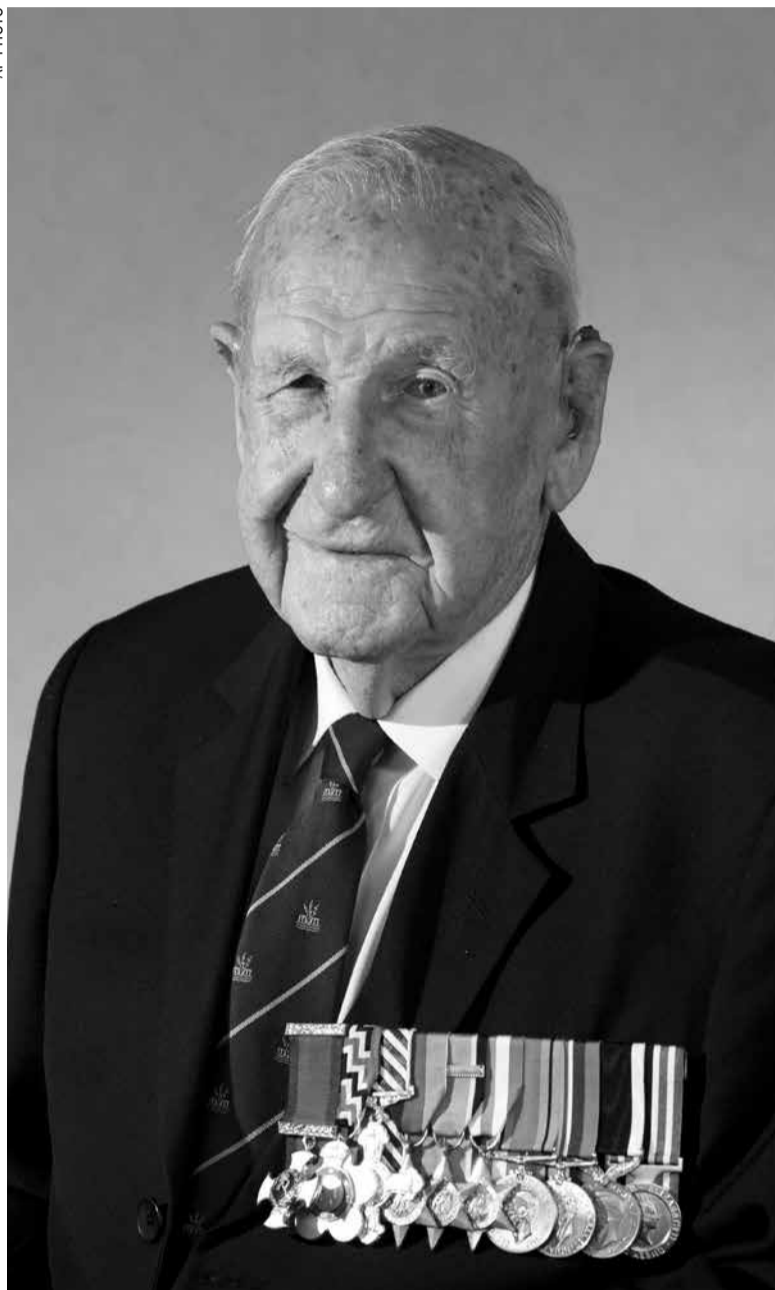
"Really sad to hear of Les Munro's death," wrote Prime Minister John Key on Twitter. "New Zealand has lost a remarkable man who led a remarkable life."

Peter Wheeler, the chief executive of the New Zealand Bomber Command Association, a group for aircrew veterans, said Munro was prouder of a mission he completed a year later, on the night before the invasion of Normandy, or D-Day.

Wheeler said in that mission, Munro and other pilots attempted to trick German radar operators by circling and advancing slowly, while also

NEW ZEALAND

Last WWII 'Dambuster' pilot dies at 96



In this March 3, 2015, photo, veteran Les Munro poses for a photo at his home in Tauranga

tossing out aluminum strips, in order to appear on radar screens as a major sea invasion, away from where the real invasion would soon happen.

Munro earlier this year offered to auction his war medals to secure funding for the upkeep of the Bomber Command Memorial in London. But Britain's Lord Ashcroft stepped in the day before the auction, donating 75,000 pounds (USD117,000) and allowing Munro to donate the medals to a New Zealand museum.

John Leslie "Les" Munro was born in Gisborne, on New Zealand's North Island, in 1919.

Wheeler said that after World War II, Munro began working at a government agency that gave loans to ex-servicemen to help them become farmers. Wheeler said Munro "took his own advice" by becoming a farmer himself.

He married Betty Hill in 1948.

They farmed cattle and sheep on the central North Island, and Munro later became involved in local politics, becoming mayor of the Waitomo District Council. He retired to the coastal community of Tauranga.

"He was always a little embarrassed about the attraction of the Dambusters story," Wheeler said, adding that Munro was nevertheless always willing to talk about it and attend events. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Gov't hangs man that family says was convicted as a minor

Adil Jawad, Karachi

PAKISTAN executed a man yesterday convicted of killing a 7-year-old boy in 2004 when his family and lawyers say he was just 14 years old, despite international outcry over his sentence, officials said.

Authorities hanged Shafqat Hussain shortly before dawn at a Karachi prison, said Iqbal Hassan, an official of the prison judicial branch. Hassan said Hussain's brother, Gul Hassan, received the body and will take it to his native village somewhere in Kashmir.

Hassan said the deceased's relatives visited him for the last time Monday night.

Hussain's execution had been stayed four times amid the controversy over executing someone who committed a crime as a minor. After his last appeal failed, Hussain remained on death row

for another month as Ramadan had begun. Pakistan halts execution during the holy fasting month.

Pakistan imposed a moratorium on executions in 2008, but then lifted the ban in December, after a Taliban attack on a military school in Peshawar killed 150 people, mostly children. While some militants have been executed, other convicts have as well.

Human rights groups say Pakistan has about 8,000 people on death row. They've criticized the government for restarting executions, saying police often use torture to elicit confessions — including Hussain's. Authorities have denied the allegation.

Amnesty International called the execution a "deeply sad day" for Pakistan.

"A man whose age remains disputed and whose conviction was built around tortu-



Makhni Begum holds a photograph of her son Shafqat Hussain in Muzaffarabad

re has now paid with his life — and for a crime for which the death penalty cannot be imposed under international law," said David Griffiths, Amnesty International's South Asia research director. **AP**

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USA

Obama heralds impact of power plant greenhouse gas limits

Josh Lederman, Washington

PRESIDENT Barack Obama unveiled the final version of his plan to dramatically cut emissions from U.S. power plants, as he warned anew that climate change will threaten future generations if left unchecked.

Touting the plan at a White House event on Monday (yesterday, Macau time), Obama said the unprecedented carbon dioxide limits are the “the single most important step” America has ever taken to fight climate change. He warned that because the problem is so large, if the world doesn’t get it right quickly, it may become impossible to reverse, leaving populations unable to adapt.

Obama’s move represented a challenge to the rest of the world to take serious action as a global summit to finalize a landmark climate change treaty approaches at the end of this year.

“There is such a thing as being too late when it comes to climate change,” Obama said.

The sweeping new regulations are also thrusting the divisive debate over climate change into the race for the White House, with candidates in both parties seeing an



President Barack Obama speaks about his Clean Power Plan in the East Room at the White House

opportunity to capitalize.

To Democrats, rallying around global climate change is a way to energize liberal supporters and paint Republicans as out of touch with the majority of Americans. To the Republicans, Obama’s executive actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions are burdensome to business and block job creation, an argument targeting Americans’ wor-

ries about the economy.

Broad support for the rules by Democratic candidates and universal opposition from Republicans puts the parties’ eventual nominees on a general-election collision course. Most of the changes Obama outlined would have to be implemented by the next president, if the rules survive court challenges.

Republicans gave little indication of what they would do

differently to curb emissions from U.S. power plants, if anything at all. They cast the measure requiring states to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030 as unnecessary and costly White House overreach that will raise energy costs for Americans.

Opponents immediately announced they would sue the government to stop the rules from taking effect. **AP**

SWITZERLAND

Customs seize 262 kilograms of ivory en route to China

CUSTOMS officials at Zurich airport have seized 262 kilograms of ivory that three Chinese men had dispatched from Tanzania, contraband that may have come from up to 50 elephants, Swiss authorities said yesterday.

The ivory was found during a security check on July 6 and packed in eight suitcases, Switzerland’s customs authority said. It put the estimated black market value at about 400,000 francs (USD413,000).

The elephant tusks had been sawed into 172 pieces to fit into the luggage, which was being transported from Tanzania’s capital, Dar es Salaam, to Beijing via Zurich. The head of the customs operation at the airport, Heinz Widmer, said officials estimate that the pieces came from 40 to 50 elephants.

Demand from China’s rising middle

class has been fueling elephant poaching in Africa and illegal trade in ivory, which is turned into jewelry and other decorative items. The whereabouts of the Chinese men wasn’t immediately clear. But Swiss customs said they could face large fines for violating customs and animal protection rules.

The suitcases also contained 1 kilogram of lion fangs and claws – 21 fangs and 35 claws. It wasn’t immediately clear what they were intended for.

The ivory haul, while sizeable, is below the 500-kilogram threshold considered to be a large-scale seizure that indicates the likely involvement of organized crime, according to TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring organization.

The group, which said that it doesn’t speculate on the black-market value of ivory as a matter of policy, said the



Confiscated ivory is displayed at Zurich Airport

frequency of large-scale seizures has increased greatly since 2000, with 18 such hauls reported in 2013.

In May, a senior Chinese official made an unexpected pledge to halt the ivory trade inside the country, though it isn’t clear how and when that ban might take effect. **AP**

YEMEN

Pro-government troops retake rebel-held base in south

Ahmed Al-Haj, Sana’a

YEMEN’S pro-government troops were fighting pockets of resistance outside a key military base in the country’s south yesterday, a day after they seized it from Shiite rebels, military officials said.

The capture of the Al-Anad base – once the site of U.S. intelligence operations against al-Qaida’s powerful Yemeni affiliate – was a significant victory for the forces allied to Yemen’s exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi in their battle to reverse the gains of the rebels known as Houthis.

The base was taken by the rebels when the conflict intensified in the spring and was their main encampment in the country’s south. The pro-government forces took 45 prisoners in the battle for the base and were now marching north, toward another rebel-held military base called Labouza – the largest in the south, the military officials said.

As Al-Anad fell, rebel fighters fled to the nearby hills, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Yemen’s Defense Ministry announced the “liberation of Al-Anad military base” in a statement late Monday, thanking the Saudi-led coalition that has been targeting the Houthis in an air-campaign since March.

Ministry officials and military leaders from Hadi’s government in exile in Saudi Arabia, returned to the southern city of Aden last week and the statement was issued from there. In a statement carried by rebel-controlled news agency SABA late Monday, the rebels denied the base had been taken.

It took several days to capture Al-Anad, with pro-government troops, backed by tanks and armored personnel carriers, pushing toward the base as coalition airstrikes cleared the path for their advance. Military officials said allied fighters had cut off the main road between al-Anad and the embattled city of Taiz for the first time since the Houthis took control of it in March.

The fighting in Yemen pits the Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against southern separatists, local and tribal militias, Sunni Islamic militants and President Hadi’s loyalists.

After months of fierce fighting, pro-government forces also recently pushed rebels out of Aden and advanced in Taiz, Yemen’s third-largest city. **AP**



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what's ON

TEA CULTURE HOUSE

TIME: 9am-7pm daily

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA:

PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU ARTS WINDOW - FORM OF ANIMALS

- PHOTOGRAPHY BY WONG WANG LAP

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: August 30, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU JOINT FASHION PERFORMANCE

- MINI EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm

(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)

UNTIL: August 9, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47,

Rua de S. Roque, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

CALLING OF SPIRITUALITY

- XIAO YAWEN' ARTWORK EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 31, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator,

10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau

Offbeat

GERMAN MECHANIC WINS PAY FOR CHANGING, BUT NOT FOR SHOWERS

A German court says a municipal bus mechanic can have hundreds of euros (dollars) in back pay for time spent changing into his work clothes — but not for time he spent showering.

The state labor court in Duesseldorf said the man and the local transport authority in Oberhausen reached a settlement this week that will see him get 375 euros (USD412) to cover the 10 minutes per day that he spent changing into and out of his uniform over a seven-month period last year.

The plaintiff also had sought to be paid for a daily 10 minutes spent in the shower after work, but the court questioned whether that could be counted as time on the job and also wondered “whether 10 minutes is not too long for a shower.”

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:50	The Illusionist (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Putin's Games
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

30 Jul - 5 Aug



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg,

Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 131min

ANT-MAN

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

(1-2 AUG) TO THE FORE

ROOM 2

4.45 pm

Director: Dante Lam

Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 3

ROOM 2

4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Leigh Whannell

Starring: Dermot Mulroney, Stefanie Scott,

Angus Sampson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

INSIDE OUT

ROOM 3

(2D) 2.15, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Pete Docter

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 94min

MINIONS

ROOM 3

4.00, 9.30 pm

Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 91min

MACAU TOWER

30 Jul - 5 Aug

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg,

Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history



1962 MARILYN MONROE FOUND DEAD

Screen icon Marilyn Monroe has been found dead in bed at her Los Angeles home.

The 36-year-old actress' body was discovered in the early hours of this morning by two doctors who were called to her Brentwood home by a concerned housekeeper.

The doctors were forced to break into Miss Monroe's bedroom after being unable to open the door. She was found lying naked in her bed with an empty bottle of Nembutal sleeping pills by her side.

The local coroner, who visited the scene later, said the circumstances of Miss Monroe's death indicated a "possible suicide".

Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jeane Mortenson on 1 June 1926 in Los Angeles.

Her mother, Gladys Baker, had mental problems which resulted in Norma Jeane spending most of her childhood in foster homes and orphanages.

She wed her neighbour, Jimmy Dougherty in 1942, but the marriage failed in 1946 due to Norma Jeane's new-found fame as a photographic model.

In 1944 while her husband was serving in the South Pacific with the Merchant Marines, Norma Jeane was discovered by photographer David Conover.

By 1946 she had signed her first studio contract with 20th Century Fox and changed her name to Marilyn Monroe.

Since 1947 she has appeared in 30 films, including The Prince and the Showgirl, Bus Stop, The Seven Year Itch, How to Marry a Millionaire and Some Like it Hot, for which she won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Comedy.

Her 1954 marriage to baseball star Joe DiMaggio lasted just nine months and on 29 June 1956 the star married playwright Arthur Miller.

But that marriage ended in 1961. Miss Monroe's romantic life has long been the subject of speculation and she has been linked with President Kennedy.

Millions of fans around the world will be deeply shocked by the star's premature and tragic death.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Marilyn Monroe was buried in the Corridor of Memories at Westwood Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Two months before she died Monroe had been fired by Fox Productions for repeatedly failing to turn up on the set of the film *Something Has Got To Give*.

The production was never completed even though Monroe was re-hired by the film company on 1 August.

During the months before her death she had been seeing Joe DiMaggio and the pair had agreed to re-marry on 8 August 1962.

For 20 years after her death flowers from DiMaggio were delivered weekly to Monroe's crypt.

There has been much speculation about Marilyn Monroe's death and the causes of it. Many have suggested that it was highly unlikely she committed suicide but perhaps accidentally took an overdose of drugs.

Others have suggested that a third party may have administered the drug.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to show someone how useful you can be...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your emotional side is making life a lot more interesting now...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Idle chatter is a real risk today, so make sure that you're focusing on what's most important...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've got to clean up your act - or, more likely, your office space!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have got to keep your focus on your money today - if only so you can focus on the fun stuff later on...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't hog all this amazing energy for yourself! At least one close friend or coworker needs a hand...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Details get overwhelming early today. That doesn't mean that you get to run home screaming...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Do a friend a favor today - you've got to rack up a bit more karma before you can really show the world what time it is...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Slow down! You're moving too quickly, even if it doesn't feel that way. It's far too easy for you to skip over vital steps...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to plan for the future today - and your amazing mental energy helps you to sort out everything you need to do...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Work is harder to deal with than usual - largely because others are solely looking out for themselves. You may have to do the same thing, which doesn't come naturally...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Things are more than a little mysterious today - but you can't understand them yet, so don't push yourself. All will become clear in a day, a week or a month...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mil. school; 5- Spread apart; 10- Preservative; 14- Et ____ (and other men); 15- Singer Lopez; 16- ____-friendly: not too technical; 17- Jumble; 19- Ascend; 20- Beer mug; 21- Goes by; 23- NFL scores; 25- Like some statesmen; 26- Parentheses, essentially; 29- Rider's command; 31- Puerto ____; 35- Debussy's "La ____"; 36- "My Heart Will Go On" singer; 37- Gambling house; 38- Mythical creature; 40- Went in; 41- Solid alcohol; 42- Plumlike fruit; 43- Bee follower; 44- Alleviated; 45- Dissolve; 46- Friends; 47- Permit; 49- Notable period; 51- Two wrestlers on the same side; 54- Bailiwicks; 58- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 59- Writing desk; 63- Pitcher; 64- Reptile; 65- Curses!; 66- Strike out; 67- Preminger et al.; 68- Long fish;

DOWN: 1- Contented sighs; 2- Coagulate; 3- Helper; 4- Numerals; 5- Indy 500 sponsor; 6- Debate side; 7- Cover; 8- Bassett or Lansbury; 9- Give up; 10- Astonishment; 11- Garage sale sign; 12- ____ majesty; 13- Very, in Vichy; 18- Terminus; 22- Add fizz; 24- Eddy; 25- Eternity; 26- Entertain; 27- ____-car; 28- Weeps; 30- Sweetie; 32- About; 33- Slippery as ____; 34- Swellings; 36- Draw idly; 37- Benjamin; 39- Animal; 40- Building wing; 42- Put in stitches; 45- Instant; 46- Procession; 48- Cow catcher; 50- Urban scourge; 51- Prepared to drive; 52- Even ____ speak...; 53- Scottish Celt; 55- Cork's place; 56- Shrinking Asian sea; 57- Tennis units; 60- Lion, tiger, leopard, or jaguar; 61- "Citizen Kane" studio; 62- Some MIT grads;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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Steve Douglas
Sports Writer

FOOTBALL | EPL 2015-16 PREVIEW

Sterling boost but City senior trio must shine for title bid

MANCHESTER City has gambled on Raheem Sterling being the key signing that manager Manuel Pellegrini needs to lift his team back to the top of English soccer.

But it likely won't be the fortunes of the 20-year-old England winger - the most expensive acquisition in Europe this off-season at 49 million pounds (USD76 million) - that will determine whether City wins the Premier League title for the third time in five years.

Pellegrini needs big seasons from his three most important senior players if the third and, as it stands, final year of his tenure at Etihad Stadium is to end in his second English championship after winning in 2014.

Since 2010, Vincent Kompany, Yaya Toure and Sergio Aguero have been the spine of a City team that has catapulted from drifting underachiever to formidable heavyweight, in England if not yet in Europe. But question marks hang over all three going into the new season.

Can Kompany regain the form that made him one of the world's top rated defenders two years ago? Last season, the Belgian's performances were substandard - his positional play was poor, he dived into tackles, he was injured and, eventually,



AP PHOTO
Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho is seen behind the Premiership Trophy as it is displayed on the pitch ahead of the English Community Shield soccer match between Arsenal and Chelsea

he couldn't get in the team despite being captain.

Is Toure up for the fight, and another tough year in what is

widely seen as the most grueling division in European soccer? The powerful central midfielder is the most destructive

force in England at his peak but his motivation levels were questioned last season amid speculation about him leaving. He will be 33 by the time the season finishes.

And can Aguero stay fit and shoulder the burden of being City's chief striker in what is set to be a 4-5-1 formation, different to Pellegrini's traditional 4-4-2? The Argentina international was the league's top scorer last season with 26 goals, but has regular spells out injured that often prove damaging for his club.

With the players at Pellegrini's disposal, it will be a major surprise if City loses its now-accustomed spot in the top four. City has finished first or second for the last four years and, in Spain playmaker David Silva, has another of the most admired players in the English game.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho says Arsenal should challenge his team for its championship this season. But it's most likely City that Mourinho fears most, even if Pellegrini's team put up an abject title de-

fense last campaign that was over by early spring.

As well as Sterling, City has signed central midfielder Fabian Delph from Aston Villa as a replacement for the departed James Milner, whose absence deprives Pellegrini of his most versatile and hard-working squad member.

City's transfer business likely won't end there, with Pellegrini sure to sign another forward as Stevan Jovetic has joined Inter Milan on loan and Edin Dzeko reportedly is on his way to Roma.

The season is beginning with rumors already having returned of Bayern Munich's Pep Guardiola being lined up as Pellegrini's successor next summer. The Chilean incumbent knows his time could soon be up, hardly a strong platform on which to work.

But regaining the league trophy would make him arguably the most successful manager City has ever had. Could that make the Abu Dhabi-based hierarchy think twice about letting him go? AP

A guide to all 20 Premier League teams for the new season

ARSENAL

Goalkeeper Petr Cech's arrival from London rival Chelsea significantly bolsters the strength of Arsenal's defense. Finally, it has



a backline potentially as stubborn as its attacking trio of Alexis Sanchez, Olivier Giroud and Theo Walcott is flamboyant. If all goes well, Arsenal could challenge for the Premier League title.

Key player: Petr Cech

ASTON VILLA

Despite avoiding relegation last season, Villa's two best players, Christian Benteke and Fabian Delph, left in the off-season. Manager Tim Sherwood has



made nine signings so far, including Ghana striker Jordan Ayew, but most are unproven in England. Anything other than a battle to retain Premier League status appears unlikely.

Key player: Jordan Ayew

BOURNEMOUTH

For the first time in its 116-year history, Bournemouth made England's top flight after winning the second tier last season.



A relegation favorite but neutrals would love to see the club stay up. Manager Eddie Howe has tactical acumen and, if Callum Wilson reproduces the form that got 20 goals last season, survival is possible.

Key player: Callum Wilson

CHELSEA

Last season's Premier League winner has added Radamel Falcao to its attacking options on loan from Monaco, despite the Colombia striker faltering at rival Manchester United last year. Nothing less than more domestic success will suffice for Jose Mourinho's Chelsea and Eden Hazard is vital to the defense of the trophy.



Key player: Eden Hazard

CRYSTAL PALACE

The club has been galvanized since the appointment of ex-player Alan Pardew as manager in January. He steered Palace out of the relegation zone and up to 10th last season. Yohan Cabaye's arrival from Paris Saint-Germain is a coup and makes an improvement on last season's finish a realistic aim.



Key player: Yohan Cabaye

EVERTON

Roberto Martinez's first two campaigns as Everton manager are poles apart. Last season's finish of 11th was underwhelming after narrowly missing Champions League football the year before. Romelu Lukaku's scoring influenced both seasons. He struggled last season but can transform Everton if he hits top form again.



Key player: Romelu Lukaku

LEICESTER

Claudio Ranieri has replaced Nigel Pearson as manager, an intriguing decision after he was fired from his last job with Greece following an embarrassing defeat to the Faeroe Islands. Esteban Cambiasso, key to Leicester's Premier League survival last season, has left. Ranieri is yet to find a successor in midfield.



Key player: Jamie Vardy

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool failed to qualify for the Champions League this season, with its campaign derailed by persistent injuries to Daniel Sturridge. But Christian Benteke's



arrival lessens Liverpool's dependence on him and the striker is one of six signings by Brendan Rodgers, who must mastermind a return to the top four.

Key player: Christian Benteke

MANCHESTER CITY

After surrendering the Premier League to Chelsea, Manchester City signed Raheem Sterling from Liverpool for \$76 million to improve its hopes of reclaiming the title. City will need him to hit form swiftly but striker Sergio Aguero's fitness is essential. When Aguero plays, he scores — but injuries often restrict his appearances.



Key player: Sergio Aguero

MANCHESTER UNITED

A Champions League return made Louis van Gaal's first season successful but United was often rescued by David de Gea during several poor performances. Despite reports that a Real Madrid transfer is impending, the goalkeeper remains but Wayne Rooney's importance as captain will rise even more if De Gea does depart.



Key player: Wayne Rooney

NEWCASTLE

Former England manager Steve McClaren has taken over at Newcastle and fans have reason to be optimistic after a slide toward the relegation zone in the second half of last season under John Carver. Signings of midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum and striker Aleksandar Mitrovic could make a top-10 finish possible.



alongside the domestic campaign. The club has a thin squad and proudly relies on promoting academy players. Attacker Sadio Mane is one to watch after an impressive debut year at St. Mary's.

Key player: Sadio Mane

STOKE

Another team with its top Premier League finish last season — ninth — Stoke can expect another season of progress following eight astute signings. Ibrahim Afellay is the most notable addition from Barcelona. But Bojan Krkic, vital last season until injuring his knee in January, will be crucial to continuing improvement.



Key player: Bojan Krkic

SUNDERLAND

Dick Advocaat guided Sunderland away from the relegation zone after arriving with nine games of last season remaining. The Dutchman has agreed to stay on for an entire campaign and has the soccer smarts to improve Sunderland's fortunes. Jermain Defoe, a proven scorer in England, will lead Advocaat's attack.



Key player: Jermain Defoe

SWANSEA

Garry Monk guided Swansea to a very respectable eighth last season but will struggle to improve on that finish, which was its best in England's elite league. Bafetimbi Gomis is a decent striker but is not as clinical as Wilfried Bony, whom the club sold to Manchester City in January and has not replaced.



Key player: Bafetimbi Gomis

TOTTENHAM

Harry Kane fired in 31 goals last season in all competitions as Tottenham finished fifth. If the striker can replicate that form, Mauricio Pochettino's side could challenge for a Champions League qualification place. Toby Alderweireld, signed from Atletico Madrid, strengthens Tottenham's unpredictable defense.



Key player: Harry Kane

WATFORD

After earning promotion to the Premier League, Watford took the strange step of parting company with its mana-



ger, Slavisa Jokanovic. Quique Sanchez Flores, a 2011 Europa League winner with Atletico, is now at the helm and has already made 10 signings. A new-look squad will need to gel quickly.

Key player: Troy Deeney

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

Tony Pulis took over West Brom in January and steered the club from 17th to 13th. Striker Saido Berahino will look to score regularly after netting an impressive 14 goals in the Premier League last season. He will be partnered in attack by Rickie Lambert, who has joined from Liverpool.



Key player: Saido Berahino

WEST HAM

Former West Ham defender Slaven Bilic is back at the club as manager. This will be West Ham's last season at Upton Park before moving to the Olympic Stadium. An improvement on last year's 12th place under Bilic's predecessor Sam Allardyce is a must. Goals from Diafra Sakho are key.



Key player: Diafra Sakho

AD

BOOTY SHAKE

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SATURDAY JUST GOT EPIC

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opinion

Artifacts
Vanessa Moore



RISE OF THE GEEKS

Famous for its bespectacled geeks welded to their laptops, smartphones and video games, it's obvious to everyone living here that Asia's currently undergoing somewhat of a tech boom, and anyone who's been bumped into recently by someone glued to their phone screen will attest to that.

The region is fast becoming the new breeding ground for technology start-ups, and Hong Kong's been looking to muscle in on the action by grabbing its first piece of the virtual pie. Over the weekend start-up entrepreneurs, tech investors and journalists converged on Wan Chai for RISE, a two-day technology conference that brought together 5,000 tech industry leaders and a select group of budding start-ups.

Described as a "Davos for geeks" by Bloomberg, amidst the bright lights and fervent tapping of smartphones and iPads, you could almost taste the enthusiasm in the air of the HK Convention and Exhibition Centre. While China's stock market has been nose-diving, e-commerce is lifting off. The start-up scene is expanding and investors are enthusiastic for private tech companies, especially mobile Internet ones. Naturally it follows that there's significant money to be made in catering to the app explosion, creating a new service or idea that changes the status quo.

From the crowds congregating around, it was obvious that a wave of eager, new companies were doing their utmost to get noticed. Dozens of booths manned by young, hungry entrepreneurs were all earnestly trying to tempt big fish investors to bite in an effort to raise funds, all to realise their cyber dreams of becoming the next Asian Zuckerberg.

A who's who of the Asian and Chinese tech glitterati were simultaneously offering up their pearls of wisdom in a series of 15-minute lectures and panel discussions, including Takeshi Idezawa, CEO of irreverent Japanese messaging app Line, Jean Liu, President of Chinese taxi app Didi Kuaidi, Ray Chan, Co-Founder & CEO of HK-based 9GAG, and Melissa Yang, Co-Founder & CTO of Chinese vacation rentals site Tujia to name a few.

From this burgeoning tech scene, it seems that China is recasting its copycat status and innovating. While many of the new breed of mainland apps are primarily geared towards the domestic market, they're all looking to branch out globally and take on their Western rivals. Aside from leaders like WeChat and Weibo, other apps are increasingly inching towards this goal.

Often compared with Airbnb, Tujia, which means "home on a journey," is now focusing on expanding into Asian destinations popular with Chinese travellers, giving the Western site a run for its money in Asia. Likewise, mainland photo sharing app Nice is looking to export its brand of stickers and text for photos in a bid to rival Instagram through a different user experience. Where Instagram's core value is based on beauty, Nice aims to imbue images with meaning through words, trying to connect people sharing similar feelings via tagging.

China may be an excellent breeding ground for these nascent start-ups because the competition in a land of 1.3 billion is fierce, and the entrepreneurial climate has never been so favourable. The tech sector by its very nature can disrupt, undermine and add value to in an exponential way that traditional business practices can't. Similarly, the mobile age has made the world flatter so these start-ups can now go global almost immediately.

Yet in a nation where iron control and conformity are prized, innovation is a rare animal indeed. To make the transition, people need to be more innovative and that doesn't bode well for mass control. China's growth model will have to move beyond state owned enterprises, manufacturing and old behemoths like coal and steel to human capital, but in a country that stifles freedom of expression, it's hard to see where more innovation will come from.

In the 21st century it's the geeks who'll inherit the web, and in this online world demagogues will be the winners and individualism will reign supreme. Whether China can breed them is up for debate, but right now Asian and mainland investors can certainly afford to place a few bets to find out.

THE BUZZ IRAN TO PARTIALLY ALLOW BBC TO REPORT FOR A WEEK

An Iranian government official says the Islamic Republic will allow some BBC journalists to report there for a week's time. The BBC had no immediate comment in London.

Culture Ministry spokesman Hossein Nooshabadi told AP yesterday that a team of journalists will be allowed to report. The spokes-

man said the BBC's Persian-language service was still banned from operating in the country.

Iran stopped the BBC Persian service from operating in the country in 2009, then later expelled a World Service journalist from the country during turmoil surrounding its disputed 2009 presidential election.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Police decipher messages for No. 1 Mafioso hidden in Sicilian soil

Frances D'Emilio, Rome

THE No. 1 Cosa Nostra fugitive communicates with henchmen using written messages buried in dirt or hidden under boulders on sheep ranches and comes and goes from Sicily, possibly thanks to high-level protection, investigators said this week after nabbing some of his alleged accomplices.

In early morning raids in the countryside of western Sicily, police took into custody 11 men investigators contend helped convicted Mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro wield power despite being at large since 1993.

Investigators described how Messina Denaro, 53, disdains telecommunications and relies on handwritten notes, or "pizzini," to relay orders. The notes were wadded tight, covered in tape and hidden under rocks or dug into soil until go-betweens retrieved them. The messages were ordered destroyed after being read.

Messina Denaro was convicted in absentia as a mastermind of 1993 bombings in Rome, Florence and Milan. The attacks were aimed at intimidating investigators after "Boss of Bosses" Salvatore Rina was arrested in Palermo following two decades as a fugitive. After the 2006



An Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police officer and a police officer stand next to mug shots of 11 men suspected of helping Matteo Messina Denaro

arrest of Bernardo Provenzano, after 43 years in hiding, Messina Denaro became the most-wanted Mafia chieftain.

Police used eavesdropping devices and video cameras hidden in trees near farmhouses to help discover the message-delivery system.

During more than two years of investigation, police monitoring tapped phone conversations began to recognize a pattern.

Whenever one of the alleged Messina Denaro aides used to speak of "sheep," "fertilizer" and "ricotta," a cheese that can be made from sheep's milk, other suspects would soon come to the farmhouses, the Italian daily La Repubblica said, quoting one of the investigators. The investigators eventually figured out such farm talk were

actually code words signaling there were messages for or from the fugitive.

Among those arrested was a 77-year-old sheep grazer who investigators said played a key role in the message system.

"Don't let yourself be deceived by the fact they were simple ranchers," Prosecutor Teresa Principato told reporters at a news conference in Palermo. "These were very loyal men of Messina Denaro" and who "carried weight inside the organization."

Principato said the fugitive sometimes "leaves Sicily and even Italy." How he eludes capture isn't known, but "after so many years, and constant, punishing (investigative) work, he clearly enjoys some very, very important protection."

Palermo Police Official Rodolfo Rupert said Messina Denaro commands loyalty from mobsters young and old with what the investigator called generations-bridging "charisma."

In 2013, the fugitive's sister was arrested, suspected of running extortion rackets for her brother. Infiltration of public works contracts remains another Sicilian Mafia revenue source, after mainland 'ndrangheta mobsters started dominating cocaine trafficking. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

ISRAEL said yesterday it was interrogating the suspected head of a Jewish extremist group in the first arrest of an Israeli suspect following last week's arson attack in the West Bank that killed a Palestinian toddler and wounded his brother and parents. According to the Shin Bet security agency, 23-year-old Meir Ettinger was arrested late Monday for "involvement in an extremist Jewish organization."



GREECE's left-wing government conceded yesterday that dissent within the ruling party was likely to force an early election, while markets fell again under the weight of plummeting bank shares. The government is relying on opposition party support for approval in parliament of new austerity measures demanded by bailout lenders, following a revolt by nearly one fourth of its own lawmakers. Government spokeswoman Olga Gerovasili said the government would not form a national unity government and described early elections as "likely."

USA The big three U.S. airlines have all this week banned the shipment of hunting trophies, although it is unclear how many — if any — they have been carrying in recent years. Delta Air Lines was the first to announce the change Monday, saying that it would no longer accept lion, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros and buffalo trophies. American Airlines and United Airlines soon followed.



USA Firefighters were working aggressively to regain control after a raging California fire jumped a highway that had served as a containment line for the massive blaze — one of 20 wildfires burning in California. Cooler weather had helped crews build a buffer Monday between the wildfire and some of the thousands of homes it threatened as it tore through drought-withered areas.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/He Jingjia



Models showcase various kinds of beers at a press conference held on Monday in Hong Kong. The Lan Kwai Fong Beer & Music Festival themed on the "Wild West" is set to take place this weekend.