



HENGQIN TENNIS CENTER OPENS WITH TOP PLAYERS

The WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai is showcasing some of the world's elite tennis players in neighboring Hengqin island

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USJ CAMPUS SUBCONTRACTOR CLAIMS HUGE DEBT

Despite the labor dispute, construction has not stopped. 400 people are currently working on USJ's Ilha Verde site

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MA WANTS XI TO EASE TAIWAN'S ISOLATION

P13 HISTORIC CHINA-TAIWAN MEETING

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WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA With a key Asian ally at his side, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter makes a subtle jab at China by flying aboard an American aircraft carrier plying the contested waters of the South China Sea. He and his Malaysian counterpart, Hishammuddin Hussein, watched U.S. Navy fighter jets roar off the steel deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt as it sailed under a midday sun about 70 miles northwest of Borneo.

INDIA Booker Prize-winning novelist Arundhati Roy has joined the growing number of writers, filmmakers, scientists and historians voicing alarm over what they describe as a climate of religious intolerance and violence in India.



INDONESIA Authorities deported yesterday an alleged Indian crime boss who has been on Interpol's most-wanted list for two decades. Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje, known in India as "Chotta Rajan," is accused of involvement in several mafia killings and other crimes in his homeland. He was arrested Oct. 25 after arriving at Bali's airport from Sydney.

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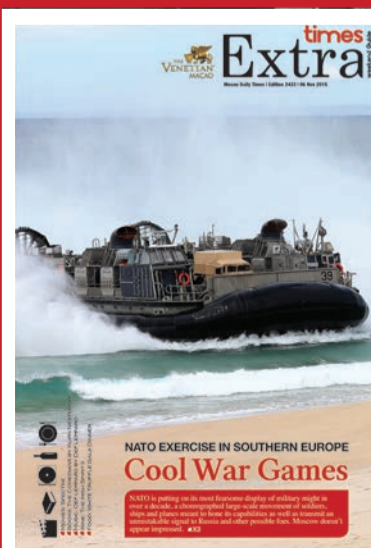
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WTA Elite Trophy inaugurates new Hengqin Tennis Center



Venus Williams is one of the players taking part in the Hengqin tournament

RRANKING third out of all women's tennis events in China, the WTA Elite Trophy Zhuhai is showcasing some of the world's elite tennis players in the neighboring island of Hengqin, with the final game scheduled for Sunday. Offering a prize of USD2,150,000 and 700 WTA credit points for the winner, the tournament running just across the border is benefitting from the presence of big names such as Angelique Kerber, Victoria Azarenka, and Ana Ivanovic. Other prestigious competitors are also in attendance, such as the former WTA top rankers: Venus Williams, Caroline Wozniacki and Jelena Jankovic; the 2015 US Open runner-up Roberta Vinci, and WTA Rising Stars Karolina Pliskova, Madison Keys, and Elina Svitolina.

The tournament inaugurates the newly-constructed Zhuhai Hengqin International Tennis Center, a new set of sports venues surrounded by the metropolitan circle of Zhuhai, Macau and Hong Kong. The event

will be complemented by a broad range of activities in the center's "Tennis Carnival", in order to enrich the audience's overall experience. The organizer has organized cultural activities spanning the seven days of the main event. The entire carnival consists of four "thematic zones" and five "thematic days", targeting audiences from different age groups.

Stage performances, cartoon cruises, food and souvenirs are also on the program, which aims to create memorable family experiences for both tourists and Zhuhai residents.

The tennis center is located in the central section of Hengqin New Area, covering a floor area of approximately 117,000 square meters, and will be built in two phases.

The first phase covers an area of around 68,000 square meters, comprising one 5,000-seat indoor court, one 1,500-seat outdoor stadium, four 250-seat outdoor match arenas, and 12 outdoor training grounds.

The tennis center is located in the central section of Hengqin New Area

The second phase will cover around 15,000 square meters on the top-level of the main stadium, including a cultural exhibition area, an indoor training hall, apartments for athletes, and related service facilities. **RM**

Former UN official to discuss Euro refugee crisis

FORMER Special Representative of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General (Peacekeeping Operations) Victor Angelo is holding two lectures to discuss the refugee crisis currently troubling the European Union (EU), along with some of the proposed solutions. The first lecture - entitled "The refugee crisis and the European Union: From cohesion to disintegration?" - will be held at the Rui Cunha Foundation at 6.30 p.m. on November 9.

Mr Angelo will explore some of the difficulties brought about by the largest migration of displaced persons since World War II, and how the 28 member states of the EU are differing in their search for solutions. He will also discuss what the implications of the current crisis could mean for the future of European institutions.

A second lecture at the University of Macau (UM) is being organized by the Academic European Union Programme in Macau, and will be held in room E4-GO53 at 6.30 p.m. on November 11.

Victor Angelo has spent 32 years within the UN, rising to the level of Under-Secretary-General. He has extensive experience in development, humanitarian, security and political affairs. He is currently based in Brussels.

The first lecture at the Rui Cunha Foundation will be delivered in Portuguese with simultaneous interpretation into Cantonese. The UM lecture will be held in English.

Latin American culture makes its way to town

AS part of efforts to promote Latin American cultures in the region, the Macau Association for the Promotion of Exchange between the Asia-Pacific and Latin America (MAPEAL) will host a cultural festival in the SAR between October 31 and November 27.

The 2015 Latin American Cultural Festival, now in its third year, aims to transport the art and cultures of Latin American countries to Macau. The festival will comprise of cultures from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

Included in the activities planned for this year are the "Latin American Photo Exhibition", "Latin American Film Shows" and an exhibition of paintings from the region.

Festival organizers claim that cultural exchange is a "non-political and effective way of connecting people on different continents." Although Latin America is geographically distant from Macau, it is "indeed close to use in the realm of culture," as the presence of Latin culture has co-existed alongside the Chinese culture in Macau "harmoniously for over 400 years."

Seminar on Portuguese architecture and urbanism

ALBERGUE SCM will hold a seminar at 3 p.m. tomorrow entitled "Contemporary Architecture and Urbanism in Portugal - Present Days," in which Professor José Manuel Fernandes will share his views on Portuguese architecture and urbanism.

Fernandes, who is a scholar at the University of Lisbon's Faculty of Architecture, will showcase a visual presentation accompanied by a commentary on 30 architectural works produced in Portugal or by Portuguese architects from 2008 until 2015.

Some of the works he will examine include the C6a Museum, the Shilien

Industrial Complex, in Jianshu, the Oceanary Extension, and the Coach Museum. Mr Fernandes will explore architecture in a variety of environmental contexts, such as terrain architecture, village and town architecture, and the architecture of the Atlantic Islands, as well as specific localities such as Lisbon and Porto.

A contrast of scale and dimensions in Portuguese-produced architecture is also expected to include commentary on the works of architects such as Álvaro Siza, Carrilho da Graça, João Mendes Ribeiro and Manuel Graça Dias.

The seminar, which is sponsored by the Macau Foundation, will be held in



The C6a Museum, Portugal

Hall D1 of Albergue SCM and will be managed by Bambu Sociedade de Artes Limitada. It will be delivered in English, and attendance is free of charge.

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Lai Man Wa receives distinguished funeral service

Aries Un

MANY major officials solemnly bid farewell to the late head of the Macau Customs Service, Lai Man Wa, at the Kang Wu Funeral parlor yesterday morning before her body was laid to rest in the São Miguel Arcanjo cemetery.

Lai's funeral service continued for a second day, with the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak delivering a five-minute memorial speech and standing in silent observation before the burial.

"It has been a nightmare for the whole personnel within the customs department, who have been busy with the preparatory works for the upcoming policy address, that director general Lai's life ended so abruptly," noted Wong. "Those works under her supervision were about to be completed, so it is a shame that she left us in this way."

Lai received what is considered to be the most honorable funeral service for civil servants – her coffin, draped in the depart-



The funeral at São Miguel Arcanjo cemetery

ment's flag, was carried by eight customs officers in a procession all the way to the cemetery.

With the dirge playing in the background, one of the officers delivered Lai's cap, insignia, and the folded flag from the coffin to the deceased's family while the honor guards paid their respects.

The coffin was then transported to the cemetery. Lai's son, who was said to have rushed

back to the region from England to be in attendance, emerged from the cemetery after the conclusion of the ceremony, accompanied by other distraught family members.

Asked if the family felt suspicious over Lai's death, he shook his head and said: "There isn't much to say." The family then left the cemetery in a van.

Journalists' inquiries to Secretary Wong Sio Chak whether



Chui Sai On attended the memorial service yesterday

or not Lai's urine-soaked mobile phone could be turned on again, and when the authorities would gain access to her medical history were left unanswered as he hastily left the cemetery and slid into his government vehicle.

The administration's assertion that Lai's abrupt death was a suicide has drawn enormous skepticism from society and the media.

Journalists' Association slams authorities over Lai's death

The Macau Journalists Association yesterday criticized the authorities for their handling of information regarding the death of the Customs chief, Lai Man Wa. In a press release, the group said that the news was not released to the media immediately after the discovery of the body, which may have resulted in increased public speculation about the incident. The police usually release media information about accidents, injuries and murders shortly after they are discovered through texts. However, when it came to Lai's death, the authorities cited the "special identity of the deceased" to support their announcement, which was made by the Chief Executive hours after the incident. The association questioned whether that would become a reason used by police in other similar cases, or even for the arbitrary filtration of information over sensitive issues. The Secretariat for Security responded subsequently in a press release, stating that the authorities would improve their cooperation with the media over the issue.

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Brawl between two male inmates



The Macau Prison has launched an inquiry into a fight between two inmates that sent one of them to hospital. The squabble that broke out on the first floor of the men's number five cell block on Tuesday at around 8.20 p.m., was said to have been the result of an argument over hygiene in the pair's shared cell. It escalated into a scuffle, which was subdued by the on-duty officers. According to the authorities, one prisoner, with a history of mental illness, suffered minor injuries to his head. He was returned to his cell after a check-up at the public hospital. The authorities also arranged social workers to provide counseling services to both inmates involved in the scuffle.

LABOR

USJ campus subcontractor claims tens of millions in unpaid arrears

A subcontractor working on an ongoing construction project at the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) new Ilha Verde campus has accused the main contractor, Hsin Chong Construction Group, of owing the company "tens of millions [of patacas]" after their agreement was terminated last month. The subcontractor, Iao Sang Construction Engineering, is also accusing Hsin Chong of unlawfully continuing to use their equipment and workers since the deal's termination.

According to a representative of Iao Sang Construction Engineering, "Our contract was worth 450 million patacas [and] we have completed around 60 to 70 percent of the work. So it should be more than 300 million patacas [that is owed to us]. [However], since the beginning [of our contract] Hsin Chong has paid us around 70 million patacas in cash. They still owe us several tens of millions."



USJ explained that the deal with Iao Sang, was terminated after another company from mainland China, acting as a sub-subcontractor, made "serious claims" about the conduct of Iao Sang. The allegations came as workers organized protests at the site in June over unpaid wages.

Iao Sang said that in addition to the outstanding fees, Hsin Chong has effectively taken over the construction site since the termination of the agree-

ment and is unlawfully using their equipment and workers.

The university issued a statement in response to the dispute. USJ reiterated that public funds for the project have never been and are not at risk as "the contract with Hsin Chong is particularly strict in this matter."

USJ also said that "over the past few months, the construction has not stopped and, according to information received [by November 4], there are currently 400 people working on

the site."

"The project has suffered delays, but present estimates by our technical advisors continue to indicate that the College and the University will be able to use the new campus for the 2016-2017 academic year," the university added.

A total of MOP520 million has been budgeted for the new campus, with about half of that sum being provided by the Macau Foundation and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau. The first stone of the new campus was laid in 2009, and the inauguration was planned for 2011. However, the project has faced numerous setbacks and the opening date has been repeatedly pushed back.

This week the Macau Foundation granted a total of MOP101 million to the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education. A portion of the grant is to be devoted to the second-phase construction of the USJ Ilha Verde campus. **Staff reporter**

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Uber now 'hiring' drivers in Macau

CONFIRMATION has come in the form of a promotion advert on Facebook that links to Uber's official website. Uber is looking to expand its operations in the region and, in order to accomplish this, is searching for drivers.

The Chinese language sign-up page encourages potential new drivers to partner with Uber, enticing them with attractive working conditions such as a flexible working schedule and the possibility of significant extra income, even when only working part-time.

Information and a link to the sign-up website can be accessed through the recently-created Facebook page "優步澳門司機專頁 | Uber Macau Driver Page", a "meeting-point" for people interested in becoming part of Uber's network. Although newly created, the page already has in excess of 1,800 likes and exists in addition to another community Facebook page, established at around the same time, named "撐Uber 澳門需要你 | Support Uber Macau," that is currently gathering the support of "fans" of the transportation system that recently started operations in the MSAR.

At the moment about 7,600 people have liked the "Support page" which, unlike the first page, does not appear to have any official connection with the company running the transportation-hiring app.

However, the Transport Bureau and the Public Security Police Force claim that the Uber ride-sharing service is illegal because "according to local laws and regulations, a vehicle must be duly registered as a taxi before a driver can offer someone a ride in exchange for the payment of a fee." **RM**

Sacred Music Festival aims for cooperation with local artists

Renato Marques

ORGANIZED by the Alliance Francaise de Macao for the first time, the Sacred Music Festival aims "both to valorize the heritage of Macau", enlivening some of its monuments with musical concerts, namely churches, and to "cooperate with local artists", said Mr Xavier Garnier, director of Alliance Francaise de Macao, in his opening speech yesterday at Sofitel Ponte 16.

In its first edition, the festival has partnered with the Macau Orchestra and "Dolce Voce", a local choir under the leadership of Maria Vanessa Leão, to create a blend of voices with a different flavor in a new choral experience.

The festival opening concert (tomorrow, 7 p.m.) will feature the Macau Orchestra, conducted especially by Lio Kuok Man, a Macau born conductor who is currently living and working in the US. It will feature a per-



From left, the deputy director of the Alliance Francaise, Sam Lei, a Macau Orchestra representative, Wong Ka, Xavier Garnier and Lio Kuok Man

formance from Sébastien Fournier, a countertenor from Lyon, France. Both men were already in Macau for the "French May" and for the Sacred Music Festival they will be performing with the baroque ensemble "Sprezzatura".

This will be the first of three concerts on the program that will fill both St Dominic's Church and St Joseph's Church (for the second concert).

For the second concert,

"Sprezzatura" will partner with local choir "Dolce Voce" (Nov. 9, 7 p.m.).

For the closing of the Festival, on Nov. 12, the "Sprezzatura" will perform once more at St Dominic's Church, this time alone.

Taking advantage of the presence of several festival guests, the organizer has also set up master classes in order to provide local artists with an opportunity to learn from the masters.

"I am very happy to be

back in my home town for the first edition of this meaningful festival. Macau has a lot of entertainment but we definitely need more art and culture, and doing this in these beautiful locations will be something to clinch our soul", Mr Lio said.

The conductor also expressed his happiness and pride to be working with the Macau Orchestra for the first time, mentioning that it was "the first orchestra I have heard about in my life".

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Professor José Manuel Fernandes

Full Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon

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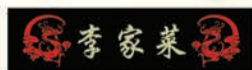
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STREET FOOD



Traditional patio roof collapses, Cultural Affairs Bureau fails to act on time

Renato Marques

IDENTIFIED as representative of a unique style and demonstrating a system based on collectivism, patios, the Chinese courtyard-style housing blocks, are one of the dominant architectural forms of Macau.

Patios were once extremely common in the Inner Harbor area, situated close to historical landmarks along with St. Lawrence Church, the A-Ma Temple, Lilau Square, and the Mandarin House. In spite of plans which were previously announced by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to protect and restore the patios, many of them are in a decrepit state. A key example of this is “Pátio da Ilusão” [Illusion Patio], whose roof fell off last month when strong winds and rain caused by typhoon Mujigae ravaged the city. Since the rooftop fell close to residential buildings, nothing more was done than attach a red-and-white tape to isolate and indicate the debris caused by the accident.

After being contacted by the Times, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) stated that after having obtained knowledge of the collapse, they “immediately moved to the location together with the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) to acknowledge the situation.”

“IC gives a lot of relevance to the protection of the patios and alleys and has consistently devoted efforts to their promotion and protection, including ‘Pátio da Ilusão,’ the IC stated in a reply to the Times, hinting that the responsibility for what happened may ultimately rest on the owners: “According to the law, the building’s owners have the duties of maintaining and repairing the buildings they own.” The bureau, headed by Ung Vai Meng, promised to “maintain close communication with the owners, urging them to fulfill these duties and providing the necessary support when needed.”

The reply is very similar to the one given in October 2011 regarding “Pátio das Seis Casas” [Six Houses Patio], a larger patio that stands beside “Pátio da Ilusão” that was also in a very dilapidated state, even though people are still living there. In 2011, IC said that it was “paying attention to the problem” and had scheduled a meeting with the owner. “At the very least, the IC will provide for the building’s security. We will analyze aspects that



have to do with the revitalization and general planning of the building,” the IC stated at the time, adding that the patio could be included in proposed touristic routes. But meanwhile, little more than cleaning the front area was done at “Pátio das Seis Casas.”

In order to learn more about these patios and their importance, the Times spoke with architects Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro and Nuno Soares, who have been studying local tra-

IC gives a lot of relevance to the protection of the patios and alleys and has consistently devoted efforts to their promotion and protection, including ‘Pátio da Ilusão’.

IC STATEMENT

ditional buildings and fighting for their protection.

According to Mr Soares, the “patios” are very important and need to be preserved: “They represent a unique kind of typology, a semi-public kind, which was very popular especially in the Inner Harbor area in the 19th and 20th centuries,” he explained. “This kind of system was once the standard in many areas of the city and it is especially important to talk about them because this kind of typology is not protected yet”.

In Soares’ opinion, the patio that is more representative of the style and has been preserved in a much better way is the “Pátio da Claridade,” although he thinks that “the patrimonial value of the ‘patios’ is the value of the system they represent so it is urgent to preserve them all as a system.”

According to him, “The ‘patios’ should be urgently added to Macau’s heritage list and, as best as possible, be used as per their original housing-related functions. This is a very rich typology that can work as clusters to the development of the areas in which they are still located because they are part of the collective memory of Macau and they are needed to preserve that memory too”.

Vizeu Pinheiro shares most of

the opinions held by his colleague, stating that “to protect the ‘patios’ we need first to classify them, as we should recognize that the absence of that classification is the focal point of the problem”.

“The original classification list is more than ten years old now and has become a static document, and we urge to make it a dynamic kind of document with reevaluations and classifications of new buildings and areas”, Mr Pinheiro stated. In his opinion, Macau should follow the examples of cities like Shanghai that constantly make new additions to their heritage list.

Vizeu Pinheiro says that the patios “are definitely part of the culture and urban tradition of Macau” and the remains opposed to the way in which the IC is working on heritage classification on a “case by case” basis, leading to a narrowing view on heritage issues that dislocate buildings from their location and local relevance. This leads to the listing and preservation of some valuable buildings while “forgetting others.”

He gives the example of Lilau Square that was rehabilitated because it was considered the most emblematic site, while others in the very same area were forgotten and replaced

by newer buildings with no reference to those that occupied the spot previously.

According to Mr Pinheiro, citing the new Cultural Heritage Protection Law, “the heritage is from all citizens” and so their thoughts should be vocalized and heard in the classification and preservation process.

“It is important that all sectors’ voices are heard and involved in this whole process,” he said. He also noted some peculiarities in the fact that IC allegedly gives preference to Hong Kong Institutions to classify and catalogue Macau’s heritage instead of giving the power to local people who know the ground in a much more in-depth way.

“This should be discussed with local academia and academics, as we have excellent professionals and experienced people at both the University of Macau and in the University of Saint Joseph that can help to do this job,” Mr Pinheiro said.

The Times visited several patios when preparing this report, witnessing that the degradation is clear and that there is also a level of danger, with some buildings giving clear signs of exhaustion and pre-collapse onto which no red-and-white striped tape can hold much longer.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Did you know...?

20 interesting facts about Macau property - Part 4

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.

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JULIET RISDON

The last 5 facts in the series. Hope you have found them interesting.

16. Grounds for terminating a rental agreement

A landlord may terminate a rental agreement if the rent remains unpaid, if the tenant uses the premises for something other than stated in the rental agreement, if the tenant carries out alterations without permission or if the tenant sub-lets without permission.

A tenant may terminate a rental agreement if the property becomes uninhabitable due to some major issue such as a permanent loss of power in the building, burst pipes inside the walls causing continuous flooding. The agreement may also be terminated if the building becomes unsafe or unstable.

17. A landlord is entitled to one month's compensation for early termination of the agreement

If an agreement is terminated prior to the end date, the landlord is entitled to retain an amount of up to 1 months rent according to Macau law.

Even if the agreement states that the tenant may provide 90 days notice at any time during the contract, the landlord may have one month's rent as compensation. But the compensation cannot be set at an amount

exceeding two months' rent under Macau law.

In practice, it tends not to happen in Macau, as most tenants and landlords prefer to stick to the contracts they sign.

18. The most common mistake made by tenants

Tenants often move from building to building looking for a better apartment, nicer facilities, a better landlord etc.

The cost of re-locating, factoring in moving costs, agency fees, the cost of your own time and of course the stress of the move itself, and it all becomes quite expensive.

In general, when you rent a property it is far more cost effective and less stressful to spend a little time, money and attention turning it into a place in which you are happy to live rather than constantly 'shop around' for a new apartment.

19. The most common mistake made by property owners

Property owners often boast that they 'don't pay agency fees'. Ironically, it is this 'non payment of fees' that usually end up costing them their shirt.

Agents are marketing and promoting properties for a living, and like many people they don't like to work for free.

When owners insist on not paying agency fees, agents have been known create a fee buy adding an extra amount to the selling price and 'flipping' the property. This is a practice we have written about before.

Instead of working for the owner, the agent works for themselves, and suddenly they are motivated to give the lowest price to the owner and the highest price to buyer.

We estimate this practice costs owners an average of HK\$100,000 per transaction.

(Note: The practice of 'flipping' has been dramatically reduced thanks to the new additional stamp duty if a property is sold within 2 years, but it does still go on).

20. The most common mistake made by property buyers

The most common mistake made by buyers is procrastination.

Looking back on last year, the vast majority of buyers end up regretting the deals that they did NOT do.

Trying to save \$50,000 on the purchase and squeeze sellers for a rock bottom price is often the undoing of many ambitious buyer.

In reality (no pun intended), \$50,000 spread over the lifetime of the property is of very little significance. Wise buyers know this, and tend purchase the right properties quickly and quietly when they become available.

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Tong Jia de Ramirez
Phone Number: +853 6668 1771

Brandon Bailey
Technology Writer, San Francisco

As Facebook grows, expect to see more ads on Instagram

IF you're starting to notice more ads on Instagram, it's all part of Facebook's plan.

Facebook, the world's largest social network, has steadily built its advertising business to become the world's second-largest digital ad platform after Google. Now it's looking at ways to make more money from video ads and from newer services like Instagram, the mobile photo-sharing app that it bought for USD1 billion in 2012.

Instagram recently announced it has over 400 million monthly users, surpassing the 300 million who use the rival social networking site Twitter. While Facebook has been introducing Instagram ads slowly — to avoid irritating users by overloading them with commercial messages — the company said in September that it would allow more kinds of ads, including longer video spots, on the photo-sharing service.

With those new formats, Instagram could produce more than \$250 million in revenue for the current quarter, Evercore ISI analyst Ken Sena estimates. Businesses will spend about \$600 million on Instagram ads this year — and nearly \$1.5 billion in 2016, according to research firm eMarketer.

"When we talk to advertisers and ad agencies, they're very interested in Instagram," said eMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson.

One reason: In recent years, there's been a debate over whether teens and young adults are forsaking Facebook in favor of newer, trendier online services. But Williamson said young adults are "very visually focused and pretty heavy users of Instagram."

Facebook doesn't disclose how much of its revenue comes from Instagram. The company beat Wall Street estimates on Wed-



Mark Zuckerberg

nesday (yesterday, Macau time) by reporting third-quarter net income of \$891 million, on revenue of \$4.5 billion. Profit was up 11 percent, while revenue grew 40 percent from the same period a year earlier.

More than 1.55 billion people now visit Facebook at least once a month, up 14 percent from a year ago. Daily users increased by 17 percent, to 1.1 billion. As in previous quarters, Facebook

said a majority of users are visiting Facebook on mobile devices, and mobile ads contributed 78 percent of the company's ad revenue.

Those results drove Facebook's stock up more than 3.5 percent in late trading, after shares closed Wednesday at \$103.94.

Facebook has seen continued growth in revenue and users over the last three years, but the company is growing more slowly as it gets bigger. That's led it to consider new ways of showing advertising.

Facebook is also increasingly introducing new ways for its users to share and watch video on the social network, positioning itself against Google's popular YouTube service. CEO Mark Zuckerberg told analysts Wednesday that Facebook users are now watching more than 8 billion video clips a day on the site, up from 4 billion in April. (Facebook counts any clip played for at least 3 seconds as a "view.")

Analysts say Facebook has huge, untapped potential in both video and its growing stable of apps and services, many of which operate separately from the main social network. That includes Instagram, the WhatsApp messaging app and Oculus VR, which makes virtual reality gear.

More than 800 million people are now using WhatsApp, the messaging app Facebook bought for \$19 billion in 2014, and another 700 million people use the Messenger service that Facebook developed internally.

While the company hasn't spelled out plans to make money from those apps, chief financial officer David Wehner told analysts Wednesday that he's confident "there are going to be opportunities" in the future.

Experts caution that Facebook must be careful as it introduces new kinds of advertising, so it doesn't overwhelm or annoy users. The company worked closely with advertisers to make sure the first ads on Instagram "met a high bar" for aesthetics and creativity, Williamson said.

Still, she said she's recently seen "a couple of duds."

Sandberg acknowledged that concern, telling analysts the company is monitoring the quality of ads closely. AP

Facebook's share will be 9.6 percent this year, up from 8 percent last year, while Google's will drop from 32 percent last year to 30.4 percent this year.

Still, she said she's recently seen "a couple of duds."

Sandberg acknowledged that concern, telling analysts the company is monitoring the quality of ads closely. AP

When we talk to advertisers and ad agencies, they're very interested in Instagram.

DEBRA AHO WILLIAMSON
EMARKETER ANALYST

400m
The number of monthly users on Instagram

corporate bits

GOLDEN PEACOCK AWARDED MICHELIN GUIDE TO FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR



The Michelin Guide has once again recognized the Golden Peacock at The Venetian Macao as a one-star restaurant, signifying "a very good restaurant in its category," for the third year in a row.

"I am extremely proud that Michelin has recognized the Golden peacock again, both from a personal perspective

and for my very talented team," said Keralan native, Chef Justin Paul. "We strive to offer the best regional Indian cuisine to our guests and we work hard to adapt the menu to ensure that our guests get not only the best possible experience but also one that they will not have had anywhere else in Macau."

ST. REGIS MACAO PARTNERS WITH SAILOR NICK MOLONEY

The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Central, scheduled to open in December, is pairing with two-time America's Cup sailor Nick Moloney.

Paul Cunningham, General Manager for The St. Regis Macao, says; "St. Regis is known for delivering experiences beyond expectations and if there is one sailor who truly lives this value it is Nick Moloney. We are delighted to announce our partnership with a man whose historic achievements speak for themselves and whose stories of life at sea have inspired many."

With 15 world sailing speed records under his belt Nick Moloney knows about living at high-speed. "Life in the fast lane, of chasing speed records



and trying to beat the competition, means you often forget to stop and take a look around. I am still chasing dreams but St. Regis epitomizes what it is to take a rest from life's hectic pace and truly admire the world. I am honored to be working with The St. Regis Macao and look forward to a strong partnership."

CITY OF DREAMS' THE TASTING ROOM AND JADE DRAGON GAIN TWO MICHELIN STARS

Melco's French chef-d'oeuvre The Tasting Room and the Chinese restaurant Jade Dragon have increased their Michelin star tally to two each in the newly published Michelin Guide Hong Kong Macau 2016. The awards mark the fourth and third years respectively that The Tasting Room and Jade Dragon have been recognized for their continued excellence by the Michelin Guide, making them the only two restaurants in Macau to enjoy an elevated star status and two of only 16 outlets in Macau to receive the honor.

"We are absolutely delighted to see City of Dreams prove once again that it is a must-stop location for fine dining in Macau. That Michelin has



again recognized the quality of food and service at The Tasting Room and Jade Dragon — as thousands of loyal customers have over the past year — is testament to the hard work that the management, the staff and, of course, our celebrated chefs have invested to reach this pinnacle of culinary excellence and quality," said Mr. Kristoffer Luczak, Senior Vice President of Food and Beverage, Melco Crown Entertainment Limited.

NOVEMBER EXCLUSIVES FROM ONE CENTRAL Deluxe Fashion, Divine Style

Cooler weather brings with it the opportunity to wrap up in luxurious fabrics and make a statement with accessories showcasing extravagant embroidery and whimsical details that speak volumes about style.

This season is all about a statement coat and unique accessories. The perfect way to update your wardrobe for winter by investing in a classic coat in a luxurious fabric - think cashmere - is always a smart idea. Ermenegildo Zegna's wool and cashmere coat is a perfect example of investment dressing for men. Accessories are the way to get playful. This season sees designers exhibiting their creativity through the clever use of detailing such as embroidery, pattern and colour, while others play up their childish side! Check out MOSCHINO's adorable bear backpack and DOLCE & GABBANA's heart-shaped Cuore Sacro bag, which are both fun and light-hearted. FENDI's elegant calf hair Peekaboo bag is a grown-up piece that will stand the test of time, just like Bally's Eclipse bag (available in rose pink or black) which is a little bit lady-like and a little bit rock and roll.



MOSCHINO
Bear backpack



DOLCE & GABBANA
Cuore Sacro heart-shaped bag with angels



FENDI
Calf Hair Peekaboo



Bally
Eclipse Bag



Ermenegildo Zegna
Wool and cashmere coat

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Xi arrives to woo Vietnam comrades and reverse US drift

John Boudreau and Ting Shi

WHEN President Xi Jinping lays a wreath at the hulking Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi this week, he'll be reminding Vietnam of the country's shared communist lineage and Cold War partnership battling the U.S.

Xi's visit today - the first by a Chinese president in a decade - will emphasize growing economic bonds between the neighbors, with China accounting for one-fifth of Vietnam's trade last year, up from 12 percent in 2005. He'll also face a public wary of China's growing influence and its assertiveness in the South China Sea that's exacerbating a decades-long spat over territory, fishing grounds and drilling rights. Only 19 percent of Vietnamese hold favorable views on China, a Pew Research Center poll shows.

"They bully us at sea and want to take our islands," university student Tran Hoang Nam, 21, said Monday, while strolling past the granite monument to Vietnam's patriarch. "They sell us fake products and toxic food. So, we have to be very cautious when dealing with this so-called good friend."

The two-day state visit comes at a time of change in both Vietnam's government and its relations abroad, and Xi will be looking to shore up China's position on both fronts. A planned leadership transition in the ruling Communist Party of Vietnam next year could see China critics gain more power. Meanwhile, Hanoi has drifted increasingly toward its former foes in Washington, signing defense cooperation pacts and joining the U.S.-led Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal.

Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong made an unprecedented visit to the White House in July, prompting President Barack Obama to pledge a return trip "soon." Although no plans have been announced, Obama will be in



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R, front) and his wife Peng Liyuan are welcomed by Vietnamese senior officials upon their arrival in Hanoi

the region this month for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference.

"Xi wants to show Vietnam that its relationship with China is more important than that of any other country, especially the U.S.," said Nguyen Manh Hung, professor emeritus at George Mason University in Virginia. "He wants to show Vietnam, you need me and you don't want to make me angry. The Vietnamese can't totally ignore Chinese pressure."

Xi arrived in the Vietnamese capital just before noon yesterday. Before his plane touched down, police in Ho Chi Minh

City, about 1,200 kilometers to the south, blocked 80 to 100 protesters from marching on the local Chinese consulate, according to two people who said they participated. Some of the protesters, who were carrying signs urging Xi to "go away," were beaten and detained, the people said. Local police declined to comment when reached by phone.

Xi will be visiting as head of the world's largest Communist party, as well as president, and will address Vietnam's National Assembly today. He's expected to highlight economic and ideological links and avoid discussion of disagreements, said Le Hong Hiep, a lecturer at Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. The Bank of China is prepared to finance Vietnamese infrastructure projects to help forge closer relations between Vietnam and China, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday.

"This is not just a state visit, but also a party-to-party visit to weigh in on Vietnam's politics," said Zachary Abuza, a professor at the National War College in Washington. "The Chinese are very concerned you are going to get a group of people in power

who are much more predisposed to improving ties and economic relations with the U.S."

Vietnam and China fought a brief border war in 1979 and have clashed over control of the Paracel and Spratly island chains. Last year, China placed an oil rig in waters near the Paracels, which China seized in 1974, triggering confrontations

“On some occasions, it's been one step from war. The territorial disputes have become a dominating factor in bilateral relations.”

ZHANG MINGLIANG
JINAN UNIVERSITY, GUANGZHOU

between Vietnamese and Chinese boats and deadly anti-Chinese riots in Vietnam.

"On some occasions, it's been one step from war," said Zhang Mingliang, a specialist in Sino-Vietnamese relations at Jinan University in Guangzhou. "The territorial disputes have become a dominating factor in the bilateral relations over the past few years, and almost overshadowed other aspects."

China claims more than 80 percent of the South China Sea based on a nine-dash line drawn on a 1947 map for which it gives no precise coordinates. Vietnam has said it is considering taking legal action against its neighbor, after the Philippines lodged a similar complaint with an international arbitration tribunal in the Hague.

The territorial spats have stoked historical animosity going back hundreds of years to when Chinese emperors ruled the area as part of their broader empire. A Facebook petition signed by 170 activists last month called on Hanoi to rescind Xi's invitation.

Exchanges such as Xi's trip bear "witness to the two neighbors' will and ability to properly manage their differences," Xinhua said in a commentary published yesterday. Both sides must not let "parochial and ill-intended views to go unchecked and mislead the public opinion toward the unfathomable abyss of confrontation," it said.

China has over the years sought to play down disputes and stress economic and cultural ties during visits with Vietnamese leaders. Xi, like his predecessors, Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, is planning to meet representatives of Vietnamese young people on this trip.

"Chinese leaders long ago realized that to secure long-term stability in bilateral ties, a key factor and challenge is to win over the hearts and minds of the Vietnamese young people," said Shen Shishun, a senior researcher at the China Institute of International Studies. "This is an uphill battle to say the least."

Views toward the U.S. are overwhelmingly positive, with 78 percent of Vietnamese reporting favorable opinions of the country, according to Pew. When the USS Fitzgerald and USS Fort Worth warships visited the one-time American military hub of Danang in April, local officials posed with U.S. Navy officers in dress whites. At the same time, the local government has banned the G.I.s' nickname for nearby "China Beach" because it conveys the "wrong information."

"The Vietnamese have had many years of a love-hate relationship with China," said Hung, of George Mason University. "In the thousand years of Vietnamese-Chinese relationship, it's been more hate than love." **Bloomberg**



The Vietnamese version of Chinese President Xi Jinping's book on governance, released in Vietnam's capital Hanoi

TAIWAN

Ma wants Xi to ease island's isolation

TAIWAN'S president said yesterday he hopes this weekend's historic meeting with China's leader can ease Beijing's hardline stance on diplomatic relations with Taiwan, which is now recognized by just 22 countries.

President Ma Ying-jeou also insisted that his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping was not a political move to boost his party's chances in Taiwan's January elections. Ma's ruling Nationalist Party has been trailing in polls.

"The object of our decision is not the next election," Ma said at a news conference. "It's the happiness of the next generation."

Saturday's meeting in Singapore is the first between the leaders of the two formerly bitter Cold War foes since Taiwan split from mainland China in 1949 during the Chinese civil war. It's being hailed as a historical watershed, though both sides have said there will be no formal agreements signed or joint statements issued.

The highly sensitive issue of Taiwan's marginalization in international society was one of the few concrete discussion



Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou addresses media during a press conference detailing his planned meeting with China's President Xi Jinping at the Presidential Office in Taipei

points Ma raised during the hour-long news conference at the Presidential Office Building in the heart of the capital, Taipei.

"Taiwan has for quite some time encountered no small amount of trouble participating in international events and we frequently hear from the public about this, especially nongovernmental organizations," Ma said.

"Therefore, at this Ma-Xi meeting, we will raise the issue and hope to come to some agreement about it and allow Taiwan to have an expanded international space."

China refuses to acknowledge the island as anything other than a breakaway province, and pressure from Beijing keeps Taiwan out of the United Nations and other major multina-

tional organizations.

Most of the world's countries recognized Taiwan in the 1960s, but only 22 do now: all relatively small Latin American, Caribbean, African and Pacific island nations, plus the Vatican. The U.S., though still a key supporter, severed official ties in 1979.

Taiwan is allowed to compete at the Olympics, but under the name "Chinese Taipei."

One subject not planned for discussion Saturday, according to Ma, is the South China Sea, where Taiwan and China have overlapping claims, in competition with four other countries. Tensions have been rising over China's increasingly robust assertions of its claims, but Taiwan has largely remained aloof from the matter.

Taiwan's main opposition De-

mocratic Progressive Party and others on the island have questioned Ma's motivations and the timing of the meeting. The Nationalists are forecast to lose the presidency in the Jan. 16 to the DPP and are struggling to hang on to their majority in the legislature. A successful meeting could give the Nationalists a boost, but could also cost them further support if voters see Ma as pandering to Beijing.

Ma said such questioning overlooked the meeting's historic significance.

"This Ma-Xi meeting is a positive thing for Taiwan, for the mainland and for the entire world. You can see that in the response from all sectors," Ma stated.

Ma said he also hoped the meeting would set a precedent for "regularizing" contacts between leaders of China and Taiwan, who share robust economic links despite their lengthy political alienation.

"In future, on this basis, whoever is elected the president of the Republic of China can continue to advance cross-strait relations. That was our consideration," Ma said, using Taiwan's formal name.

Ma also pledged to release related documents and provide maximum transparency to allay suspicions about possible secret deals made at the meeting.

Although the meeting was only announced in the early hours of Wednesday morning, Ma said it had been in the works for about two years. Ma said advance notice had also been provided to the U.S.

Because the sides had ruled out meeting in China or at multilateral forums, a neutral third-party space was the only possible venue. Singapore was the scene of breakthrough talks between semi-official negotiators from the two sides in 1992 and continues to maintain close relations with both. **AP**

[We] hope to come to some agreement and allow Taiwan to have an expanded international space.

MA YING-JEOU

PHOTO SHOWS LAST MEETING OF NATIONALIST, COMMUNIST LEADERS



THE FADING black and white photo showing China's Nationalist President Chiang Kai-shek and

his Communist rival Mao Zedong standing awkwardly next to each other is a rare relic of their last meeting in 1945 before becoming leaders of rival governments. Seventy years later, the presidents of those two sides — Taiwan and mainland China — are to hold their first meeting tomorrow. To some, the meeting in Singapore represents the dawn of a new era of recognition and respect. Pictured in the front row of the photo from the left are U.S. Ambassador Patrick Hurley, Chiang, who ruled Taiwan until his death in 1975, and Mao, who ruled China until his death in 1976.

China Southern boss latest exec caught in graft crackdown

THE biggest Chinese airline said yesterday its chairman is being investigated by the country's anti-corruption agency.

China Southern Airlines said Si Xianmin is being investigated "by the relevant authorities for suspected serious disciplinary violations." The phrase usually refers to corruption.

No details were given

in the brief statement to Hong Kong's stock exchange. The statement followed a similar announcement posted late Wednesday on the website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, China's top anti-graft body.

Si, who has been chairman since 2009, is the latest top executive at a state owned company caught up in President Xi

Jinping's widening anti-corruption crackdown.

Earlier this week, the commission said it was investigating the general manager of Dongfeng Motor, China's second-largest automaker.

China Southern is the country's biggest airline by passengers and fleet size. The company, which is based in the southern boomtown of Guangzhou, is one of three state-ow-

ned carriers that dominate the country's fast-growing aviation market.

China Southern and Dongfeng Motor were among 13 state-owned companies targeted a year ago in a round of inspections by the anti-corruption watchdog.

The airline said last month that an executive vice-president was placed under investigation for suspected bribery. **AP**



In this Sept. 6 2005 file photo, Iain Gray, left, managing director of Airbus UK, and Si Xianmin, chairman of China Southern Airlines, shake hands as they agree a purchase agreement for ten Airbus 330s

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi eyes post 'above the president'

Robin McDowell, Yangon

MYANMAR opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that she will be the true power above the country's president if her party wins historic elections this Sunday, circumventing a constitutional clause that bars her from the top job.

"It's a very simple message," Suu Kyi said, when reporters pressed her to explain what she meant. While another member of her National League for Democracy party would hold the presidential title, "I'll make all the proper and important decisions."

"I'll be above the president," she said, appearing bemused as she spoke to hundreds of reporters gathered at the lakeside villa that was her prison before the country began its transition from dictatorship to democracy five years ago. "I'll run the government."

She insisted her plan was legal because "the constitution says nothing about being 'above the president.'"



Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the media at a press conference at her home in Yangon

The constitution, drafted under military control, includes a vaguely worded phrase saying the president "takes precedence over all other persons."

The Sunday elections are billed as Myanmar's best chance ever for a free and credible vote, with experts noting the nation experienced widespread suppression of dissent and vio-

lence even before the 1962 coup that plunged the country into military rule for the next half-century.

The constitution, however, guarantees that the armed forces maintain control over 25 percent of the seats in parliament and the key security portfolios. In a clause widely seen as custom-tailored for Suu Kyi,

it also bars her from the presidency because her late husband was British and her two sons hold foreign passports.

The 70-year-old opposition leader said yesterday that the run-up to the vote had been seriously flawed and that she hoped the international community would not be too quick after ballots were counted to declare it free and fair, noting the U.S. and others have at times been overly enthusiastic about political and economic reforms.

"I ask them," she said. Beyond the veneer, "what has changed?"

The Union Election Commission, which oversees the voting, is headed by a vocal supporter of President Thein Sein's ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Suu Kyi said the commission had ignored repeated complaints about irregularities in advance voting, the illegal use of religion by her political opponents, and the disenfranchisement of migrant workers.

She did not mention the coun-

try's 1.3 million Rohingya Muslims, who have been denied the right to vote for the first time since independence.

The government says all are illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh, though many of their families arrived generations ago.

Human rights groups have criticized Suu Kyi for remaining silent about the Rohingya's plight. She, however, says her job is to reconcile the two communities, not to fan divisions. When one reporter repeated claims by some rights groups and legal experts that the Muslim minority is facing genocide, Suu Kyi said, "I think it's very important that we should not exaggerate problems in the country."

"We have to make big problems small and small problems disappear," she said.

As daughter of the country's late independence hero, Suu Kyi is treated with near-reverence by many people. Her party is widely expected to win the largest number of seats in parliament on Sunday. **AP**

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MALDIVES

Parliament impeaches VP accused of plotting to kill president



Maldives' Parliament voted overwhelmingly yesterday to impeach the country's vice president, who is accused of plotting to kill the president. Ahmed Adeb is the second vice president to be impeached in three months. He has been arrested for allegedly planning to kill President Yameen Abdul Gayoom in an explosion on his speedboat on Sept. 28. The impeachment motion received 61 votes in favor and none opposed in the 85-member Parliament. The main opposition group, the Maldivian Democratic Party, abstained. The president declared a state of emergency on Wednesday, saying the explosion and subsequent discovery of arms posed a threat to national security. Adeb, 33, who was once Gayoom's trusted protege, became vice president in July after the impeachment of his predecessor, Mohamed Jameel, who had fallen out of the president's favor.

PAKISTAN

Death toll in factory building collapse rises to 18



A Pakistani official says the death toll in the collapse of a factory building under construction in the eastern city of Lahore has risen to 18. Jam Sajjad Hussain from the state rescue agency said yesterday that about 50 people have been injured in the incident. Hussain says rescuers worked overnight and saved over 102 people from the rubble of the building, which collapsed Wednesday on the outskirts of Lahore city. Another government official Abdul Qadir says several workers are still buried under the debris. Over 200 workers were inside the building when it caved in. The cause of the collapse is yet to be determined. It happened just over a week after a magnitude-7.5 earthquake hit Pakistan, killing 273 people and damaging nearly 75,000 homes.

PRESS FREEDOM

Myanmar's fledgling journalists gird for historic election

Denis D. Gray, Yangon

THEIR predecessors suffered torture, imprisonment and death at the hands of a die-hard military regime for more than half a century. Now, Myanmar's journalists — newly fledged, muscle-flexing but also still apprehensive — are challenged with the first general election since 1960 to be covered with relative freedom.

The independent press for months has been girding itself with training and strategy sessions, figuring out how to breach barriers to polling access and expose cheating and other irregularities — both widely anticipated during what is heralded as a historic showdown Nov. 8 between the ruling party, backed by the still-powerful military, and one headed by pro-democracy opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"It's a milestone in my career and that of everyone here," says Kyaw Zwa Moe, editor of *The Irrawaddy*, earlier imprisoned for eight years for publishing a political journal and participating in the pro-democracy movement. "I told my reporters, 'You have to have passion to cover these elections. You are not only doing your duty as journalists but serving your country. You are opening people's eyes.'"

An explosion in the number of mobile telephone users — now up to about 20 million out of a population of 52 million — has allowed public access to news through the Internet. Facebook is the overwhelming social media vehicle.

Censorship was lifted in 2012, a year after a military junta gave way to a nominally elected government. Though broadcast media continues under firm government control, other independent outlets have mushroomed, and some feature outstanding journalists who have pushed the restrictive envelope the regime still maintains.

Some journalists, however, engage in partisan politics, filling columns with virulent, racist attacks against the country's persecuted Rohingya Muslims and other minorities. Some are simply untutored in their profession.

"Some reporters are just giving the reader raw meat because they don't know how to cook it," says Aye Mya Kyaw,



A newspaper vendor prepares papers for distribution in Yangon

senior editor of the mass-circulation *7Day News Journal*. "Their enthusiasm is high but their experience isn't."

Kyaw Zwa Moe points out that many newly minted reporters have never even voted in an election, let alone covered one. The last nationwide election, in 2010, was boycotted by Suu Kyi's party and widely viewed as unfair.

Journalists who push too hard still risk imprisonment, or worse. Under the country's 2014 media law, journalists can be charged and jailed for reports "likely to cause fear or alarm to the public," "inflammate conflicts regarding nationality, religion and race" or that delve into sensitive military matters.

■ ■
Authorities are still relying on the same old tactics — arrests, surveillance, threats and jail time to muzzle journalists.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Last year 11 journalists were jailed, including five sentenced to seven years' hard labor for reporting on an alleged chemical weapons factory. Freelancer Aung Kyaw Naing was shot dead in military custody while covering conflict between the regime and ethnic insurgents in 2014. Some journalists have received death threats from ultranationalists and radical Buddhists for reporting on the Rohingya issue.

Journalists have reported that surveillance and interrogation by military intelligence operatives continues as it did in the days of the junta. In a report this year, Amnesty International described Myanmar's treatment of media as "repression dressed up as progress."

"Authorities are still relying on the same old tactics — arrests, surveillance, threats and jail time to muzzle those journalists who cover 'inconvenient' topics," the rights group said.

Ann Olson, an American journalist who has trained Myanmar colleagues over the past 18 months, says some media owners censor themselves. "They can't be sure they won't be the next victims of the government's crackdown on media," she says.

Still, the media climate is significantly better than it

was during the half-century in which the military ruled. Myanmar was ranked nearly at the bottom of Reporters Without Borders' World Press Freedom Index in 2010, but was 114th out of 180 countries this year. Journalists are able to get their message out as never before via some 40 major national print publications, numerous local outlets and cyberspace.

"This is the year of IT. Under the military we were blind," says Hkhun Kyi Myint, a village elder in Karen state, 280 kilometers east of Yangon. Several teenagers who sat in on his interview said they were all among the nearly 4 million Facebook users in Myanmar.

Ye Naing Moe, founder of the Yangon Journalism School, and others say there has been no egregious interference with the media in the lead-up to the elections, but they are concerned about polling day and especially its aftermath.

"It's exciting, important and some believe their vote will bring positive change, but it's not a step that will change everything," he says. "We still have the legacy of military rule, the economy is in the hands of the establishment and there is the constitution," which enshrines much of the military's power. "We still have to walk a long way." AP



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EGYPTIAN AIR CRASH

Moscow, Cairo dismiss US, UK claims bomb brought down jet

Dmitry Lovetsky and
Nataliya Vasilyeva, Veliky Novgorod

RUSSIA and Egypt yesterday dismissed suggestions by Britain and the United States that a bomb was likely to have brought down a Metrojet flight packed with Russian vacationers coming home from an Egyptian resort, saying the claim was premature.

A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Peskov, insisted that aviation investigators were working on all possible theories as to why the Airbus A320-200 carrying 224 people crashed Saturday in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing everyone on board. He said naming just one possibility was mere speculation.

"One cannot rule out a single theory, but at this point there are no reasons to voice just one theory as reliable — only investigators can do that," Peskov told reporters in Moscow.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Wednesday spoke of a "significant possibility" the crash was caused by a bomb and Britain immediately suspended all flights to and from Sharm el-Sheikh, the Red Sea resort where the flight originated.

Egyptian officials have con-



Local people come to pay their last respects to Russian plane crash victims, in Gatchina, 40 kilometers outside St. Petersburg

demned Britain's travel ban as an overreaction. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi was in London on a state visit yesterday, facing what is likely to be a tense meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

The plane crashed in the northern Sinai, where Egyptian forces have been battling an Islamic insurgency for years. Islamic State has claimed responsibility for downing the plane but offered no proof. El-Sissi has

called the IS claim "propaganda" designed to embarrass his government.

Egyptian Antiquities Minister Mamdouh Eldamaty rejected the U.S. and British allegations outright.

"(The crash) not a terror act. It was an accident," he declared yesterday, speaking at the ancient city of Luxor as authorities opened three tombs to the public for the first time in an effort to encourage tourism.

"(It's) very sad what happened, but we have to wait for the result of the investigation."

Egypt's presidential spokesman, Alaa Youssef, also said Egyptian authorities wish the U.S. and Britain had "waited for the result of the ongoing investigation."

Metrojet has suspended all flights of Airbus A321 jets in its fleet after the crash, the Russian Federal Transport Agency said yesterday.

The company has ruled out a pilot error or a technical fault as a possible cause of the crash, drawing criticism from Russian officials for speaking with such certainty too soon.

Intercepted communications played a role in the tentative conclusion that the Islamic State group's Sinai affiliate planted an explosive device on the

plane, said a U.S. official briefed on the matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss intelligence matters publicly.

The official and others said there had been no formal judgment rendered by the CIA or other intelligence agencies, and that forensic evidence from the blast site, including the airplane's black box, was still being analyzed.

The official added that intelligence analysts don't believe the operation was ordered by Islamic State leaders in Raqqa, Syria, but possibly planned and executed by the Islamic State's affiliate in the Sinai, which operates autonomously.

Britain sent a team of security and defense experts to Sharm el-Sheikh, where thousands of British tourists are stranded by the British ban on flights. Hammond says he expects British tourists to be flown back from the resort starting today, after measures are taken to tighten security at the resort's airport.

"The airline industry is indicating that they expect by tomorrow to be in a position to start bringing people out," Hammond said. **AP**

EGYPT SAYS UK UNILATERALLY CANCELLED FLIGHTS

BRITISH PRIME Minister David Cameron says the crash of a Russian jet in Egypt was "more likely than not" caused by a bomb. The U.K. grounded all flights to and from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula Wednesday, stranding thousands of British tourists. Cameron says he has "every sympathy" with the Egyptians, who rely so on

heavily on tourism, but that he had to "put the safety of British people first." Cameron spoke in 10 Downing Street yesterday. He says British officials are not yet certain the plane was bombed, but it's a "strong possibility." He says he would call Russian President Vladimir Putin later in the day to discuss the crash.

MEXICO

Supreme Court takes step toward recreational pot use

Katherine Corcoran
Mexico City

MEXICO'S Supreme Court ruled Wednesday (early yesterday, Macau time) that growing, possessing and smoking marijuana for recreation is legal under the right to freedom.

The measure was approved in 4-1 vote on the five-justice panel, backing the argument that smoking marijuana is covered under the right of "free development of personality."

At this point, the ruling covers only the plaintiffs in a single case, a group of four people wanting to form a pot club.

The ruling did not approve the sale or commercial production of marijuana nor does it imply a gene-

ral legalization. But if the court rules the same way on five similar petitions, it would then establish the precedent to change the law and allow general recreational use.

A similar process led to the court's recent ruling that Mexican laws prohibiting same-sex marriage are unconstitutional.

"No one has said at all that marijuana is harmless. It is a drug and, as such, it causes damage," said Justice Arturo Zaldívar, who wrote the majority opinion. "What is being resolved here is that total prohibition is a disproportionate measure."

At the same time, the ruling will help legalization measures being written in Congress, said Moy Schwartzman, one of the



A supporter of the legalization of marijuana smokes outside the Supreme Court in Mexico City

lawyers for the plaintiffs.

"They're noting this case and using it in their favor to present a law that will be in agreement and will protect people's rights," Schwartzman said. "In Mexico, this is a political theme. But the ruling gives importance to

human rights, in this case liberty."

President Enrique Peña Nieto, via his Twitter account, said he recognizes and will respect the ruling, adding that he has given his government orders to explain to Mexicans the scope of the ruling.

"This will open up the debate over the best regulation for inhibiting drug consumption, a public health issue," he wrote. "Mexico has promoted in international forums ... broadening the discussion."

Zaldívar said Wednesday's ruling would forbid smoking marijuana in front of others without their consent. It is unclear whether public consumption, even by the few people covered by the case, could still be regulated under public nuisance codes as alcohol is. For example, drinking in the street is forbidden in many parts of Mexico.

"We have to see what limits will be," said Health Secretary Mercedes Juan, referring to maximum

allowed quantities and where or how consumption would be allowed.

Proponents of legalizing marijuana staged a low-key demonstration outside the court building, including displaying information on marijuana use and legalization. Many in the crowd celebrated by lighting up, including Cesar Zanabria, who puffed on a fat homemade marijuana cigarette.

"Effectively this says a person can consume marijuana, or not, and no one is going to make him a criminal," Zanabria said, adding that he has been detained twice for smoking, even though personal consumption already is legal in Mexico. "This will start to get rid of the stigma." **AP**

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:00	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
18:50	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:20	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	News
21:45	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europa League Highlights
23:45	Portuguese Movie
01:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:45	Boonie Bears S.2
11:35	Young Adult
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:15	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:30	Contest
19:20	Miscellaneous
19:50	Macau 360° (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Drama
22:00	Drama
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SUNDAY

10:30	Young Children
11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Zig Zag
16:30	Young Adult
17:20	Documentary Series
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:45	Action
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Contraponto
22:00	Britain's Jihadi Brides
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report

offbeat

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT STEALS BUS TO GET TO FINAL YEAR EXAM

South African media say a high school student stole a bus in a desperate effort to get to his final year mathematics exams.

Broadcaster eNCA reported yesterday that Le-Aan Adonis got behind the wheel when the driver failed to show up.

Adonis told eNCA he found the keys in the bus. Other students said they asked the 20-year-old to drive because they trusted he could handle a bus.

The broadcaster said a traffic officer stopped the bus a short distance from the school in a village in the Western Cape province, and fined Adonis 5,000 rand (about USD361).

According to eNCA, Adonis faces a school disciplinary hearing. He has already received offers of free legal representation and donations for his fine.

The students arrived on time for their exam.

cinema



CINETEATRO

05 Nov - 11 Nov



007 - SPECTRE

ROOM 1

2.15, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 148min



ARE YOU HERE

ROOM 1

5.00 pm

Director: Jill Wong

Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 86min

OUR TIMES

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15 pm

Director: Ding Sheng

Starring: Andy Lau, Liu Ye, Wu Ruofu, Wang Qianyuan

Language: Mandarin (English/Cantonese)

Duration: 134min

ARE YOU HERE

ROOM 2

9.45 pm

Director: Jill Wong

Starring: Nina Paw, Helena Law, Susan Shaw

Language: Chinese (Cantonese and English)

Duration: 86min



SHE REMEMBERS, HE FORGETS

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Wong Say Ping

Starring: Miriam Yeung, Jan Lamb

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 110min

MACAU TOWER

05 Nov - 25 Nov

007 - SPECTRE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Daniel Craig, Christoph Waltz, Léa Seydoux

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 148min

this day in history



1968 NIXON WINS CLOSE CONTEST FOR PRESIDENT

After a day when the United States appeared to be on the brink of a constitutional crisis, Richard Nixon has finally emerged as the country's next president.

It was not until midday EST (1800 BST) that Democrat Vice-President Hubert Humphrey conceded victory to the Republican candidate.

The announcement came after a full 24 hours of waiting when at times it seemed any of the three presidential candidates could have won the race to the White House.

At the latest count, only 25,552 votes separated the two front runners. Mr Nixon and Mr Humphrey have each won 43% of the popular vote.

The third nominee, George Wallace, running on his own American Independent Party ticket, made early gains in the Southern states for his segregationist views and calls for the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam.

At a news conference this afternoon, Mr Nixon, surrounded by his family, appeared in a packed ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel.

He praised his opponent's "gallant and courageous" fight and pledged to "bring us together" in a united country.

The president-elect did not dwell on the closeness of the race.

He told reporters he had received a "gracious" message of congratulations from Mr Humphrey and had spoken to him on the phone.

He had also been congratulated by President Johnson and the two men had pledged to work together for a smooth transition of power.

The president-elect clinched his winning margin in the electoral college by taking Illinois - the same state which cost him victory against John F Kennedy eight years ago.

Illinois's 26 votes have taken him above the 270 majority required - although not all the electoral college votes are in yet.

However, Mr Nixon and the Republicans failed to win majorities in Congress. It means he will have to run the country with the legislative branch controlled by the opposition.

The Democrats will provide the leaders for the Senate and the House of Representatives and they will also have majorities on the committees.

Only three out of the previous 36 presidents have not had control of Congress. The last was Dwight D Eisenhower who suffered considerable frustrations and limitations on his powers as a result.

Mr Nixon's election represents a dramatic comeback for the man who was Mr Eisenhower's vice-president and went on to lose the presidential race to Mr Kennedy in 1960.

He lost the race for Governor of California in 1962 and returned to New York to work as a lawyer until returning to politics for the election campaign of 1968.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Richard Milhous Nixon was sworn in as the 37th president of the United States on 21 January 1969.

His most acclaimed achievements in office included reducing tension with China and the USSR. He also ended the war in Vietnam with what he termed "peace with honour".

He won a second term in 1973 but became the first president in US history to resign - over the Watergate scandal.

It was revealed there had been a break-in at the Democratic National Committee office in the Watergate building during the presidential election campaign which was traced back to Nixon's supporters.

Tape recordings showed the president had tried to influence the police investigation into the break-in.

By the time of his death on 22 April 1994 he had re-established his reputation as an elder statesman in foreign affairs.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
When the end of the week rolls around these days, you're less than relieved. In fact, you're not feeling all that great about having two days off. Pack as much as you can into your waking hours.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Catalogues are appealing, especially for things around the home. Don't even turn to page one. Even though there's no human being there, treat the shiny pages with the same caution you would a used car salesman.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Someone is moody and nasty if they don't get what they want. Don't let them intimidate you into coughing up the cash. Go ahead, let them call you cheap. You know they're the ones who are really being selfish.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You may have half the assets you once had, but you have more than double of so many other things that count. You just haven't stopped to take inventory of the things that really matter. Start today.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
A weaker person than you would have given up by now. Your persistence alone should be a matter of pride. Keep on keeping on. If you need inspiration, think of your role model.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
The most important thing you can do for your future self is to get organized today. Make it your priority. Everything else can wait, from family gatherings to socializing with friends.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
With so much to be down about, you need a pick-me-up. On the other hand, too much duality won't help matters, either. Settle for what brings you up into the middle ground, even if it's keeping your head down and toiling.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Having a lot of drive is one way to block out your emotions. Losing money shouldn't make you feel things like horror or despair. Go ahead, slow down long enough to find out just what lurks behind your closed doors.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If only you could follow your mood! Those days are long over. You have to make hay while the sun shines, just like the rest of the world. It goes without saying your energy level doesn't match the task before you.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
People around you are over reacting. In fact, they're going ballistic. As long as they're not going postal, don't make it your concern. You have enough of your own financial issues to deal with.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Things have not been easy for you. Getting maximum comfort from your routine has served you well. It's time, though, to take it out for a farewell lunch. Give yourself permission to shake things up a bit.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You're experiencing fun, even romance. Are you dreaming? Not at all. You can enjoy life even in the midst of the wreckage, if you continue to allow yourself to.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	2	4	sleet
Harbin	-7	2	clear
Tianjin	4	6	drizzle to moderate rain
Urumqi	-3	2	cloudy
Xi'an	11	13	drizzle
Lhasa	0	15	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	13	21	cloudy
Chongqing	15	18	drizzle/shower
Kunming	10	21	clear
Nanjing	17	25	drizzle
Shanghai	19	24	drizzle
Wuhan	15	24	drizzle/moderate rain
Hangzhou	18	28	cloudy
Taipei	23	30	clear
Guangzhou	22	29	cloudy/drizzle
Hong Kong	25	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	0	2	drizzle
Frankfurt	9	15	drizzle
Paris	14	16	drizzle
London	11	16	drizzle
New York	17	20	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Concordes; 5- Chest or closet material; 10- Silents star Theda; 14- Beige; 15- Musical drama, usually sung in Italian; 16- Airline since 1948; 17- "Stay" singer Lisa; 18- More wan; 19- Long look; 20- Dreadful; 22- Electrify; 24- Got on; 27- Home solo; 28- White wine; 32- Plain writing; 36- "Xanadu" band; 37- Oldsmobile model; 39- Killed; 40- Dweeb; 42- "All My Children" vixen; 44- River of Flanders; 45- Big name at Indy; 47- Milo of "Barbarella"; 49- Daughter of Cadmus; 50- Handle; 51- Offer of marriage; 53- Crew needs; 56- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 57- Awhir; 61- Pub pastime; 65- First name in country; 66- Italian white wine; 69- Actress Spelling; 70- Work without ___; 71- Red fluorescent dye; 72- Discharge; 73- Overfill; 74- Mar. honoree; 75- Matron;

DOWN: 1- Actress Ward; 2- Barge; 3- Not kosher; 4- District adjacent to a city; 5- One with a beat; 6- Clean air org.; 7- Strike out; 8- Stadium used for sports or musical events; 9- Less common; 10- Meanly inadequate; 11- Jai ___; 12- Mock; 13- Away from the wind; 21- "Damn Yankees" vamp; 23- Tears; 25- Roy's "singin' pardner"; 26- Dicembre follower; 28- Goddess of love; 29- Actress Graff; 30- Like Thor; 31- Brittle; 33- Fertile area in a desert; 34- City in Tuscany; 35- Sign up; 38- Earth tone; 41- Cause to explode; 43- Long time; 46- Horse color; 48- Copied; 52- Gave a speech; 54- Ascends; 55- Snob; 57- Ladies of Sp.; 58- Clinton cabinet member Federico; 59- Skeptic's scoff; 60- Struggle for air; 62- Actress Downey; 63- Barbershop request; 64- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 67- By way of; 68- Tolkien tree creature

Yesterday's solution

M	E	N	S	S	A	T	E	C	A	T	O
A	R	C	O	E	F	R	E	M	O	N	O
T	R	A	P	A	F	I	R	E	N	O	R
T	S	A	R	B	I	O	E	G	G	N	O
A	L	E	X	S	T	I	E				
C	A	N	O	E	A	N	I	M	A	T	E
D	E	P	O	T	S	C	A	N	L	E	N
R	A	P	S	P	R	I	G	L	A	D	E
O	S	L	O	T	A	E	L	L	A	S	E
P	E	E	R	L	E	S	S	I	R	E	D
G	E	R	M	O	L	E	G				
R	E	T	A	I	N	A	S	A	U	T	A
E	L	A	N	A	L	L	O	Y	T	R	M
N	O	T	I	L	A	D	L	E	N	O	E
O	I	S	C	B	A	E	R	G	U	S	T

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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 1990 992
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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Soi Cheung
Taipa Village
1 Bedroom Apartment
Furnished with Private Terrace
HKD 15,500 / 700 sq ft
Ref: 15090530

Dahlia Court
Ocean Gardens, Taipa
1,054sq ft / HKD 6.88M
HKD 6,527sq ft
Spacious and Bright
Ref: 15095453

Car Park Space
Chun Leong, Taipa
Car Park
Car park for Rent
HKD 1,700 / NA sq ft
Ref: 15050514

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's
Macau
627 sq ft / HKD 3.98M
HKD 6,695sq ft
Heritage Area of Macau
Ref: 15075447

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Central Taipa
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GOLF

Scott says caddie's book won't be a distraction

Doug Ferguson
Golf Writer, Shanghai

ADAM Scott hasn't read caddie Steve Williams' book about Tiger Woods and doesn't expect it to be a distraction when Williams is working for him.

"I haven't been lucky enough to get a copy. Must be in the mail still," Scott said yesterday after his opening round at the HSBC Champions. "I don't know exactly what's in the book. As I said, I haven't read it. I think everyone knows probably what to expect."

Williams worked 13 years for Woods during the peak of his career. Their relationship became strained after Woods was embroiled in a sex scandal at the end of 2009, and it ended in the summer of 2011 shortly after Williams caddied for Adam Scott in the U.S. Open while Woods was recovering from leg injuries.

Williams had been talking about a book since then, though he was concerned about a non-disclosure agreement he had with the 14-time major champion. The book, "Out of the Rough," was published in New Zealand.

A New Zealand newspaper published a chapter of the book in which Williams described his anger and frustration at being "hung out to dry" by Woods' management as his multiple infidelities were being revealed. Williams complained about Woods' behavior on the course and wrote, "It was like I was his slave."

That line has led to heavy criticism, especially considering that Williams became rich working for Woods. One year, Williams was reported to be the highest-paid sports celebrity in New Zealand.

In an interview with Australian Associated Press, Williams said he was disappointed his publishers highlighted that excerpt in promoting his book. He said the "slave" reference was "one word, one sentence, out of a whole book."

He said it was "one word that could have been chan-

AP PHOTO



Tiger Woods, left, of the U.S. team and his former caddie Steve Williams

ged" when writing his memoir.

Williams has been working with Scott the last four years. He said he was retiring after 2014, but he agreed to come back at the U.S. Open this year and plans to work 10 tournaments this season in a job share.

This isn't the first time Scott has received more questions about his caddie than his own golf.

Immediately after Scott won the Bridgestone Invitational in 2011, Williams gave a TV interview on the 18th green in which he called it the "best win I've ever had," even though he was on the bag for 13 majors with Woods, including his unprecedented sweep of the majors in 2000-01.

Later that year in Shanghai during the annual Caddies Awards roast at the HSBC Champions, Williams was given the "Celebration of the Year" award for that TV interview. When he came on stage to accept, Williams shocked the room by saying, "It was my aim to shove it right up that black a-----."

Scott was grilled each day about whether he should fire Williams. He noted the caddie apologized to Woods and said that was enough for him.

Asked if he expected Williams to write a sequel, Scott laughed and said, "I'm going to be on my best behavior so there isn't one."

FOOTBALL

Belgium moves to No. 1 in FIFA rankings for 1st time

BELGIUM has moved up to No. 1 in the FIFA rankings for the first time.

Despite only reaching the World Cup quarterfinals last year, Belgium rose two places after two wins in European Championship qualifying matches.

World Cup champion Germany is No. 2, just ahead of Argentina, which fell two places in a top 20 dominated by European and South American teams. Portugal is No. 4 and Copa America champion Chile is fifth.

According to the FIFA website, the composition of the top 50 for November 2015 shows little change, with the AFC gaining two teams through Korea Republic (48th, up 5) and Japan (50th, up 5) and Africa losing two, Cameroon and Congo each having dropped three places to 51st and 52nd respectively.

The other confederations have the same number of teams as last month, with the regional composition of the top 50 now looking as follows: UEFA: 31; CONMEBOL: 7; CAF: 6; CONCACAF: 3; AFC: 3; OFC: 0.

China (84), Macau (195), Taiwan (187) dropped a few positions on the table while Hong Kong improved its ranking eight places up to 145th.

The last FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking of 2015 will be published on 3 December and could see Belgium take the "Team of the Year" title, should they retain its top spot. The "Mover of the Year" will be awarded to the team which has gained the most points in 2015. Current contenders for this are Turkey (up 430 points), Chile (up 331 points), Wales (up 330 points) and Austria (up 319 points).

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS LIST

1. Belgium (3)
2. Germany (2)
3. Argentina (1)
4. Portugal (4)
5. Chile (9)
6. Spain (6)
7. Colombia (5)
8. Brazil (7)
9. England (10)
10. Austria (11)
84. China (81)
145. Hong Kong (153)
187. Taiwan (183)
195. Macau (193)

However, with various matches and qualifiers due to take place over the coming weeks, the positions are still all to play for. **MDT/AP**

FOOTBALL

CHELSEA AND ROMA SCORE LATE, STAY ALIVE IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP E



Neymar and Luis Suarez continued their excellent scoring form to make up for the absence of Lionel Messi and help Barcelona move closer to the round of 16 with an easy 3-0 win over BATE Borisov.

With Messi watching from the Camp Nou stands, Neymar converted a penalty on the half-hour mark, then set up Suarez's strike in the 60th and scored his second goal in the 83rd after an assist by the Uruguayan striker. Since Messi tore a left-knee ligament on Sept. 26, Neymar and Suarez have combined for 17 of Barcelona's 20 goals.

Barcelona leads the group with 10 points, five more than Roma, which moved into second place thanks to the late 3-2 win over Leverkusen, which stayed on four points, one more than BATE.

"The aim was to win and the victory gives us a great chance to seal our qualification," Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta said.

Leverkusen had rallied from two goals down to draw level with Roma before captain Omer Toprak was shown a red card for pushing Mohamed Salah inside the area, prompting the penalty that Pjanic converted for the victory.

"We absolutely had to win and we did," Pjanic said.

GROUP F

Thomas Mueller scored two goals as Bayern Munich dominated Arsenal in a 5-1 win in Bavaria, while Felipe Pardo scored both goals for Olympiakos as it rallied to beat 10-man Dinamo Zagreb 2-1.

Bayern and Olympiakos reached nine points, while Arsenal and Dinamo stayed with three each with two games remaining.

Robert Lewandowski opened the scoring for Bayern in the 10th minute, Mueller doubled the lead in the 29th and David Alaba made it 3-0 in the 44th. Arjen Robben scored with his first touch of the ball in the 55th, less than a minute after coming off the bench, and Mueller added his second in the 89th.

Olivier Giroud pulled one back for Arsenal in the 69th.

"It was a key match for us that we wanted to win," Mueller said. In Piraeus, substitute Pardo was the hero with two second-half goals to help Olympiakos beat Dinamo Zagreb, which lost Josip Pivacic with a second yellow card with 11 minutes remaining.

GROUP G



Willian produced a late winner as Chelsea fans put on a show of support for embattled manager Jose Mourinho, scoring from a free kick to earn a 2-1 victory over Dynamo Kiev.

A four-game winless run in all competitions had ratcheted the pressure on Mourinho, whose future at Stamford Bridge has appeared to be jeopardized by off-field issues accompanying the poor results.

"From the mental point of view it was important," Mourinho said. "A reaction to a negative moment."

Dynamo defender Aleksandar Dragovic sent a diving header into his own goal while trying to clear Diego Costa's cross in the 39th, then atoned for his blunder by slamming the ball home in the 78th after goalkeeper Asmir Begovic flapped at a corner. Willian scored his fifth goal of the season direct from a free kick to ensure Chelsea rose to second in the group with seven points, two more than Dynamo. Porto, which moved closer to a place in the knockout stage after easing to a 3-1 victory at Maccabi Tel-Aviv, has 10 points.

GROUP H

Zenit St. Petersburg maintained its perfect record in the Champions League and reached the knockout phase with a 2-0 win at Lyon.

Artem Dzyuba scored a brace from a couple of assists by Hulk as the Russian side produced its fourth win in as many matches for its best start ever in the competition.

Zenit secured its place in the last 16 with two games to spare, leading second-place Valencia by six points after the Spanish side lost 1-0 to Gent in the group's other match. Gent is third with four points, while Lyon is last with one.

Lyon still has a chance to advance but it will need to win its last two matches and hope other results go its way.

Defender Sven Kums converted a 49th-minute penalty kick to give Gent the three points against Valencia at home. It was the first Champions League win for the Belgian side. **AP**

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



MONEY MATTERS

In any polity of the world, public spending does matter. In fact, public finance is at the crux of public policy making and constitutes a necessary reality check on the transformative power of government. With money, governments are supposed to be empowered to do a plenty, even though, ever since the 1980s, worries about misspending and plain wastefulness have fuelled questions about the right size for the state - big or small - and of course the realm and span of state capacity and action. Having money does not necessarily make one smart, quite the contrary as our Dutch friends know very well. But being too frugal, either because of a lack of means or excessive cautiousness, is equally not a guarantee of effectiveness.

The execution of the budget of the Macao government was released last week and is under scrutiny in the Legislative Assembly. It concerns only the year 2014, and this reminds us that up to two weeks ago the one institution supposed to supervise the executive regarding spending public wealth was either working on a report for 2013 - in October 2015! - or simply and blindly trusting the monthly figures from the Finance department. For reasons only known to itself, the second permanent committee of the Assembly never finds the time to scrutinize interim reports in April or May. With the unfortunate and headline-grabbing suicide of the Director-General of the Macao Customs last Friday, the discussion over the budget has faded in the distant background, whereas the Chief Executive will present his policy address on November 17.

Clearly, it deserves attention, and slightly more than eye-catching and simplistic headlines regarding supposedly astounding surplus slides or inflated concerns about allegedly exploding public expenses.

First of all, the budget tells us that the Macao government is still very rich. We have accumulated some MOP246 billion in fiscal reserve and MOP131 billion in foreign currency reserves. In 2014, despite a gambling downturn of 7 months out of 12, we managed to add a good MOP77 billion to the fiscal reserve - actually more than in 2013! Bearing in mind that the government only spent MOP67 billion even without being that mindful, it can thus continue to operate for a few years - 5 or 6 - even if it waives all taxes, including the one on gambling!

Then of course, one has to look at the execution proper and the government has been pretty consistent over the years in downplaying its expected revenues and inflating its anticipated expenses. If the gap has narrowed compared to 2013 (earning 30% more and spending 30% less!), there is still a discrepancy of 10% more for 20% less in 2014, despite a slight contraction of 2.5% in gross gaming revenues (GGR).

Of course, with an expected dive of more than 35% in GGR and more than 25% in GDP for 2015, concerns seem legitimate. And yet... The Finance Department already tells us that as of September 2015, the government has earned far more than it has spent, and based on previous fanciful anticipations, we can conclude that as of October 2015, all the administration's bills for the whole of 2015 are already covered!

Then comes the fallacy of lavish spending, especially on civil servants' salaries and wealth-partaking social sweeteners. Salaries of personnel only represent 22.6% of overall spending, pretty much the same as France, clearly less than Denmark and slightly more than Hong Kong, but definitely less than anybody else as a percentage of GDP (less than 4% whereas it is 13.3% in France). Then, as an overall share of GDP, public spending represents about 15% in Macao, against close to 39% in the USA or more than 57% in France, and about 20% in Hong Kong.

Far from spending too much, the Macao government is actually spending too little, especially on public infrastructure, in all its guises. Lost opportunities and an absence of substantial investment in the future is more detrimental than lavish spending. But this grim picture concerns 2014. Since then, a new team has been ushered in...

THE CORRUPTION TRIAL STARTS IN ROME
BUZZ FOR 46 POLITICIANS, OTHERS

Forty-six local politicians, businessmen and go-betweens have gone on trial in Rome accused of corruption and, in some cases, of banding together to use intimidation similar to the Mafia's methods to gain control of city contracts for migrant shelters and other social services.

The still-expanding probe involves alleged kickbacks and bribes during previous mayoral

administrations. Politicians from the center-left and center-right have been indicted.

The alleged ringleader is Massimo Carminati, who has past links to far-right extremism. His lawyer, Gosue' Bruno Naso, scoffed at allegations violence was used to win contracts. He told reporters before the trial began yesterday there is corruption in all cities and that "this country is morally rotten."

CHOPSTICKS

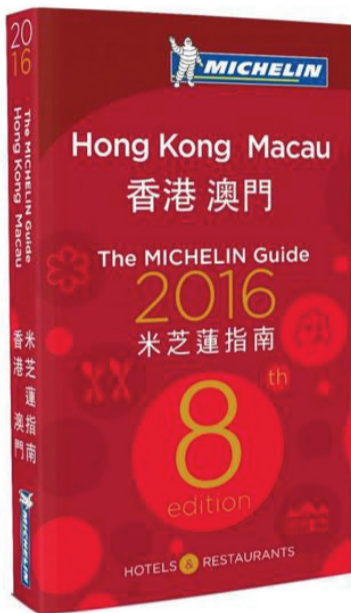
Michelin adds new street food category to guide for first time with Macau and HK

FOR the first time in Michelin's history, the red guide has included street food in its selection of best dining destinations with the publication of its latest Hong Kong and Macau edition, the media reported.

A total of 23 addresses in Hong Kong and 12 eateries in Macau earned a "rightful place" in the 2016 Michelin guide's newly created street food category and represent the authentic dining landscape and habits of the locals, said international director Michael Ellis in a statement.

"In Hong Kong, street food is part of the local way of life: the city never sleeps, the streets are constantly bustling, and Hong Kong residents love to eat out, without necessarily sitting down and spending a lot of money," Ellis said in a statement quoted by AFP Relax yesterday.

"While street food has its place on the Hong Kong food scene, our inspectors have noted real attention to the quality of dishes on offer and the use of local seasonal produce over the



past few years."

The new category includes street foods like pork fried noodles, Thai rice noodles, Shanghaiese pork buns, octopus marinated in soy sauce, Cantonese puddings, waffles, and Korean fried chicken.

The other big news out of the 2016 Hong Kong and Macau guide this year is the anointing of a new three-starred restaurant, T'ang Court at the luxury Langham Hotel in Hong Kong, which serves authentic Cantonese cuis-

ne in the tradition of the Tang dynasty.

"The Cantonese cuisine is perfectly prepared with harmonious flavors and different textures bringing depth and perfect balance on the palate," Ellis said quoted by AFP Relax.

This season, the restaurant is serving a special biodynamic menu that pairs six courses including stir-fried pigeon and lobster with biodynamic wines from Slovenia's Movia winery.

According to AFP Relax, award-winning dishes on the restaurant's permanent include stir-fried Wagyu menu beef with spring onion and wasabi and fried cod with preserved bean paste and fish taro puffs. Inspectors also promoted a total of four restaurants to two stars, while 11 restaurants earned their first star.

Three stars denotes a restaurant that serves exceptional cuisine that's worth the journey. The addition of T'ang Court brings Hong Kong and Macau's three-starred count to eight, a lucky number in Chinese culture.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN A breakaway faction of the Afghan Taliban has named its leader, further deepening the split within the insurgency. The dissident group picked Mullah Mohammad Rasool, a long-serving senior Taliban official, as the Taliban's "supreme leader," following a "long and thoughtful discussion," according to Manan Niazi, the spokesman.

THAILAND Police in Thailand have cracked down on a sex ring that lured underage girls to work as prostitutes whose services were sold to high-ranking military officers, Buddhist monks and a variety of other officials, authorities say.

MALAYSIA The Malaysian government returns to U.S. custody human remains recovered from the crash of a U.S. military transport plane in 1945.



CANADA Justin Trudeau's new Cabinet ministers vowed after their first meeting to honor campaign pledges to settle 25,000 refugees by the end of the year and to not buy F-35 fighter jets from the United States. Trudeau, the son of the late iconic Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, on Wednesday also promised a less controlling style of "government by Cabinet" after almost 10 years of Conservative rule under Stephen Harper. Women make up half of the Cabinet. Asked why gender balance is important, Trudeau said: "Because it's 2015."

USA Newly released details of a sweeping Pacific Rim trade deal set the stage for a raucous debate in the U.S. Congress but also may provide reassurances to those who worried the agreement could gut protections for the environment, public health and labor. The text of the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement between the U.S. and 11 other countries including Japan and Mexico runs to 30 chapters and hundreds of pages, making public the specifics of an agreement that critics complain was forged in secrecy.

times square by rodrigo

