

2015 FOOD FESTIVAL TO COST OVER MOP10 MILLION

The gov't is spending over MOP10 million in order to ensure the smooth running of this year's Food Festival, which has been dwindling in popularity among locals

P4



HK FOOD CRITIC WALTER KEI UNVEILS PHOTO EXHIBITION

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TIANJIN BLAST SITE OWNER ON STATE FIRM'S BOARD

The main owner of the warehouse is also on the board of a state owned company controlled by the entity investigating the explosions

P10,11

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Flooding in three central Chinese provinces leaves at least 13 people dead and 13 others missing and disrupts the lives of nearly 1 million people, state media report. Heavy rains and flooding struck Sichuan, Guizhou and Hunan provinces starting Sunday, causing widespread damage, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

S KOREA A former South Korean prime minister will be sent to prison after the country's top court upholds her bribery conviction.

PAKISTAN The military says airstrikes in a northwestern tribal region have killed 43 militants.

AUSTRALIA Five young men are the largest single group of suspected jihadis to attempt to leave Australia for Syria and Iraq. But they were stopped twice on consecutive days last week by counterterrorism officials at Sydney International Airport.

AUSTRALIA Veteran actress Maggie Kirkpatrick, who played a violent and sadistic warden nicknamed "The Freak" in a cult Australian soap opera set in a women's prison, is convicted of molesting a 14-year-old psychiatric hospital patient in her home more than 30 years ago.

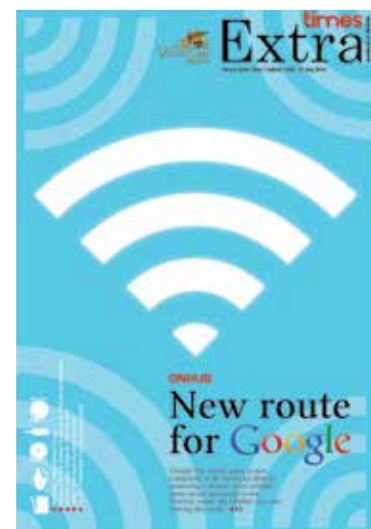
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Yuan may drop further 10 percent next year - report . P2



IFT PRESIDENT

Macau needs hospitality graduates to fill jobs in Cotai . P5



editorial

Paulo Coutinho



BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE

First it was the strong winds of the anti-corruption campaign from the North, blowing away the big red bucks from the VIP tables, which used to be the bread and butter of the local gaming industry. Then came the “irreducible” cap on tables and prospects of a full smoking ban in casinos (although the latter hasn't played out fully yet).

If that wasn't enough to bring down the largest gaming economy in the world, in free fall for 14 months in a row, Xi and his peers last week depreciated the yuan over 3 percent in 3 days. Although reputable economists say that only a 10 percentage-point devaluation would have a real impact on gaming receipts, the word on The Street is: it will probably get there.

And then, what?

Comes August – month 8 in the Gregorian calendar. The Chinese superstitious numerology decided to mess with the house too.

“We believe part of the weakness [in August] is due to lower-than-normal hold rate. The hold-adjusted ADR [average daily rate] would have been about MOP580 million,” analysts Vitaly Umansky, Simon Zhang and Bo Wen from Sanford C. Bernstein said by mid-month number 8.

“Hold rate” is a euphemism for “luck”. It usually favors the house. Lately, however, the house seems to be... less lucky. And apparently, it didn't start in August.

“Among the complaints from Galaxy was that it ‘played unlucky’ in its gaming operations [...] Last quarter alone unlucky hands caused a HKD335m loss,” Fast FT analysts wrote yesterday after Mr Lui and company presented their first-half interim report in Hong Kong.

So, in other words, HKD335 million was pocketed last quarter by Galaxy patrons. Good for them! (And if you really look into it, it wasn't such a bad deal for Galaxy either: it was, indeed, a great, however costly, marketing investment.)

All things said, though, things aren't looking pretty.

Profits for the big-six shrank on average over 40 percent in the semester, with Galaxy championing the decline with a staggering 66 percent fall, exposing its higher reliance on the junket/VIP business, which took the biggest hit over the last year or so.

Concomitantly, Macau stocks lost 40-60 percent in market value this year. And yesterday Daiwa analysts, the darkest of them all when it comes to Macau, accentuated their usually bearish outlook by downgrading gaming stocks to “sell”.

The house always wins? Perhaps, but as Lawrence the son of Ho put it the other day, gaming, the backbone of Macau's economy, needs a helping hand.

BLOOMBERG



Weak yuan stacks odds against flagging casino revenues

A weaker yuan could further shrink Macau's gambling revenues by making it more expensive for Chinese gamers to place their bets, executives say, with one analyst estimating the unfavourable forex rate alone could result in a 10 percent drop next year, Reuters reported yesterday.

Chinese punters account for more than 60 percent of all visitors to Macau's 36 casinos. Bets, however, Reuters recalls, are made in Hong Kong dollars and not the yuan, which has weakened some 3 percent against the U.S. dollar since the central bank last week announced a surprise devaluation. Sources involved in the policy-making process told Thomson Reuters it may weaken even further to help struggling Chinese exporters.

According to the news agency, the devaluation adds to the challenges

facing Macau's casino industry, which has notched 14 consecutive months of falling gambling revenues as a broader crackdown on corruption and slowing growth in the world's second-largest economy kept Chinese gamers away.

Revenues are set to decline yet again in September. “It has been one thing after another,” Galaxy Entertainment Chief Financial Officer Robert Drake told Reuters after the company reported a 66 percent fall in its first-half net profit from a year earlier.

“In the short term we are still assessing the overall impact of the yuan devaluation on the market and what it means for Macau,” he added.

In a recent note, analysts at Daiwa Capital Markets forecast that excluding all other factors, the weaker yuan will have an 8-10 percent

downward impact on mass gross gaming revenue next year. The decline in revenues from the VIP segment, which comprises gamblers who bet at least 1 million yuan at a time, could be as much as 20 percent, Daiwa added.

Some junket operators may also take a hit if the yuan weakens dramatically as it could lengthen the time it takes for their clients to repay debts. Junkets are companies or individuals that extend credit to wealthy players on behalf of the casino operator and are responsible for settling any debts.

“It will probably impact the smaller junkets more. If they don't have cash flow they won't be able to wait for their players to pay them back,” said Wayne Lio, a senior executive at one of Macau's biggest junkets, Tak Chun, quoted by Reuters.

Casino stocks fall 4 pct at the HKSE

YESTERDAY'S HS index fell for a fifth day and ended at its lowest level in eight months, pulled down by sluggish global markets and pessimism over China's economy.

The Hang Seng index fell 1.8 percent, to 22,757.47, while the China Enterprises Index, which tracks big Chinese companies listed in Hong Kong, lost 2.3 percent, to 10,402.72 points.

STOCKS	%
Melco	-7.33
Galaxy	-6.1
Wynn	-4.9
Sands China	-3.6
MGM	-1.7
SJM	-1.63

Yesterday's close was the lowest for the Hang Seng Index since Dec. 18.

Macau casino stocks experienced their worst decline in six weeks in the HKSE, falling 4 percent overall.

Galaxy Entertainment slumped 6 percent to its lowest level since March 2013, after Galaxy reported lackluster second-quarter earnings the day before.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com

DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Riscion, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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IFT able to receive more students upon campus expansion

THE Institute for Tourism Studies' newly acquired East Asia Hall located on the former campus of the University of Macau could mark the start of a higher student intake in the near future, announced the school's president Fanny Vong on the sidelines of its welcoming ceremony for its 374 freshmen.

With the expansive 22-floor dormitory complex in hand, Vong disclosed that at least nine stories had been dedicated to residential purposes, offering roughly 300 or 400 places to her students. The rest of the hall's space would be converted into offices, classrooms and activity centres.

The school's rector expressed her belief that the dorms would eventually be able to meet the demands of local and overseas students. More importantly, the new acquisition, currently under preliminary renovation, would contain more equipment and facilities that are necessary for expanding the institute's



Dr Fanny Vong

teaching personnel and student base. Currently there are around 1,600 undergraduate students.

"I believe that with more hardware and equipment, we have the conditions to do more," said the institute's rector. "Let's not forget, although there are adjustments to the gaming industry, there are still projects in the Cotai Strip close to completion. These projects need human resources and sustained profes-

sional training."

She stressed that the programs that are available at the school have equipped the students with knowledge and expertise for the global market, instead of just within a domestic context.

"Tourism is an international industry. Whether you call yourself an international industry professional or not, it doesn't matter. When you're in this program or have been offered these kind of programs, you're already competing internationally."

As Vong revealed, the school's culinary arts management module, its evening courses and its accredited professional programs were the most popular among their offerings, and she wished to admit more students to those curricula. She also said that the number of students admitted to the school has been stable over the past few years and the university has aimed for "quality" instead of "quantity" when it comes to recruiting students. Currently, around 85 percent of the school's students were locals while the rest was mainland-student dominated.

The complex, handed over to the school authorities at the beginning of this month, added an additional 23,028 square meters to the institute's total 30,000 square meter campus.
Staff reporter

HUMAN RESOURCES

Region still needs hospitality graduates to fill jobs in Cotai



JOB opportunities for local hospitality students will remain unprecedented in the coming years given multiple mega-resorts slated to open in Cotai soon, the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) president Fanny Vong suggested.

Despite the economic downturn in the gaming industry, IFT graduates could be a major source of staff for the gaming operators, which she said needed manpower to fill the non-gaming vacancies.

"Although gaming revenue is slowing down, we're hopeful that the other areas, for example, the non-gaming side, food and beverages, recreation and leisure, which I know, according to the operators, they're trying to add to the new mega resorts... I think they will also need people to fill

the positions, we're talking about thousands of new rooms in the Cotai Strip," she said. "We're still quite optimistic that our graduates will be able to obtain some of those positions."

Aside from the employers' thirst for human resources, Vong believes senior practitioners might have to return to the school to brush up on their hotel-related knowledge from time to time, which has reflected on the school's need to expand itself.

"We also have old positions, when you have people on board for a few months or years, and you'll have to retrain them and upgrade their skills. This is where professional training comes in. So there has to be continuous efforts to do all of this work."
Staff reporter

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15th Macau Food Festival enlists over MOP10 million from government

THE government has spent over MOP10 million in order to ensure the smooth running of this year's Macau Food Festival, which has been dwindling in popularity among local citizens over previous years, according to the event's coordinating commission head Chan Chak Mo.

The 15th edition of the annual festival, which will run from November 13 to 29, has had to seek financial support from authorities every year. Chan acknowledged that "it was impossible to keep the function going without government assistance."

"The set-up alone costs MOP3 million and another MOP3 million is required for the power supply," said Chan, also a legislator.

According to Chan, around MOP4 million worth of grants were from the Macau Government Tourist Office while the Macau Foundation donated rou-



ghly MOP8 million for the event.

Overcrowding, a lack of seats and long queues were said to explain the waning support among locals for the event over the last few years. Chan said this year the festival wou-

ld feature authentic Korean food to win back the hearts of residents. Additionally, the organizer will also set up a draw exclusively for locals in another attempt to lure more local citizens.

Music Festival tickets on sale this Sunday

TICKETS for the 29th Macao International Music Festival will go on sale this Sunday at 10 a.m., the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has said. Early bird tickets, which are discounted by 40 percent, are available from this Sunday until August 30 for each ticket purchase to four different performances, or for a 10 ticket or above purchase for the same performance.

The Macao International Music Festival returns to town from October 4 until November 1, and will feature a variety of local, Chinese and international artists. The BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the Icelandic musician, Ólafur Arnalds, are among the expected highlights.

The festival features a total of 23 performances and 60 outreach program activities. Heading the festival's grand opening is Swedish mezzo-soprano Charlotte Hellekant who will join the Macao Orchestra, the



Swedish mezzo-soprano Charlotte Hellekant

NCPA Orchestra and Choir, and the Macao Youth Choir on stage.

A co-production between the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Macao International Music Festival brings the month-long event to a close as they take to the stage with Charles Gounod's opera in five acts, "Faust", on October 30 and November 1.

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LIFESTYLE

HK food critic Walter Kei unveils France-themed photo exhibition



Chef Raphaël Kinimo (left) and Walter Kei (right)

Catarina Pinto

WALTER Kei's career has taken many forms: from travelling the world capturing moments and writing, to designing interiors, and even to becoming one of Hong Kong's major TV celebrity chefs and food critics... he's done it all. Walter says that it's because of his passions that the job – or should we say different jobs – chose him.

A photographer and foodie at heart, Kei designs interiors for a living now. To showcase his love of travelling and photography, Galaxy Macau has invited him to host a France-themed exhibition at the Ritz-Carlton Café between September 18 and October 18.

The Times took part in a media preview yesterday to learn more about Walter Kei's exhibition, entitled "Réminiscence Moments à France."

From Parisian brasseries to the landscapes of southern France and the vineyards of Bordeaux, Kei pledges to take us on a journey through his own experiences.

His career touches on a wide

range of fields from journalism, to fashion, interior design, illustration and gastronomy.

It all happened fortuitously. Kei was studying fashion, clothing and technology at the Hong Kong Polytechnic when a teacher saw the photos he had taken, and encouraged him to sell them to magazines.

Kei would see his photos published by renowned magazines including National Geographic

Relying on her encouragement, Kei sold pictures and wrote his first feature article in the late '80s. "I was travelling a lot back then. And when I first thought of selling photos I wondered: why do I have to write too? But they told me: 'Well because nobody

knows what Budapest is like, or what Namibia is like' he recalled.

Kei would later see his photographs published by renowned magazines including National Geographic.

While many people nowadays simply enroll in journalism courses, back then photography enthusiasts just continued travelling and seizing the moment. "Now people actually study journalism. I was studying fashion and I just started taking photographs, so I think the job chose me. I think because of my passion, the job chose me," he added.

The same thing happened with food. As he travelled, Kei discovered another passion: cuisine.

"I like the idea of people getting together to enjoy food. People now don't even bother with what they're eating, especially in Hong Kong," he recalled.

Kei believes that to some extent – and for far too many people – food has lost its meaning. But he warned: "Food is very important; it's not just about comfort; it also brings happiness, it brings you family and friendship. It's these

kinds of aspects of food that I like."

He never really considered holding an exhibition featuring his France-themed pictures but once he posted a selection of his photographs onto Facebook, a team at Galaxy got in touch.

"Some people at Ritz-Carlton saw the pictures. I came here to see the place and I liked it very much," he recalled.

Mulling over his thoughts, he believed that pictures could be assembled both outside and inside the restaurant in order to create a gallery-like atmosphere.

Those having a meal at the Ritz-Carlton Café between September 18 and October 18, he said, have the chance to experience the essence of a quiet or bustling moment in Paris or in Southern France, or even to catch sight of Bordeaux's harvest time – all through his black and white photographs.

Meanwhile, the Café's chef de cuisine Raphaël Kinimo is preparing a menu inspired by Kei's exhibition, featuring dishes such as a "sea bass in black & white."

The exhibition marks the Café's official opening.

70 illegal workers identified

Macau authorities have identified a total of 70 illegal workers through operations launched throughout July. According to a statement issued yesterday, the Public Security Police Force (CPSP) detained 40 illegal workers while a further 23 illegal workers were found through investigations launched by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL). Joint operations launched by DSAL and CPSP led authorities to find an additional seven illegal employees. Authorities launched inspections of 373 venues, including of construction sites, housing units, shops and industrial sites.

Authorities dismiss shortcut for acquiring local driving licenses

The Transport Bureau issued a statement yesterday following online claims by an agency, guaranteeing their clients local driving licenses by converting them from Korean ones. It was said that it took merely a few days to acquire a driving license in the Korean province of Jeju. However, authorities stressed that the documents to be submitted for conversion must include proof of a six-month residency in the place where applicants obtained their licenses, such as employment or study certificates. Furthermore, the bureau said applicants with licenses originating from countries with low examination standards might be denied license conversion, according to related regulations.

China to unblock Facebook, Twitter during Athletics worlds

Beijing vowed to open access to social media giants like Facebook and Twitter during the Athletics World Championships, which are due to be held at the Beijing National Stadium, the venue of the 2008 Summer Olympics, on August 22-30. The American social networks, Google Search and the YouTube video-sharing website are usually closed to the public in the People's Republic of China. Facebook and Twitter were banned in 2009, after the networks were used to organize protests in the country. The Chinese government has blocked some 2,700 websites in mainland China, with exceptions made for Hong Kong and Macau, under its policy of Internet censorship.

CARS

Infiniti showroom highlights comprehensive line-up



5.6-liter V8 engine that allows 400 horsepower and its 7-speed automatic transmission. In addition to this, the QX80 has been installed with a hydraulic body motion control system to maintain a steady balance when racing around a bend.

QX80's spacious interior contains a Bose 15-speaker premium audio system, an eight-inch touch screen and three individual sets of audio-visual systems. The 7-inch screens embedded on the back of the front headrests, along with wireless headsets and remotes, "give passengers seated in the middle an enjoyable ride."

The wide-angle lens equipped inside the vehicle's body allows a panoramic view over the car to give not only drivers but also passengers a clear picture of what is outside.

The new model was said to be a fresh and tempting choice for car seekers in the region, which still manages to adhere to the style of previous models. **Staff reporter**

AN Infiniti showroom featuring the luxury brand's comprehensive product line-up in the territory was launched by the automotive dealer Xin Kang Cheng Motors Ltd at the Hoi Van Garden Building on Wed-

nesday. The flagship QX80 SUV was also among the products on display.

Described as a "private jet running on the land," the model, equipped with leather-appointed seating, boasts its



BUSINESS

Luk Fook opens three storey shop in high-end Hong Kong area

LUK Fook Holdings (International) has opened a three-storey jewelry store in neighboring Hong Kong. The "Lukfook Jewellery" shop is located in the Causeway Bay area, which is known for its notoriously high rents.

"We believe that the opening of new shop at a prominent location not only expands our sales network, but also brings convenience to the tourists and local customers for their leisure shopping in Hong Kong," said group chairman and CEO Wong Wai Sheung.

The first floor of the shop features a "Western Wedding Zone" where couples and their families can select wedding jewelry.

In its last fiscal year, Luk Fook opened 111 stores in mainland China, three new boutiques in Hong Kong and its first licensed outlet in Korea. As of March 31, the group had 1,383 shops in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Korea, Singapore, the US, Canada and Australia.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

All you wanted to know about property investment – Place, potential, people (part 1 of 8)

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

Many people consider real estate and other investments too risky.

Some people decide to let their money stay idle in the bank with low interest rates. Others buy property and grow their wealth significantly with real estate investment. Which type of person are you now, and which type of person would you like to be?

What gives some people an almost effortless ability to make money whilst others seem lose their shirt on every 'investment'?

If you have been working for some time, hopefully you will have accumulated some form of savings. We want to put the money to work, but we may be worried about the investment choice. Why not put the money in the bank? The answer is simple; Compound interest.

If you receive a 2% interest rate, after 10 years your original capital will have grown just over 21%. Let's look at

the difference in percentage growth and what MOP10,000 will become if we can achieve modest returns. After 10 years growth;

At 2% interest per year, \$10,000 has become \$12,190
At 5% interest per year, \$10,000 has become \$16,289
At 10% interest per year, \$10,000 has become a whopping \$25,937, and thanks to the beauty of compound interest, after 20 years it is an incredible \$67,274!

There are many ways for your money to work hard for you, and one approach that has proved successful for many of the world's financially independent and wealthy people is through real estate investment.

6 Reasons why wealthy people own property:

1) A well chosen property will appreciate in value over a shorter period of time, giving capital growth and profit when sold.

2) Real estate plays a critical

role in advancing towards financial freedom. For example, creating an income through rent. Rental income can also be reinvested in to the property bringing debt and monthly mortgage payments down, and cash or 'equity' in the property up.

3) Real estate has less volatility when compared to stocks and shares, and hence it usually carries a much lower risk.

4) Simple methodologies are involved, i.e: Finding the right property, funding that property. Many people go through this process when they are buying their own home, but fail to do the same thing for investment.

5) Unlike companies and the stock market, people will always need a place to live and a roof over their heads. Its one of the very basic human needs. Whilst we don't know how a company is going to perform over the next 2, 3 or 5 years, there will always

be a demand for property.

6) Banks are happy to lend money on real estate.

You probably knew everything that was on that list above and you may even have some points to add to it. But why do some people profit from this type of knowledge and understanding whilst others do not? The answer; Action.

Taking action is one of the most difficult challenges we face. Why? because the purchase of an investment property is rarely 'urgent', and today's urgent agenda becomes far more important.

Finding the right property.

Given the amount of properties available in the market, we want to choose the right property, one that will rise in price and can be easily rented out, then resold when the time is right.

Hence to choose the right property, we consider the following critical factors.

Real estate factors (1) place - Location, location, location!

Location is also the key factor in looking out for a suitable property. Ideally, it should be near common amenities and facilities such as schools, markets, bus (and train) interchanges, shopping centres, and parks. If you can find a location with all these plus factors, you are in luck, because such places tend to grow in value fast, and hence proved profitable for you in a short time.

Real estate factors (2) people - Who are your target rental market?

Young professional, family, couples, top executives? Make sure that you source the style of property and furnish it appropriately for your market's needs.

For example a small high quality apartment might suit a young professional but not a family who would appreciate more space.

Nonetheless, it is all up to personal decisions. You may desire a place which is quieter and away from the urban chaos, but that could compromise on the accessibility and conveniences which could in turn have an impact on your future property value.

Real estate factors (3) potential - Size and Amenities:

The common phrase "Size does matter" is especially true in real estate, and of course the living space is the first impression when a potential tenant or buyer steps into a property.

Besides considering space for the living room and bedrooms, extra spaces for storage, car park spaces, access to a clubhouse with swimming pools or gyms are often a plus point.

NEXT WEEK - Part 2 of All you wanted to know about property investment: Character, cash & condition.

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Qantas records USD409 million profit after billions loss



Two Qantas planes taxi on the runway at Sydney Airport in Sydney

QANTAS Airways Ltd. posted a 557 million Australian dollar (USD409 million) full-year profit yesterday in a dramatic turnaround since it recorded a \$2.6 billion loss in the previous year.

Australia's largest airline said in a statement that the profit for the fiscal year through June reflected strong performances from all business segments, including its troubled international arm which turned a AU\$408 million loss in 2014 into a AU\$267 million profit.

"We are halfway through the biggest and fastest transformation in our history," Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce said in a statement.

"Without that transformation, we would not be reporting this

strong profit," he said.

Qantas has not declared a dividend but will return AU\$505 million to shareholders through a AU23 cent per share cash distribution in November.

The airline's underlying pre-tax profit for the year was AU\$975 million, better than analysts' expectations of a AU\$960 million profit.

Qantas also announced it will take delivery of eight Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft from 2017 to replace five older Boeing 747s, which have shorter ranges and are less fuel efficient.

Last year's record loss included an AU\$2.6 billion write down of the value of its aging international fleet.

Qantas also last year began reducing costs by shedding 5,000 jobs. **AP**

Greece gets first batch of new bailout loans, avoids default

Elena Becatoros, Athens

GREECE received the first 13 billion euros (USD14.5 billion) from its new bailout package yesterday, allowing it to pay a debt of 3.2 billion euros to the European Central Bank and avoid a messy default.

Greece could not have afforded yesterday's debt repayment, which was confirmed by the debt management agency, without the rescue funds from 18 other European nations that share the euro currency. Missing the payment would have raised new questions about the country's ability to remain in the euro.

European bailout fund supervisors approved the release of the first batch of

loans on Wednesday evening. Twelve billion euros are earmarked for repaying debts and the remainder for settling arrears to public sector suppliers.

The new three-year bailout package — Greece's third bailout in little more than five years — is worth a total of 86 billion euros (\$96 billion), and the gradual disbursement of funds depends on the Greek government implementing a series of reforms, including steep tax hikes and spending cuts.

Accepting the conditions was a major reversal of policy for Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and the coalition government between his radical left Syriza party and the small nationalist Inde-

pendent Greeks. It has cost him a major rebellion within Syriza that threatens to split the party and could lead to an early election as soon as next month.

Tsipras has been contemplating his options after a parliament vote to approve the bailout conditions led to dozens of his own party lawmakers voting against him. Among the options being discussed are for him to call a vote of confidence in his government or to call an early election outright, potentially in September.

The government has said its main priority was to secure the bailout funding and to repay the ECB loan yesterday, after which it would announce any further action. **AP**

Another Chinese sell-off prompts jitters across markets

A fresh sell-off of Chinese shares prompted renewed jitters across global markets yesterday.

Worries over China, the world's number 2 economy, were once again the catalyst for yesterday's declines. Chinese shares have had a wild ride this week that has raised uncertainty over regulators' ability to limit losses through efforts to boost liquidity in the markets. The Shanghai Composite Index dropped 3.4 percent to 3,664.29 on heavy selling of energy and property companies. China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. fell 3.5 percent while China Shenhua Energy Co. dropped 4.1 percent.

"It used to be just Australia that would catch a cold when China sneezed, but the Chinese sell-off is far more infectious than initially thought," said David Madden, market analyst at IG.

Worries over China overshadowed the minutes from the Federal Reserve's July meeting, which failed to provide investors much steer as to whether a rate hike in September would take place. The Fed hasn't raised interest rates in nearly a decade. "There is clearly a desire to raise rates at the Fed, I'm just not sure at this stage whether everyone is quite on board yet for a September hike to occur," said

Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA.

Following the minutes the dollar has drifted lower against the euro, which was trading 0.5 percent higher at USD1.1175. Against the Japanese yen, it was flat at 123.95 yen.

In other Asian trading, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index lost 0.9 percent to 20,033.52 while Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 2.3 percent to 22,642.66. South Korea's Kospi shed 1.3 percent to 1,914.55 and Australia's S&P ASX/200 also dropped, losing 1.7 percent to 5,288.60. Shares also fell in Southeast Asia but rose in Taiwan. **AP**

corporate bits

SHERATON MACAO LAUNCHES WEDDING PACKAGE



Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central is introducing a wedding package for couples during the 32nd Wedding, Banquet, Beauty & Jewellery

Expo at The Venetian Macao from today until Sunday.

Couples who book a Sheraton Macao wedding package can choose from one

of five specially designed Chinese menus, upgrade to suites, enjoy dinner for two at Italian restaurant, Bene, and get perks on their wedding anniversary. The wedding package offer is valid until 31 December.

"From a full-size banquet with over 700 guests in the impressive pillar-less Kashgar Grand Ballroom to a modern alfresco soiree on our beautifully landscaped lush pool deck, Sheraton Macao Hotel's diverse facilities give our guests flexibility and allow them to free their imaginations to create a truly memorable wedding experience," said Daniella Tonetto, General Manager of Sales and Marketing, Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central.

SANDS OFFERS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SUPPLIERS

As part of the Sands China local supplier support program — jointly announced by Sands China Ltd. and the Macao Chamber of Commerce last month — the Sands China Local Supplier Open Day is taking place Aug. 31 at 2 p.m. at The Venetian Macao's Naples Ballroom.

The event is focused on three types of local businesses: small and micro enterprises, "made in Macau" companies, and Macau young entrepreneurs. Besides providing information to the prospective suppliers on nearly 200 purchase items for local companies, the event features a business matching session with booths to connect potential suppliers with Sands China



procurement representatives. The event also offers an opportunity for them to learn about Sands China's purchasing process, the supplier registration process,

the purchase categories, and other relevant information from Sands China's procurement team.

At a press conference last month at the Macao Chamber of Commerce, Sands China released the list of nearly 200 purchase items for local companies, including operating supplies, food and beverage, furniture and lighting, facilities, gaming, marketing, and outside services and technology; some of these items had previously been purchased from non-local suppliers. Local companies can access the list online at www.sandschina.com/procurement.html, where they can also register for the Aug. 31 Sands China Local Supplier Open Day.

Tianjin's deadly blasts expose work safety woes

Didi Tang, Beijing

BY official data, China is becoming safer from accidents year after year. But the explosions over the Tianjin port last week are a stark reminder that it has far to go in preventing workplace disasters — from blasts on factory floors to leaks of oil pipes and warehouse fires.

The blasts that started at a hazardous material warehouse in the eastern city of Tianjin and killed at least 114 people in one of China's worst industrial accidents in years came despite countless pledges by authorities to strictly enforce workplace safety regulations. There have been numerous campaigns — always one after each fatal accident — to eliminate safety risks, and local officials are routinely fired over fatal workplace incidents.

But a deep-rooted business mentality that puts profits ahead of safety seems hard to break in Beijing's fight against workplace accidents. The latest revelations on Ruihai International Logistics, the operator of the hazmat warehouse, suggest that a common Chinese business model — which heavily taps into connections with people in government — means safety rules can be easily bent for the convenience of the company.

"Companies are taking chances to skimp on safety measures, and regulating agencies are unable to enforce rules," said Zhong Shengjun, associate professor on industrial explosion and prevention at Northeastern University in Shenyang. "This is consistent with China's corporate culture, which is most interested in cutting costs and maximizing profits without adequate heed for safety."

Within days of the disaster, blatant violations of workplace safety have been exposed at Ruihai International Logistics, which was storing too much hazardous material too closely to residential homes and public infrastructure, including a light-rail station.

A detailed report by the official Xinhua News Agency on Wednesday said the company is co-owned by a former executive of the powerful state-owned enterprise Sinochem Group and a son of a late police chief overseeing the port. The union of the two was to leverage their resources into business success, and the connections appeared to have



A shattered window frames the site of the explosion at the port warehouse in northeastern China's Tianjin municipality

worked in their pursuit for the license to handle hazardous material — but at the cost of safety.

Dong Shexuan, the late police chief's son, told Xinhua he was able to easily obtain approval from the fire department, which nudged planning officials to overlook the 1,000-meter rule for safety distance. The other owner, Yu Xuewei, picked a safety evaluation firm that was willing to look past the distance rule but endorse the project.

State media also reported that the warehouse was sto-

ring the dangerous chemical sodium cyanide in huge amounts 70 times the limit allowed, and questions have been raised about whether residents in the area were suitably informed of the hazardous material.

The critical reports are a departure for state media, which are tasked to be the government's mouthpiece, touting government achievements, when uncomfortable questions and dissenting voices are suppressed for the sake of social stability.

The country's overall safety has improved over the past decade and a half. In 2014, China recorded 290,000 accidents with 66,000 deaths — down from 1 million accidents with 140,000 deaths in 2002. But those numbers include not only industrial workplaces, but also mines, car accidents and even plane crashes. China does not publicly say whether workplaces are getting safer or not.

One notable exception: mining. During the economic boom of the early 2000s, China dominated the world in the number of mining fatalities, with annual deaths as high as 6,000-7,000 a year as owners sought to maximize profits by skimping on safety.

Dismayed by the carnage

and its effect on China's reputation, Beijing cracked down on the small, often illegal operations that were the worst offenders, demanded compliance with safety rules, and jailed mine operators whose gross negligence led to fatalities. Those efforts have paid off: According to official figures, mining deaths have dropped below 1,000 last year.

Recent incidents in other workplaces suggest many other industries could use similar scrutiny.

In June 2013, a fire at a poultry plant in the northeastern province of Jilin killed 121 people. Investigators found that exit doors were bolted, a clear violation of Chinese law. An explosion caused by an oil pipe leak in late 2013 in the eastern city of Qingdao killed 62, and the public raised questions why residential homes were allowed to be built near the aging pipelines.

In August 2014, a dust explosion at a metal plant in the eastern city of Kunshan killed 146 people, and a government investigation ruled that safety violations including a failure to routinely remove dust from the floor led to the blast.

The cause of the fire and blasts at Ruihai's warehouse is yet to be determined, but human negligence is certain

to have played a part.

Tianjin officials confirmed the facility contained 700 tons of the toxic chemical sodium cyanide at the time of the explosions — as compared with the allowable limit of 10 tons as reported by state media.

The company obtained a license to handle hazardous material despite being within as close as 500 meters of residential complexes and public infrastructure, in clear violation of a national rule mandating a 1,000-meter safe distance for hazmat storage.

Calls to the regulatory agencies, Tianjin Maritime Safety Administration and Tianjin Municipal Transportation Commission, were unanswered on Monday and Tuesday.

State media also have found a survey that polled 130 neighboring businesses and residents who raised no objection to the company's bid for the hazmat license, even though residents affected by the blasts say they were unaware of the survey and that they had no knowledge of the hazardous material stored in huge quantities in their backyard. The survey was part of the environmental impact assessment required of Ruihai to gain the hazmat permit. On Wednesday, Tianjin officials said the assessment should be open to the public, but the local environmental protection agency has failed to do so. No explanation was provided.

"Had we known about the hazmat warehouse, we would have never bought this apartment," said Chen Yang, who bought an upscale apartment near the port in late 2014. "We knew of the Tianjin port, but we never knew there was hazardous material there."

Zhong, the associate professor, said it is possible that such surveys are fabricated as part of the licensing process.

"If the public truly had the right to know, if the licensing process were open and transparent, then many safety issues would not have been bypassed — they would surely have been addressed," Zhong said.

As if to mend the oversight, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on Monday ordered a nationwide check on safety, especially in workplaces handling explosive and hazardous materials. It mandates absolute compliance with safety regulations, including keeping a safe distance from residential areas and not exceeding storage limits.

Zhong said it remains to be seen whether the Tianjin blasts will be a turning point for industrial workplaces.

"I hope it would be the case, but it's unlikely as long as the mentality toward work safety does not change," he said. "The factory owners are still taking their chances." **AP**

China's corporate culture is most interested in cutting costs and maximizing profits without adequate heed for safety

ZHONG SHENGJUN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ON
INDUSTRIAL EXPLOSION AND
PREVENTION, NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY, SHENYANG

Workers clear explosion site, military checking storage



A firefighter in protective overalls walks past smoke rising from the Tianjin explosion site

Paul Traynor, Tianjin

CHINESE workers in protective suits began clearing wreckage yesterday, including charred car bodies and crumpled shipping containers, from the site of a chemical warehouse that exploded last week, killing at least 114.

Officials have ordered nationwide checks on dangerous materials, and the Chinese military said it was inspecting storage measures for weapons, ammunition, and fuel as well as chemical, explosive and toxic materials, the official newspaper People's Liberation Army Daily reported.

Training in the handling of such materials and in executing emergency response plans will also be stepped up, the newspaper said.

Driving home the importance of such efforts, President Xi Jinping and other top leaders gathered in Beijing to hear a report on progress in investigating the disaster.

"Lately, in some places there have been major industrial safety accidents, one after the other, revealing yet again that problems in the area of industrial safety remain prominent and grave," said a statement issued after the meeting.

Safety work needs to be improved and attitudes need to change to "contain the outbreak of major accidents, bring about a fundamental improvement in industrial safety and safeguard the lives and property of the masses of the people," the statement read.

Along with safety viola-

tions, official corruption was added as a contributing cause of the Aug. 12 disaster. The explosions that rocked the port city of Tianjin were among China's worst industrial accidents in recent years and the deadliest on record for the country's firefighters, who accounted for 102 of the 179 total dead and missing. Authorities say almost 700 people remain hospitalized, while 30,000 people in and around the area have had their lives turned upside down by the disaster.

A key question is why the warehouse was able to store toxic chemicals in violation of state safety rules. One explanation offered by the silent owners, identified as former SinoChem executive Yu Xuewei and the late Tianjin port police chief's son, Dong Shexuan, is that they shopped around until they found a licensed safety inspection company that would give its approval. The two are among at least 10 people reportedly taken into custody, including top officials of the warehouse's management company.

Homeowners have protested daily on city streets demanding that the government compensate them for damaged homes that they fear are now unlivable because of chemical contamination.

"How are we supposed to live in this ghost town now," said resident Niu Guijun. "If the government insists on telling us that there's no problem, they're welcome to move in and we'll let the officials live there free of charge." AP

ADVERTORIAL

BACK TO SCHOOL

Make the return to class easy after the long summer break. Stock up on school essentials at Sands Shoppes. Choose from bags and key rings at Furla, headphone holders at Cath Kidston and phone cases from Diane von Furstenberg. Montblanc and S.T. Dupont have stunning stationery, while notebooks are available at Zara Home Kids. You can also find pencils, staplers and backpacks at Kids Cavern. Don't lose track of time with watches at Swatch, and pick up a pair of new shoes from Zara. New Horizon Digital Technology has all the latest Apple goods and there are other key tech pieces at DG Lifestyle. With these items and more, your kids are sure to be cool for school.



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SECURITY

New tools, new complications in fight to keep cities safe

Tim Sullivan, New Delhi

FOR generations, the world's cities have struggled to keep themselves safe.

"Wall Street Explosion Kills 30; Injures 300," The New York Times' front page proclaimed after a bomb ripped through New York City's financial district. "Red Plot Seen in Blast."

It was September 1920. The bomb was carried by a horse-drawn cart. The bombers, suspected to be Italian anarchists, were never caught.

There are times today when it can seem that back in some hazy bygone era — before a Monday evening bomb tore through a Bangkok temple, or train bombers terrorized Madrid in 2004, before two jetliners slammed into the World Trade Center on a clear September morning — the world was not so dangerous.

Today, the fluidity of the modern world makes monitoring a city desperately complicated

And in some ways the world is more deadly. Global networks of extremists can now launch attacks from Kenya to Iraq to suburban Washington, D.C., while modernity's worst-case scenarios — nuclear or biological attacks, for example — can make that carriage-pulled Wall Street bomb seem like a toy.

And yet: "We live in a much safer world now," said Ajai Sahni, a longtime New Delhi-based scholar of political violence, policing and security issues. "The world was far more dangerous in a time when war was an accepted method of intervention" and when angering a local political boss could mean "your head would be on a stick."

In Bangkok this week, that comparison was little comfort. The city of about 10 million is struggling in the aftermath of an unexplained bombing Monday that killed 20 people and injured more than 120, and was further shaken the next day by a second blast that caused no casualties but police say may be related.

"We have always been so peac-



A woman prays at the Erawan Shrine at Rajprasong intersection in Bangkok

eful," said Chondej Chaiyanun, a 33-year-old Bangkok furniture importer. He said the first blast had concerned him, but it was the second explosion that "made me feel like Bangkok might not be so safe."

Once, there was a simple way for cities to thwart lone attackers, and those operating in small groups. Thick walls, from New Delhi to Florence, allowed guards to monitor access to cities and filter out some dangers.

Today, the fluidity of the modern world makes monitoring a city desperately complicated. Hundreds of thousands of commuters flood into major cities every day; the population of some American cities more than doubles on a work day. Then there is tourism: Thailand welcomed nearly 25 million tourists last year, and Jerusalem, a city of 800,000, can see over 3.5 million travelers annually.

At the same time, it has beco-

me easier for attacks to draw the attention violent extremists crave. A couple decades ago, most of the world would have seen the Bangkok bombing reduced to just a few newspaper paragraphs, but today, news of violence jumps quickly and fiercely across continents. Photos and video from the bombing began spilling onto social media almost immediately after it occurred.

Thai officials say the Bangkok bomber was no lone wolf. Whi-

le offering no details, national police chief Somyot Poompanmoung said the bomber "didn't do it alone, for sure. ... they work as a network, know how to escape. No one person can do this."

Prayuth Chan-ocha, the head of Thailand's military junta, called the bombing "the worst incident that has ever happened in Thailand," and vowed to track down the perpetrators.

The bombing struck a city that had already been desperate for stability. The Thai military seized power in May 2014 following months of political protests, with the goal of bringing unity. But the country remains sharply divided along social and political lines, a schism that pits the rural poor against the traditional elite.

Chondej, the furniture importer, has more confidence in the junta than in the police, widely derided in Thailand for corruption.

"I think the military can take care of the (security) situation," he said. "We don't have that much confidence in the efficiency of the police."

To Sahni, good policing is a key component to keeping cities safe.

"The attack, per se, is not the point at which you can build permanent defenses," he said.

"Any terror attack has a long series of precedents, some very minor, that led up to it. There's the recruitment, the conspiracy, the transport of materials," he said. "There are the phases where you have a far better method to intervene."

He sees the answer in everything from sophisticated intelligence networks that can infiltrate suspect groups, to neighborhood watch organizations to restrictions on purchasing chemicals that can be used in explosives.

But even if that works perfectly, he said, it won't stop every attack: "At the end of the day there is no guarantee." **AP**

Thai military says global terror link 'unlikely' in bombing

THAILAND'S military junta said yesterday this week's deadly bombing in downtown Bangkok that killed 20 people was "unlikely" to have been carried out by international terrorists. Police, meanwhile, said they suspected the plot involved at least 10 people.

But three days after the attack at a revered shrine in central Bangkok, authorities appeared to have few solid leads into the perpetrators of the deadliest attack in Thailand's recent history.

Confusing statements emerged yesterday, with the military spokesman saying in a televised statement that investigators believe the attack wasn't the work of international terrorists — a day after police issued an arrest warrant for the prime suspect who was described as a "foreign man."

"Security agencies have collaborated with intelligence agencies from allied

countries and have come to the same preliminary conclusion that the incident is unlikely to be linked to international terrorism," said Col. Winthai Suvaree, the military spokesman.

But when contacted by telephone for clarification, he said that a link to global terrorism hadn't been ruled out. "We still have to investigate in more detail," he said.

Winthai also said on television that Chinese tourists, who were among the victims, were not the "direct target."

The Monday evening attack at the Erawan Shrine, a popular tourist site that is known to attract Chinese visitors, left 20 people dead and more than 120 injured. Four Chinese citizens were among the dead.

No one has claimed responsibility for the blast, sparking a variety of theories into who might be behind it. One is that

the blast was a revenge attack related to Thailand's recent deportation to China of more than 100 Uighur Muslims, or that it could have been carried out by Islamist groups expanding their reach in Southeast Asia.

Police officials told reporters yesterday that authorities believed those behind the blast must have been planned in advance, maybe a month ahead of time, and likely included a site inspection team, bomb makers, bombers and an escape team. But the comments appeared to be speculative, not based on firm evidence.

"This was a network. We think they would have needed at least 10 people," said national police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri.

Late yesterday, national police chief Somyot Poompanmoung described the number 10 as "theoretical," adding police did not have 10 specific suspects. **AP**

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Rival Koreas trade artillery, rocket fire at border

SOUTH Korea fired dozens of shells yesterday at rival North Korea after the North lobbed a single rocket round at a South Korean town near the world's most heavily armed border, the South's Defense Ministry said.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement that its artillery shells landed at the place where North Korea had fired its rocket. There were no other immediate details from the military and no reports of injuries. It appeared that North Korea did not respond to South Korea's returned fire.

North Korea had previously threatened to attack South Korean loudspeakers that have been broadcasting, for the first time in 11 years, anti-Pyongyang propaganda messages across their shared border. Pyongyang also restarted its own loudspeakers aimed at the South.

About 80 residents in the South Korean town where the shell fell, Yeoncheon, were evacuated to underground bunkers, and authorities urged other residents to evacuate, a Yeoncheon official said, requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.



People watch a television news program reporting about South Korea's response to the North's provocation, at Seoul train station in Seoul

In the nearby border city of Paju, residents were asked to stay home. On Baeknyeong Island near the Koreas' disputed western sea boundary — the scene of several bloody skirmishes in recent years — residents in villages near a site where South Korea operates one of its loudspeakers were also evacuated, according to island officials.

The cross-border propaganda

warfare followed accusations from Seoul that Pyongyang had planted land mines on the South Korean side of the Demilitarized Zone that maimed two South Korean soldiers earlier this month. Pyongyang has claimed that Seoul fabricated the evidence on the land mines and demanded video proof.

Authoritarian North Korea is extremely sensitive to any criticism of the government run

by leader Kim Jong Un, whose family has ruled since the country was founded in 1948.

Last October, North Korean troops opened fire at areas near Yeoncheon, after South Korean activists launched balloons there that carried propaganda leaflets across the border. South Korea returned fire, but no casualties were reported. Later in October, border guards from the two Koreas again exchanged gunfire along the border, without any casualties.

Before that, the Koreas tangled in a deadly artillery exchange in 2010, when North Korean artillery strikes on a South Korean border island killed four South Koreans. Earlier in 2010, an alleged North Korean torpedo attack killed 46 South Korean sailors.

North Korea's army said recently in a statement that the South Korean propaganda broadcasts were a declaration of war and that if they were not

immediately stopped "an all-out military action of justice" would ensue.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye urged Pyongyang to "wake up" from the delusion that it could maintain its government with provocation and threats.

Yesterday's artillery exchange came four days after South Korea and the United States began annual summertime military drills that North Korea calls an invasion rehearsal. Seoul and Washington say the drills are defensive in nature.

South Korea has said the two soldiers wounded from the mine explosions were on a routine patrol in the southern part of the DMZ that separates the two Koreas. One soldier lost both legs and the other one leg.

The Koreas' mine-strewn DMZ is a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. **AP**

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EGYPT

Massive IS car bomb hits Cairo security building, wounds 29

Brian Rohan, Cairo

A massive car bomb claimed by Islamic State militants ripped into a national security building in a working class residential neighborhood in Cairo early yesterday, wounding at least 29 people and blowing the facades off nearby buildings.

The blast, which went off around 2 a.m., demolished a wall in front of the government building, smashed its structure and left gaping holes exposing its offices. Of those hurt, 11 were police and soldiers. No deaths were reported.

Glass from blown-out windows littered the surrounding streets in the Shubra el-Kheima neighborhood, at the northern entrance to the capital.

Ambulances and fire trucks rushed to the scene, which was flooded with water from pipes broken by what authorities said were high explosives.



An Egyptian traffic policeman gestures for passing vehicles as he stands in front of the damaged national security building in Cairo

The explosion could be heard and felt across the city. State news agency MENA reported the casualties hours later.

Emergency aid chief Ahmed al-Ansari said the wounded were evacuated to nearby hospitals. Wrecked cars stood around the building, as security forces carrying assault rifles patrolled the streets and set up roadblocks to ward off hysterical residents. A crater marked the blast's apparent position, while a car engine sat where it landed on the other side of street.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the car bombing, saying on its Al-Bayan radio station that "soldiers of the caliphate" had carried it out. A statement issued by their affiliate in Egypt and circulated by supporters online said it was to avenge the execution of six convicted militants in May.

A similar statement emerged last month following a bombing outside the Italian Consulate in Cairo.

Egypt has seen a surge of assaults on security forces since the 2013 military overthrow of Islamist president Mohammed Morsi. Previous large-scale attacks have been claimed by an Islamic State affiliate based in the northern Sinai Peninsula. AP

HEALTH

Scientists find how obesity gene works, a clue to treatment

Marilynn Marchione, Chief Medical Writer

SCIENTISTS have finally figured out how the key gene tied to obesity makes people fat, a major discovery that could open the door to an entirely new approach to the problem beyond diet and exercise.

The work solves a big mystery: Since 2007, researchers have known that a gene called FTO was related to obesity, but they didn't know how, and could not tie it to appetite or other known factors.

Now experiments reveal that a faulty version of the gene causes energy from food to be stored as fat rather than burned. Genetic tinkering in mice and on human cells in the lab suggests this can be reversed, giving hope that a drug or other treatment might be developed to do the same in people.

The work was led by scientists at MIT and Harvard University and published online yes-



terday (Macau time) by the New England Journal of Medicine.

The discovery challenges the notion that "when people get obese it was basically their own choice because they choose to eat too much or not exercise," said study leader Melina Claussnitzer, a genetics specialist at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. "For the first time, genetics has revealed a mechanism in obesity that was not really suspected before" and gives a third explanation or

factor that's involved.

Independent experts praised the discovery.

"It's a big deal," said Dr. Clifford Rosen, a scientist at Maine Medical Center Research Institute and an associate editor at the medical journal.

"A lot of people think the obesity epidemic is all about eating too much," but our fat cells play a role in how food gets used, he said. With this discovery, "you now have a pathway for drugs that can make those fat cells work differently."

Several obesity drugs are already on the market, but they are generally used for short-term weight loss and are aimed at the brain and appetite; they don't directly target metabolism.

Researchers can't guess how long it might take before a drug based on the new findings becomes available. But it's unlikely it would be a magic pill that would enable people to eat anything they want without packing on the pounds. AP

ISRAEL

Court suspends detention of Palestinian hunger striker

Miriam Berger, Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended the detention order against a Palestinian prisoner who has been on a hunger strike for 65 days, releasing him while he receives medical care in a ruling that his relatives and supporters hailed as a victory.

The decision means that Mohammed Allan will no longer be shackled to his bed and his family will be able to visit him in the hospital, where his lawyer said he remains sedated and unconscious.

The court's action did little to resolve a debate over Israel's practice of holding suspects without charge, known as administrative detention, or a new law that permits the force-feeding of hunger strikers.

Before he fell unconscious Aug. 14, Allan had appeared set to be the first test of the law. Since then, he has been given fluids and nutritional supplements while the case went to court, although those treatments were not considered to be force-feeding.

After a long day of deliberations, the Supreme Court announced that Allan, who doctors say has suffered some brain damage, would remain hospitalized but that his administrative detention was suspended.

But the decision did not address what would happen to Allan if he recovers, saying only he can petition for his



Israeli Arab supporters of Mohammed Allan, a Palestinian prisoner on a hunger strike, hold signs during a support rally outside Barzilai hospital, in the coastal city of Ashkelon

release if his condition improves.

"I feel very happy," said his brother, Amid Allan. "I hope that my brother will stand up, will stand up from his bed healthy, as happy as he used to be when they took him from his house."

Israel says Allan is in custody for his affiliation with Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian militant group that has carried out scores of attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers. He denies the affiliation.

Allan's case became a litmus test for a law that was narrowly passed in July that permits a judge to sanction force-feeding of a fasting prisoner if the inmate's life is in danger.

Critics of force-feeding see it as an unethical violation of patient autonomy and akin to torture. The U.S. has admitted to force-feeding detainees at its Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Britain force-fed some Irish Republican Army prisoners on hunger strikes. AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	The Presence of Anita (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Presence of Anita
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Europa League Highlights
23:45	Portuguese Film
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears
11:35	Documentary Serie
12:00	Cooking
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:00	News
18:20	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Macau 360° (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:00	Drama
22:45	Documentary Series
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:50	Young Children
11:10	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:20	Documentary Series
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:50	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Cougar Town S.3
22:00	Welcome to our World
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

DETAILS OF ALLEGED BOURBON THEFT RING DESCRIBED IN RECORDS

A self-described middleman in an alleged bourbon theft ring in Kentucky says he bought barrels of whiskey from the accused ringleader and arranged more purchases.

In court records, Dustin Adkins says Gilbert "Toby" Curtsinger sold cases of Pappy Van Winkle bourbon. Adkins says Curtsinger indicated the supply was available because labels were "messed up."

Adkins says he started out buying quarts of bourbon before acquiring two barrels from Curtsinger. Wanting his friends to share in a "good deal," Adkins says he arranged nine more barrel purchases.

Adkins recently pleaded guilty to a charge of criminal conspiracy to receive stolen property over USD10,000.

Curtsinger has pleaded not guilty to charges that include engaging in organized crime. Defense attorney Whitney True Lawson says releasing such documents jeopardizes chances for a fair trial locally.

cinema



CINETEATRO

20 Aug- 26 Aug



HITMAN: AGENT 47_

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.30 pm

Director: Aleksander Bach

Starring: Rupert Friend, Hannah Ware, Zachary Quinto

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

ATTACK ON TITAN_

ROOM 1

7.45 pm

Director: Shinji Higuchi

Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara

Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)

Duration: 90min



PIXELS_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Chris Columbus

Starring: Adam Sandler, Kevin James,

Michelle Monaghan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE:
NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES_

ROOM 3

2.15 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min



WILD CITY_

ROOM 3

4.05, 5.55, 7.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Ringo Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Shawn Yue, Tong Liya

Language: Cantonese/Mandarin (Chinese/English)

Duration: 105min

MACAU TOWER

20 AUG - 9 SEPT

PIXELS_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Chris Columbus

Starring: Adam Sandler, Kevin James,

Michelle Monaghan

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history



Soldiers arrest a man on Bloody Sunday

1973: 'BLOODY SUNDAY' INQUEST ACCUSES ARMY

The coroner presiding over the "Bloody Sunday" inquest has accused the British army of "sheer unadulterated murder".

The accusation came from the Londonderry City coroner, Major Hubert O'Neill, after the inquest jury returned an open verdict on the deaths.

Thirteen people died on 30 January last year when members of the Parachute Battalion opened fire on people attending a civil rights march in Derry.

Another man died later in hospital and 14 others were also shot and injured.

Major O'Neill said there had been no justification for the soldiers to open fire.

He said: "These people may have been taking part in a parade that was banned but I do not think that justifies the firing of live rounds indiscriminately."

But Mr Brian Hutton, QC, representing for the Ministry of Defence told Major O'Neill the inquest had heard only part of the evidence.

"It is not for you or the jury to express such wide-ranging views, particularly when a most eminent judge has spent 20 days hearing evidence and come to a very different conclusion," Mr Hutton said.

Catholic priests who were at the rally gave evidence to the inquest.

They said many of the dead men were unarmed and running away when they were shot.

They also claimed the troops' failure to stop firing prevented them from helping the sick and dying.

The MP for Antrim North, Reverend Ian Paisley, has said he will ask the Northern Ireland Secretary for Major O'Neill's removal.

"Mr O'Neill is not fit to be coroner for he has let his religious and political feelings dictate his decision," Mr Paisley said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first inquiry into the events of Bloody Sunday under Lord Widgery in 1972, which largely exonerated the soldiers, was widely criticised for being inconsistent and lacking the testimony of eye-witnesses.

Nationalists campaigned unsuccessfully for many years for a new investigation.

In 1998 on the eve of the 26th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced an independent judicial inquiry led by the British Law Lord, Lord Saville.

The inquiry began hearing evidence in April 1998. It took statements from hundreds of witnesses including, in January 2003, the prime minister at the time Edward Heath.

It ended in November 2004 and had cost about £150 million.

The families of those who died have said they had been told by the Irish government the final report would not be released until 2007.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you're suddenly pouring on the charm so you can get what you want, it's a bit late. Well, better late than never. Just bank on hitting the sales to round out your list.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You are feeling the opposite of greedy. In fact, you are downright swimming in giving. But don't overdo it, even if you have the credit.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
That overwhelmed feeling is starting to lift, just at the edges. Don't hold onto it just because it's familiar. You'll soon find that even without money, you'll be feeling good.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Things are not going smoothly. As if money worries weren't enough, issues around the home are starting to appear, too. Actually, they're one and the same. Approach them as one big challenge.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Is it friendship? Is it a date? Is it all in your head? Such are the questions you'll face should you choose to purchase new computer equipment. If you don't have more pressing needs, then save your money.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Yes, an impulse buy will make a big splash, but its ripples will keep coming back to haunt you. You could pay many times over or do the hard work now. Start saving.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Balance is impossible. The only way to enjoy yourself is to break completely free of all thoughts of money. Once you do, enjoy the giddy high energy.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's getting harder and harder to think but you have no choice but to forge on. Try tossing ideas back and forth -- with someone who understands your budget, of course.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Have you thought out all aspects of the next few days? Preparation time is ticking away. Your very first steps should be making a list and balancing your checkbook.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Saving money is just one of your challenges. Why feel guilty? Cutting back on spending is now part of the popular culture, so you're actually just being trendy.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Go in with your eyes open. Shopping for bargains is like being thrown into a whole new culture. Don't bring your personal issues along in your handbag.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Picking a path for your new spending habits starts now. Choose to steer clear of debts by spending money wisely. Repeat to yourself over and over: a penny saved is a penny earned.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	33	clear/cloudy
Harbin	18	23	thundershower/moderate
Tianjin	22	32	rain
Urumqi	21	35	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	19	34	clear
Lhasa	10	22	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	20	31	shower/cloudy
Chongqing	22	32	cloudy
Kunming	16	25	cloudy/clear
Nanjing	23	28	shower
Shanghai	25	29	overcast/cloudy
Wuhan	22	30	shower
Hangzhou	24	28	cloudy/clear
Taipei	26	32	moderate rain/shower
Guangzhou	26	35	drizzle
Hong Kong	27	32	clear
			cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	23	clear
Frankfurt	12	22	drizzle/cloudy
Paris	15	23	drizzle/cloudy
London	16	10	drizzle
New York	25	28	drizzle/moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 4- Kett and James; 9- Fanatical; 14- Receive; 15- Modern bank card; 16- Military camp; 17- Restore moisture; 19- Peter and a Wolfe; 20- Each partner; 21- Examine account books; 23- Congers; 24- Inclined; 27- Type of tide; 30- Refuse floating on water; 32- Cowboys' org.; 33- On an upper floor; 37- Gandhi's land; 39- Abbreviate; 40- Socks of any kind; 42- Actress Anouk; 43- Roman capital of Palestine; 44- Leg, slangily; 45- Waterflea; 48- Robt. ___; 50- Actor Ryan; 51- Drop ___ (moon); 55- Potato pancake; 57- Bit of wisdom; 58- Noted duck; 60- Pathless; 64- Dutch painter Jan; 65- Taj ___; 66- Penlight battery; 67- Curt; 68- Bubbling; 69- Map lines: Abbr.;

DOWN: 1- Be of one mind; 2- Pet ___; 3- Lucy's landlady; 4- Whirlpool; 5- Thrice, in prescriptions; 6- TV listings abbr.; 7- Small island; 8- Takes by theft; 9- Tear; 10- Dined at home; 11- One who mixes and serves drinks; 12- Wall St. debut; 13- Paris's Pont ___ Arts; 18- Decade divs.; 22- Actress Hagen; 24- That's ___; 25- Ripped; 26- T.G.I.F. part; 28- Blazing; 29- Beach, in Baja; 30- Destined; 31- Beethoven's "___ Solemnis"; 33- Grammarian's concern; 34- Glass bottle; 35- Wine steward; 36- Uno + due; 38- Actress Peeples; 40- Mandlikova of tennis; 41- Trompe l'___; 43- Friend of Fidel; 46- Hunkydory; 47- Soul; 49- Relaxes; 51- A Kennedy; 52- "M*A*S*H" name; 53- Mountain nymph; 54- Arm bones; 56- Actress Daly; 57- Voting-pattern predictor; 58- Summer hrs.; 59- Munched on; 61- Capture; 62- Howe'er; 63- Thor Heyerdahl craft



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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
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FOOTBALL | EPL PREVIEW

Awaiting 1st goal of season, Rooney frustrated by critics

MANCHESTER United has only played three games this season and Wayne Rooney's inability to score is already under scrutiny.

That's three games without even a shot on target for the striker.

"I've experienced this before and the goals will come, I know that," Rooney said. "I've had one bad game this season and everyone's all over it. I know I've had that throughout my career but hopefully at the weekend I can get off the mark."

When United hosts Newcastle tomorrow, Rooney will be searching for his first competitive goal for United since April 4, making it a nine-game drought going back into last season.

"I understand I have to be the one who's going to lead that line for us and try and the goals for us," the center forward said. "My mind's clear. I know how to play the role. It's just a case of getting the chances and taking them."

Fortunately for Rooney — following the departure of fellow forwards Robin van Persie and Radamel Falcao in the offseason



Wayne Rooney celebrates the first goal made by Memphis Depay against the San Jose Earthquakes at the Avaya Stadium

— others have chipped in with goals.

New winger Memphis Depay contributed two in the 3-1 win over Bruges in the first leg of their Champions League playoff on Tuesday. Adnan Januzaj scored the only goal in the win over Aston Villa last week and an own goal gifted United an opening day victory over Tottenham in the Premier League.

Rooney is only 19 goals from

matching Bobby Charlton's club scoring record of 249.

"I know when I don't play well and against Aston Villa I was below my standards," the 29-year-old United captain said.

CHELSEA CHAOS. Chelsea signed forward Pedro Rodriguez from Barcelona ahead of Sunday's trip to West Bromwich, providing a boost following a chaotic start to the season defined by setbacks on the field and

the team doctor being demoted.

Chelsea has opened its title defense by collecting one point from two games, including a loss at Manchester City, and was beaten in the Community Shield by Arsenal.

West Brom has similarly only collected a point and lost 3-0 to Man City. Ominously for Mourinho, two of the previous three Chelsea managers have lost their jobs within days of a loss at West Brom: Andre Villas-Boas in March 2012 and Roberto Di Matteo eight months later.

OUTFOXING RIVALS. Four teams have won two out of two: Manchester rivals City and United, Liverpool — and Leicester. The same Leicester which required a late surge to avoid relegation in May.

There's a long way to go but new manager Claudio Ranieri is defying gloomy forecasts about his capabilities more than a decade after his last job in England at Chelsea.

Ahead of tomorrow's match against Tottenham, Leicester signed Switzerland midfielder Gokhan Inler from Napoli.

Leicester hosts a Tottenham side which has drawn one and lost one so far. Striker Harry Kane, who spent time on loan at Leicester in 2013 before becoming the scoring revelation of last season at Spurs, has failed to net this campaign.

CITY STRENGTHENS. Man City's bid to regain the Premier League trophy from Chelsea has now seen \$150 million of summer transfer window spending.

Nicolas Otamendi, a tough central defender who helped Argentina reach the Copa America final last month, is the latest recruit from Valencia.

"He's strong, he's excellent in the tackle and he's very good technically," City manager Manuel Pellegrini said ahead of Sunday's match at Everton.

AP / Oddschecker.com

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Eric Sautédé



ACCOUNTABLE RESPONSIBILITY

For any political leader, probing the hearts and minds of constituents is of utmost importance, whatever the political regime. In a democratic setting, elected officials have learned to engage at every turn with the people they derive their power from. Gone are the days when one would regenerate his or her "representative" status only at election time: one's presence on Twitter is imperative, and not only to cunningly (often perilously) grab the headlines, but to foster public participation and nurture one's political course of action via the many corrective bits that constitute an audience's reaction, measured in levels of re-tweeting, liking and commenting.

The power and beauty of social media do not only spring from their instantaneity and their reach but from the reactivity and interactivity. They are indeed a much more sophisticated channel than basic opinion polls that verge on popularity contests. Social media allow for participative democracy to cut across a mere slogan, even though they cannot and will never replace the act of voting, which is the actual exercise of power by the citizenry, and thus of accountability.

In an authoritarian context, regardless of the oligarchic or corporatist maneuverability, citizens are also being called upon. The lesson retained from the twentieth century is that no form of dictatorship can aspire to longevity if it does not somehow live up to the promise of a "rule for the people" - the greater good of the community remaining a distinctive finality. Thus demands from the society have to be accommodated, albeit with very stringent constraints. In Iran, many believe that the "Islamic Republic" serves as a "façade" for religious interests to clinch power while allowing for civil society to be placated.

Quite tellingly, social media were at one point used as reversed illiberal weapons to track down activists challenging the regime, and today still, most Iranian netizens are denied access to Twitter while President Hassan Rouhani prides himself on having 378,000 followers (last tweet on August 9th) while even Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, is followed by less than 150,000 people. In the People's Republic of China, many policies are opened to so-called "public consultations" and clearly there have been some interesting attempts at (very) local democracy.

The regime today hammers that "democracy" is indeed one of the twelve core socialist values - along with freedom. But here again, engagement of and with the people follows very strict rules, as more than 250 human rights lawyers have been learning the hard way during the summer. Moreover, if China is home to the biggest Internet population on the planet - 668 million - and allows for citizens to express their concerns and participate in the public sphere, this can only ensue in a narrowly enclosed perimeter: Xinhua ultimately rules and the new cybersecurity law currently "under discussion" will fully "legalize" the usual practice of suspension of service and denial of access as soon as there is a hint of threat to "social order". Thus, Virtual Private Networks that have been heavily targeted since January 2015 could be deemed "illegal".

Public consultations and the use of social media can be characterized as a form of responsibility sharing. For a leader today, the source of political legitimacy matters less than the impression (at least) that he is ruling for the benefit of the whole community. Shouldering off part of the responsibility thus really comes handy. The ever-increasing use of "public consultations" in Macao is a good reminder that despite our lack of democratic institutions, the commitment to liberal values enshrined in the Basic Law together with their actual practice can be put to very potent use when it comes to accountability.

Nobody will be voted out (or weep and resign), but then prospective public policies are openly discussed and challenged, omissions and shortcomings alike: the meticulous account provided by some media - the public meetings transcripts by All About Macao in particular - regarding the present public consultation on new reclamation areas is in that respect to be commended. Irrefutably, the quality of our future rests upon our freedom of expression.

THE BUZZ IN CHINESE **BON JOVI SINGS 'THE MOON...'**

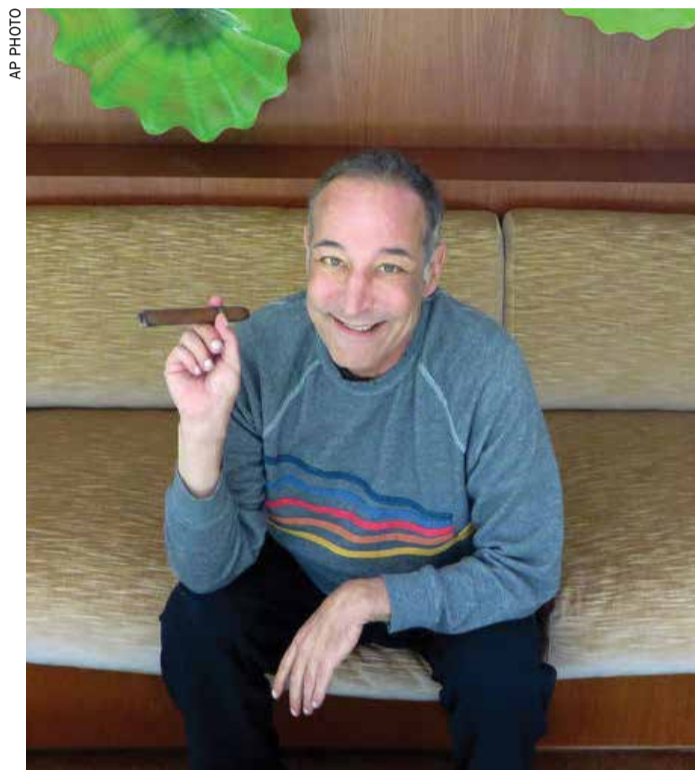
With a successful career spanning 30 years to date, Bon Jovi's announcement of their China debut in September has generated a lot of buzz across the country.

Jon Bon Jovi, the lead singer of Bon Jovi, has delivered another surprise: he has offered an unprecedented Valentine's gift to Chinese fans - singing the classic romantic Chinese song "The Moon Represents My Heart" in Mandarin.

According to a release from his entourage, "Jon gave a lot of thought on choosing the right song for his Chinese fans. Taking into consideration his appreciation for Chinese tradition Jon decided to choose the cherished and widely popular song," for Chinese fans "as a gift on Chinese Valentine's Day."

Bon Jovi will perform at the Venetian Cotai Arena on September 25 and 26.

'Simpsons' co-creator's memorabilia, art is going to auction



Sam Simon

A pinball machine from "The Simpsons" and fun pinup art are among the items going to auction from the collection of the show's co-creator Sam Simon.

Sotheby's announced yesterday that it will be selling Simon's entire personal collection of memorabilia, fine art and other objects in a series of sales through the fall and next year. It valued the collection between USD7.7 million and \$11.5 million.

Simon died from colon

cancer March 8 in California at 59.

The 260-plus lots will be spread across 11 "various-owner" auctions, beginning Sept. 19 and ending in June 2016.

In addition, Sotheby's will offer Simon's memorabilia in a dedicated sale Oct. 22. Those items include a circa 1990 "The Simpsons" pinball machine with a pre-sale estimate of \$1,000 to \$2,000 and a "Simpsons" jacket decorated with the show's favorite characters

for an estimated \$600 to \$800.

His art collection includes an August Rodin sculpture of the French writer Balzac estimated to bring up to \$350,000. A painting of a boy and his dog by Thomas Hart Benton titled "T.P. and Jake" could sell for \$1.5 million to \$2.5 million.

"Each piece in Sam Simon's collection embodies a central theme: The ability of art to tell a story," Andrea Fiuczynski, chairwoman of Sotheby's West Coast, said in a statement.

All proceeds will go to the Sam Simon Charitable Giving Foundation, which supports animal welfare, disaster relief and other causes.

After leaving "The Simpsons" in 1994, Simon shifted to philanthropy.

In an interview with The Associated Press in 2013, Simon said he wanted to spend all his money on charitable causes. "I'm supporting the charities that I supported during my lifetime," he said, "and I want to continue to do that."

After stints writing for "Taxi," "Cheers" and "The Tracey Ullman Show," Simon helped launch "The Simpsons." During his writing and producing career, he collected nine prime-time Emmy Awards. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIAN authorities detain and quickly release two key Kashmiri separatist leaders ahead of talks between Indian and Pakistani security advisers, while a third remains under house arrest.

PHILIPPINES Two Philippine coast guard personnel who were threatened with beheading escape from their Abu Sanyaf extremist captors when hundreds of troops storm the militants' jungle base in the country's south.



AP PHOTO

RUSSIAN customs officials have drafted a bill to make the smuggling of banned foreign foods an offense punishable by a prison sentence. In retaliation to Western sanctions, Russia last year banned certain food imports from the EU, the U.S. and a few other countries. President Vladimir Putin this month ordered the destruction of confiscated contraband food, with hundreds of tons of fruit and cheese steamrolled and burnt in a public display of the ban enforcement.

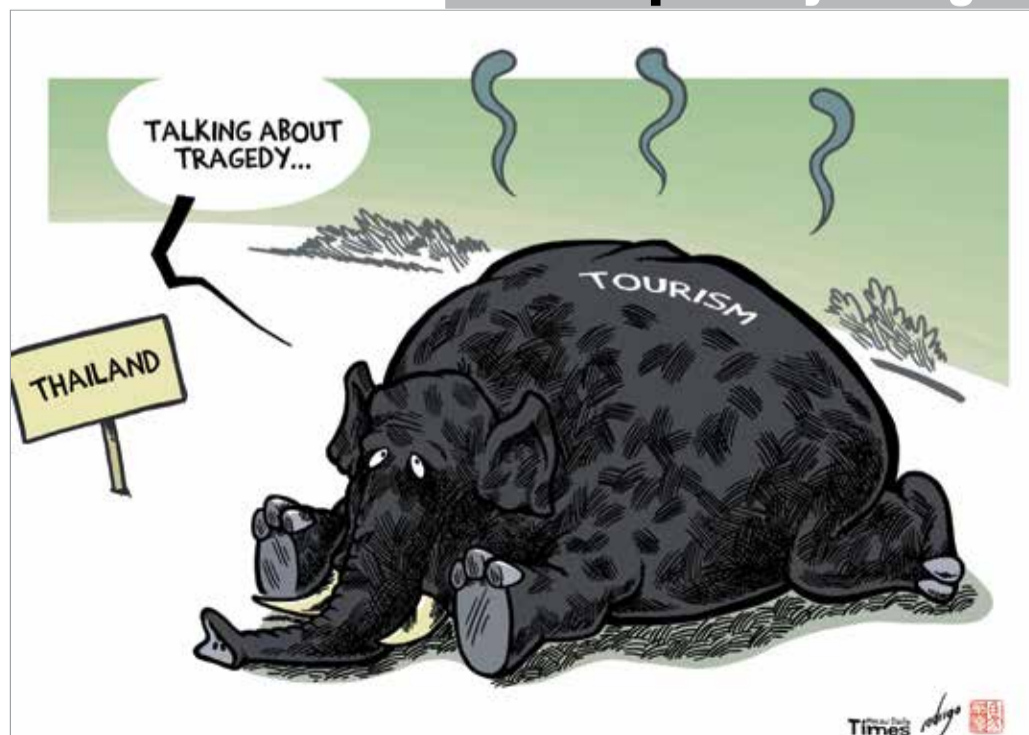
BURUNDI Without a public announcement that it would happen, Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term amid political turmoil in which more than 100 people have died and tens of thousands have fled the country.



AP PHOTO

USA Officers arrested at least nine people and deployed tear gas amid protests in St. Louis over the death of a black 18-year-old who was fatally shot by police after he pointed a gun at them, the city's police chief said.

times square by rodrigo



Times