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MICHAEL LEVEN STEPS DOWN
Former Las Vegas Sands president Michael Leven has decided to retire from the company's board of directors

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LOCAL CHEF WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
Gunther Wolfsgruber won an accolade at the World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence 2016 in Singapore

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA Though it has been dismissed by a court, the country's first legal challenge to a law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples has galvanized many of the hundreds of young Chinese gay rights supporters who gathered at the courthouse. [More on p10](#)

TAIWAN A Mormon missionary from North Ogden has died after he was hit by a car in Taiwan while riding a bike. Mormon church officials said yesterday in a news release that 18-year-old David Smith Hampton died Tuesday near Taichung, Taiwan. He began his two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints four months ago.



SOUTH KOREANS voted in parliamentary elections that are expected to hand a decisive win to President Park Geun-hye's conservative party, and enable her to push ahead with controversial economic reforms. Exit polls, however, indicated her party would not regain its majority in the National Assembly. [More on p13](#)



PHILIPPINES In a bustling, densely populated corner of Manila, fruit vendor Coring Gutierrez reads USD35 due from her latest water bill, more than triple what her family of six paid 15 years ago. Water was not supposed to become so expensive for Manila under a 1997 World Bank deal that privatized the seaside city's water and sewage management. [More on p12](#)

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REPORT

CCAC probes mostly relate to civil servants

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Chinese pressure seen in Taiwanese deportations from Kenya

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AP PHOTO

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) received a total of 793 complaints and reports in 2015, including 262 allegations of criminal corruption and 482 administrative complaints which have been pursued. Of all complaints, 568 cases have been finalized, including 256 criminal cases which have been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office or closed upon completion of the investigation. A total of 312 cases referred to the ombudsman have been completed and closed. Moreover, the CCAC received a total of 1,104 enquiries about a variety of topics.

The CCAC 2015 report was published yesterday in the Official Gazette after being submitted by the commissioner André Cheong Weng Chon to the Chief Executive. The report summarizes the activities of the commission in fighting corruption, the ombudsman's services and the promotion of integrity. It also includes summaries of the parts of the cases that were investigated and handled by Macau's corruption watchdog.

According to the report, most of the cases investigated involved crimes committed by public servants. A wide range of crimes were involved, including active and passive bribery, document forgery, the abuse of power, breach of confidentiality and unexplained wealth. The CCAC commented that the most concerning issue is "the collusion between public servants and

REPORT

CCAC probes mostly relate to civil servants infractions

businessmen to commit bribery in conspiracy during construction work, procurement, and outsourcing of services in the

All public departments should strengthen the discipline and conduct requirements of public servants.

CCAC REPORT

public sector." It is mentioned in the report that "all public departments should pay great attention to such situations and strengthen the discipline and conduct requirements of public servants, as well as improve the relevant laws and regulations to



CCAC Commissioner André Cheong

plug loopholes that might trigger corruption."

The CCAC stressed that corruption and bribery cases in the private sector showed a decreasing trend and that no private bribery cases were successfully referred to judicial institutions

last year. The main reason for this, according to the CCAC, is that the related crimes are semi-public offences and the private sector opts "to smooth things over and not to exercise the right to file a complaint, resulting in the CCAC not being able

to pursue such cases under the law." The Commission therefore stressed that it is necessary to improve the law relating to the prevention and suppression of bribery in the private sector and to further enhance awareness of matters of integrity among citizens.

One of the cases mentioned in the report occurred between March and June of 2015, and involved two prison officers who provided benefits to a prisoner. Another case concerned one official in charge of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and one staff member who received a bribe in order to ensure that three pre-determined management companies would win the contract for the construction of a public parking lot. One of the companies was then found to have the two suspects among its shareholders. There were also two reports made by motor vehicle driving license examiners, who informed the CCAC that students had offered them money in order to facilitate passing the exam. **Staff reporter**

Kick off meeting for the 2016 Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker



ORGANISERS of the annual Macau TrailHiker yesterday met with the necessary departments of the local government, including the Macau Sports Development Board, to kick start the count down process for the 2016 7th Edition Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker. This year's event will take place on Saturday October 29 and will in-

clude a 10km "Family & Fun Event" and a 30km "Corporate Challenge." The Macau TrailHiker press conference will take place on June 15 and teams will be able to register on a first-come first-served basis from July 1 by going to the dedicated website at www.macautilhiker.com. The two nominated Macau benefiting charities this year

will be the Rotary Club of Macau and the Richmond Fellowship Association. Last year the 2000 participants and 500 teams helped contribute MOP400,000 to Special Olympics Macau and the Association of Mentally Handicapped.

Macau Daily Times is the media partner for the event.

CRIME

Mother accused of sexually abusing three-year-old son

A local 27-year-old woman was arrested yesterday by the Judiciary Police (PJ), under suspicion of sexually assaulting her three-year-old son.

According to the PJ, the woman, unemployed, recorded the assault and shared the video in a parents' group-chat via her mobile. A school reported the incident to the police.

The suspect stated that she was offered MOP200,000 by a man, whom she claimed to have met online. The man told her that if she had sex with her son, videotaped the whole process, and gave him her password to the mobile chat application, she would receive the money.

A PJ officer informed the press that the suspect lives separated from her husband, with whom the son had been living. She had taken the boy to a friend's house, where the crime took place.

The woman never received the money promised by the mysterious man. The PJ is now investigating his identity.

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Agreement inked on 'cultural cooperation'



THE Ministry of Culture of China and Macau authorities signed a cooperation agreement at Mandarin's House yesterday. The agreement intends to implement a plan for cultural exchange and cooperation between China and Macau, followed by a ceremony to gift funds to national intangible cultural heritage representatives.

The cooperation program includes an exchange of human resources and enhanced communication. Alexis Tam, together with other cultural affairs officials, granted funds to three people involved in cultural heritage. Folk musician and late Nanyin music artist, Ng Wing-mui, Taoist Ritual music artist, Ng Peng Chi, and religious figure carving artist, Tsang Tak Hang, each received MOP30,000 in recognition of their past three years of artistic endeavors. The money was given by the Ministry of Culture to support their work in preserving intangible art.

Ng Peng Chi told the media that he would use the money to promote Taoist ritual music, but he admitted that no detailed plans have been made as yet.

Tsang expects to see more people willing to learn his craft. Moreover, he told the Times that "Hong Kong and Singapore are the main customers when it comes to religious carving because there are more temples to be constructed when compared to the mainland. [...] The local market is relatively smaller," said Tsang.

Currently, Macau has eight items of National Intangible Cultural Heritage, namely Yueju Opera, Herbal Tea, Woodwork - Macau Religious Figure Carving, Cantonese Naamyam (Nanyin music), Taoist Ritual Music, Feast of the Drunken Dragon, Na Tcha Belief and Customs, and A-Ma Belief and Customs. **Staff reporter**

ILCM gears up for charity ball

THE International Ladies Club of Macau (ILCM) will host their annual charity ball on Saturday night at Studio City Macau, hoping to best the roughly MOP1.14 million that was raised last year.

This year's theme is "The Oscars", and attendees are required to dress in black tie or as their favorite movie character or movie star.

"Our annual charity ball is the biggest fundraising event of the year," public relations officer for the association, Barbara Ian, told the Times, "so it's an important night for us [...] which allows us to support local charity organizations and our partners."

The evening will kick off at 6:30 p.m. in the Cocktails French Garden at Studio City. Barbara Ian warned that tickets are not likely to be offered at the door so interested parties are advised to purchase them by emailing (tickets@ilcm.org.mo) by Saturday morning.

The non-profit association, established since 1984, has run by English-speaking volunteers from a variety of different national backgrounds. They continually support over 20 charity organizations in the MSAR, as well as provide funding for research and scholarships for local students.

Among the charities supported are the Cradle of Hope Association, which provides a home for abandoned babies and children at risk, the Escola Caritas de Macau day school for disabled children, and Asilo de Betania and Asilo Santa Maria, homes for elderly men and elderly women respectively. **DB**

MIKE LEVEN

Former Las Vegas Sands number two steps down

LAS Vegas Sands (LVS) announced yesterday [Macau time] that longtime board member and former president, Michael Leven has decided to retire from the company's board of directors.

According to the Las Vegas Review-Journal, which was incidentally bought by Chairman and CEO of Las Vegas Sands Sheldon Adelson's family in December, Leven will also retire from the subsidiary, Sands China, to be made effective immediately.

Leven was named as LVS president in 2009 as the company was expanding its presence in Macau and eager to enter Singapore. He presided over the office during one of the company's greatest periods of growth, and acted as Adelson's 'number two'.

LVS informed the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday [Macau time] but did not specify why Leven was retiring. He had been serving on the boards of directors for Las Vegas Sands and Sands China since December 2014 when he formally retired as president. Robert Goldstein succeeded Leven as president and chief operating officer.

Speaking to the Times in an exclusive interview in



Michael Leven (center)

2013, Michael Leven recognized the need for Macau to diversify from gaming operations, stressing the potential to develop the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.

Pointing to the example of Las Vegas, which Macau government officials have typically eyed with an enthusiastic willingness to imitate, Leven said, "it [Vegas] would not be successful [today] if the mid-week business of meetings and conventions, the MICE business, wasn't there."

He also warned, "[if] Macau is to be the Las Vegas of Asia, you can't be that

Leven was named as LVS president in 2009 as the company was expanding its presence in Macau

reliant only on one-day trip gamblers."

While Leven prophesized that the biggest growth in Macau's gaming wou-

ld come from the mass market and the mass-mass market in the future (those betting mostly on slot machines and electronic tables), he also predicted, "VIP [gaming] is going to continue to have moderate growth [in the future]," about nine months before revenues started their unprecedented decline.

Leven was previously the chief executive of U.S. Franchise Systems Inc., a company he founded in 1995 that franchised the Microtel Inns & Suites and Hawthorn Suites hotel brands. He also served briefly as president of Holiday Inn Worldwide, Days Inn of America and Americana Hotels. **DB**

Indoor pollution worse than outdoor, HK study reveals

POLLUTANT levels in Hong Kong have soared to 1,250 percent higher indoors than outdoors, and indoor levels of small-particle pollution, known as PM2.5, are worse than outdoor levels next to some of the busiest roads in the territory, according to a study by Hong Kong Baptist University.

Scientists have revealed that it could be making residents chronically ill, as the level of PM2.5, which can lodge deep into the people's lungs, was on average nearly 10 percent higher indoors than the highest level found outdoors.

One of the researchers even commented that indoor air pollution from perfumes, cleaning products and cooking fumes have turned the average Hong Kong home into a "mini chemical warehouse".

A South China Morning Post re-

port stated that the median level of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon-based chemicals that easily evaporate at room temperature, exceeded the recommended maximum level for the city's offices in 27 of the 32 homes tested.

A researcher revealed that the situation could be aggravated by factors such as high-rise living, subdivided flats, a lack of windows and ventilation in some rooms, and restaurants occupying ground-floor premises in residential buildings.

Lai Ka Man from Baptist University led the research in March and revealed that the highest outdoor micro-particle pollution register was 94 million particles per liter (ppl), recorded at a junction in Causeway Bay, while a flat in the New Territories recorded levels a worrying 46.8

percent higher, at 138 million ppl.

Conversely, a local scholar from USJ's Institute of Science and Environment told the Times that Macau is yet to conduct a study on indoor pollution in the territory, but believes high levels are likely to be found, particularly in smaller properties. The expert said that in Macau, the kitchen is the main source of pollutants, as hazardous levels of toxins can be released when cooking.

"There are exhaust fans, but houses here in Macau are small so such fans or chimney tubes are not efficient enough to extract pollutants, especially when frying," the local scholar added.

Moreover, studies in other countries have also found that indoor air pollution levels can be higher than those outdoors. **Staff reporter**

Q&A JACKSON CHANG
IPIM PRESIDENT

‘Macau can serve as an ideal platform for investors’

THE Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) aims to promote external trade and attract investment to Macau. In an MDT/Macauhub exclusive interview, IPIM’s president Jackson Chang stresses the development of the local MICE industry and the need to enhance the region’s role as a trade platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



- Do you think that more should be done in the Pearl River Delta to put SMEs in contact with other companies in the region?

Jackson Chang (JC) - Guangdong and Macau are situated on the Pearl River Delta, with a population of around 55 million between them. The area is a major economic hub and one of China’s most affluent regions. In re-

cent years, the two places have been co-operating closely in a variety of areas. (...) IPIM has established co-operation with Guangdong trade and investment departments in organizing business delegations on visits overseas and hosting numerous business exchange activities in Macau and Guangdong as well as overseas.

- One of the most important aspects of promoting businesses is to create a platform for entrepreneurs to meet. Do you plan to increase the awareness of Chinese investors in Portuguese-speaking countries (PSC) to create a better understanding of China’s potential and the role of Macao as a platform for their businesses?

JC - Since the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macau in November 2013, Macau’s role as a Commercial and Trade Service Platform between China and PSCs has been further enhanced. The “Three Centers” – “a commercial and trade service center for SMEs between China and PSCs”, “a food product distribution center for PSCs” and “a center for conventions and exhibitions for economic and trade co-operation between China and

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PSCs” – are also being set up. One of the projects under the “Three Centers” is the Economic & Trade Co-operation and Human Resources Portal between China and PSCs, a tool for economic and trade co-operation between China and PSCs. It provides information including: a database of bilingual professionals fluent in Chinese and Portuguese; economic and trade data; and information on food products from PSCs. (...) At present, there are over 620 registered users on the Portal and the PSCs food database showcases around 1,300 food products from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Portugal. Since its launch in April 2015, the portal has received over 49,000 visits. We have also been carrying out a lot of promotion in Macau, mainland and overseas, with the hope of increasing the usage and penetration of the Portal. Through online and offline support, we hope to encourage more collaboration between Chinese and PSCs enterprises, especially through Macau as a platform.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



- China's strategy of the "One Belt One Road" has been a hot topic in Macau. Everyone has said that Macau can participate in it, but so far we haven't seen any concrete plans. Diplomats from China and the PSCs have said that this "Belt and Road" initiative should be extended to the PSCs in Asia, Africa and Europe. The previous ambassador of China in Portugal even said that the road should end in Lisbon. What do you think? Should this grand plan include the PSCs?

JC - Due to its special geographic location and its role as an economic and trade co-operation platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macau possesses unique advantages in the implementation of the “Belt and Road” initiative. The “One Belt One Road” initiative is an inclusive project open to all countries. As mainland China strengthens its economic and trade connections with countries along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Macau strives to make full play of its strength, to be in line with the “Belt and Road” initiative. In particular, it has its role as a trade and economic co-operation service platform between China and PSCs, to strengthen trade and economic partnerships with ASEAN countries, and further assist mainland enterprises to go global and tap the PSCs markets; in addition, enhance collaboration in the Pearl River Delta region

and the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Big Bay Area by means of different degrees of participation, creating a more desirable environment and exploration of business opportunities.

- Often it seems that IPIM and the Macau Forum are doing the same job. Could you explain their complementary roles?

JC - IPIM works mainly to improve co-operation with the PSCs in the areas of trade, investment and enterprises, with the aim of consolidating Macau's role as a trade and economic co-operation service platform between China and PSCs. We have also put a lot of effort into promoting and advertising the “Three Centers”. What is worth mentioning is that a specific department dedicated to promoting trade and investment co-operation with PSCs will be set up within IPIM this year.

- Has the Macau Product Display Centre that IPIM set up some years ago brought any results to the diversification of the economy and promotion of local products in China and the PSCs?

JC - The government established “Macau Ideas” – the products display center – in May 2011 and entrusted its management to IPIM. The objective of “Macau Ideas” is to create brand awareness of local products; it serves as a platform specializing in the promotion of “Made in Macau” products, “Macau Brands”, “Macau Designs” and “Food

products from PSCs with distribution channels in Macau”. Since its inception, “Macau Ideas” has received approximately 73,000 visitors. Over the past four years, many local enterprises have seized new business opportunities after

A specific department dedicated to promoting trade and investment co-operation with PSCs will be set up within IPIM this year.

showcasing their products in “Macau Ideas”, and expanded their scope of business. For example, a souvenir manufacturer received more purchase orders; a Portuguese pastry maker entered into a long-term contract as a supplier to several food souvenir shops; a design and manufacturer of leather goods enjoyed an increase in business turnover and brand awareness for its products after showcasing their products in “Macau Ideas.”

- If you are an investor and want to come to Macau looking to invest with an eye on southern China, what is IPIM's advice in

terms of areas of business that could be successful, especially now that diversity of the economy is a major issue?

JC - Macau is working towards becoming a World Tourism and Leisure Centre and promoting moderate economic diversification. Currently, the city is speeding up the development of its convention and exhibition, Traditional Chinese Medicine, cultural and creative industries, as well as commercial and trade services. In 2014, revenue from non-gaming sectors including wholesale, retail, hotels, food and beverages, construction and finance reached 190 billion patacas (around USD24 billion), while gaming revenue stood at 360 billion patacas (around USD45 billion).

The completion of various large tourism, entertainment and resort facilities have also accelerated the development of related industries such as hotels, conventions and exhibitions, retail, food and beverage. They have provided new opportunities for other emerging sectors including environmental, cultural and creative industries. With its fast growing service sector supported by a strong tourism industry, Macau can serve as an ideal platform for investors to make greater inroads into the mainland market.

- Do you believe that the new area of Hengqin can be a good space for the diversity of the economy?

JC - Macau and Guangdong are currently working on nu-

merous projects according to “The Framework Agreement of Guangdong-Macau Co-operation” including the construction of the Co-operation Industrial Park on Zhuhai's Hengqin Island, which will create valuable opportunities for business collaboration in areas of leisure tourism, convention and exhibition, cultural and creative industries, Chinese medicine as well as other sectors.

In April 2014, the government recommended 33 investment projects submitted by local enterprises wishing to operate in the 4.5 square-kilometer “Guangdong-Macau Co-operation Industrial Park”, to the Zhuhai authorities. Until now, 19 projects have been signed and the land has been supplied.

Meanwhile, the China (Guangdong) Pilot Free Trade Zone Hengqin Area was officially launched on 23 April 2015. The policies for the FTZ create an international, market-orientated and legal business environment, further abolishing barriers for investors' wishing to enter the market and actively promoting financial innovation cooperation. It will help Macau and PSC businesses to expand in all areas and help with the city's moderate economic diversification. Together with the completion of several major infrastructure projects such as the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macau Bridge, which will be completed in 2016, it will further open up new business and co-operation opportunities to investors from the mainland, Macau and PSCs.

MDT/Macauhub exclusive

Daniel Beitler

MACAU-BASED Gunther Wolfsgruber, Executive Chef – Pastry at Galaxy Entertainment Group, won an award earlier this month at the World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence 2016 in Singapore, entitled “Pastry Chef of The Year (Regional).”

Wolfsgruber has had an extensive career as an executive pastry chef in Macau having held the role at the Grand Hyatt, MGM Macau – where he worked until January this year – and today at Galaxy.

“[The award] is unrelated to any of the properties,” Wolfsgruber explained to the Times. “It is an industry-wide award for the individual, that was decided by public nomination, industry recommendation and finally, a panel decision.”

“The award means a lot to me. It is recognition of my 22 years of experience working in this industry [and it means a lot] to be appreciated by your customers and your colleagues. It also serves as an inspiration point for the junior [chefs],” he said.

To win the award, Wolfsgruber beat Bryan Dimayuga of the Makati Shangri-La Manila, Giovanni Iurig of the JW Marriott Hotel in Bangkok and Yves Matthey of the Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong. Gunther was the only chef nominated for an award from Macau, though there were numerous nominations from neighboring HKSAR.

The award, sponsored by kitchen appliances supplier KitchenAid, seeks “to recognize an individual who has exceptional talent in the pastry field.” The award’s description added that the winner was required to have displayed the ability to drive the consistency and quality in pastries, desserts or bakery products and must be directly involved in both daily operations and quality checks.

Gunther Wolfsgruber, who

Macau-based chef wins Singaporean award of excellence

was additionally nominated for the award in 2014, told the Times that his affinity with the culinary arts possibly began back in his home country of Austria, where he grew up in a town close to Salzburg, or “the backdrop of The Sound of Music, if you like.”

He explained that one of his father’s friends owned several bakery shops and that had ignited his fascination in the art.

“I was also fascinated by Asia; [a place] that has a mystical feeling,” he added in reference to the nine years that he has spent in the MSAR.

Diversity in Macau is fascinating: we have the best of both worlds.

GUNTHER WOLFSGRUBER

Speaking on the rise of Western restaurants and cafes in Macau in recent years, Wolfsgruber said that variety “has changed through the years.”

“Actually, diversity in Macau is fascinating: we have the best of both worlds,” he added. “The Chinese [cuisine] dominates, of course, but there is also food from the smaller ethnic groups [here], the South Asian influence, like in Indian and Malay food, and the Portuguese influence from the colonial period.”

The award-winning chef also noted a general trend in the changing landscape of the Macau culinary scene. “As residents have grown wealthier



with more disposable income, there has also been a growth in Western-style cafes and bars.”

“It’s encouraging to see my colleagues go out and start their own bars or cafes,” he remarked.

The recognition ceremony, formerly known as the Asian Gastronomic Awards of Excellence, recognized 31 other food and beverage and hospitality professionals, aside from Wolfsgruber, in this year’s ceremony held at One

Farrer Hotel and Spa in Singapore.

According to a statement from the awards’ organizer A La Carte Productions, this year saw an overwhelming number of public nominations, indicating the recognition and acknowledgement of the hard work and outstanding service by industry professionals.

Accolades were presented under five main categories; chef awards, wine awards, industry awards, restaurant and service awards, and lifestyle awards. This year also featured new awards including specialized ones for Asian and Western cuisines.

Peter Knipp, the CEO of the group which owns awards’ organizer A La Carte Productions, said at the ceremony, “We congratulate our winners, who are exemplary in raising the standards of excellence in the F&B [food and beverage] and hospitality industries in Singapore and around the region. As the number of our home-grown talents progresses each year, we continue to focus on capability development and productivity enhancement to promote our home-grown talents and push them towards greater excellence.”

The World Gourmet Summit Awards of Excellence was inaugurated in 2001 with the aim of acknowledging the efforts of key players in the food and beverage industry who deliver the best dining experience and products to their guests.

The awards hope to motivate talented individuals in the industry to excel in the culinary profession and promote the appreciation of dining across Southeast Asia.

ARTS

Typography exhibition to open tomorrow

OVER 200 masterpieces of graphic design by international typographer Wolfgang Weingart will be showcased in the “Weingart Typography” exhibition, which is set to open tomorrow at Tap Seac Gallery.

According to a press release, the exhibition, especially curated for Weingart by the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, has been deve-

veloped from the museum’s own collection, which displays in various themes Weingart’s experimental works of “Circular Compositions” and “Line Pictures”, various experiments and studies of “The Letter M”, as well as his teaching accomplishments.

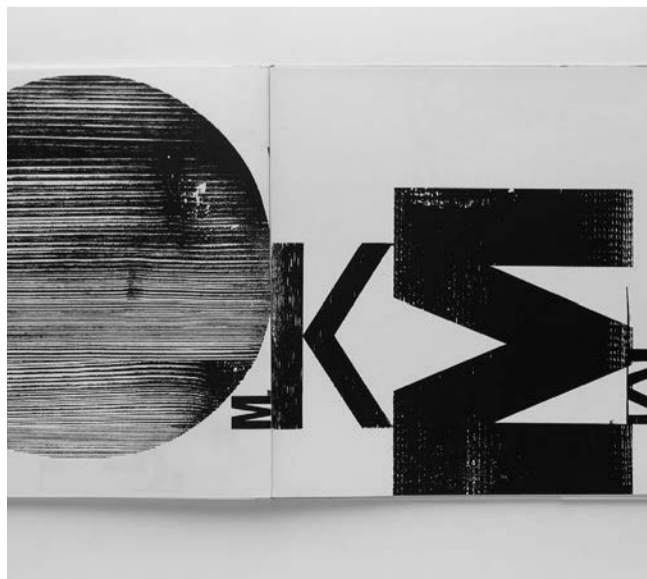
The typography teacher at the Schule für Gestaltung Basel revolutionized modern Swiss typ-

graphy, inscribing a new chapter in world design history. In the 1970s, he mounted halftone films to form collages and had these printed in offset, anticipating the digital sampling of the post-modern “New Wave”.

The exhibition has been organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau with the support of the Consulate General of Swit-

zerland in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Design Institute, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education, and Connecting Spaces Hong Kong – Zurich.

The organizer aims to share the creative accomplishments of the international typographer with the public. The exhibition will be held until June 12. Admission is free.



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BBAM

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Venue: The Vista, Level 3

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12.30: Drinks

12.55 pm: Lunch

1.30 pm: Presentation by Queenie Wong

2.30 pm: Close

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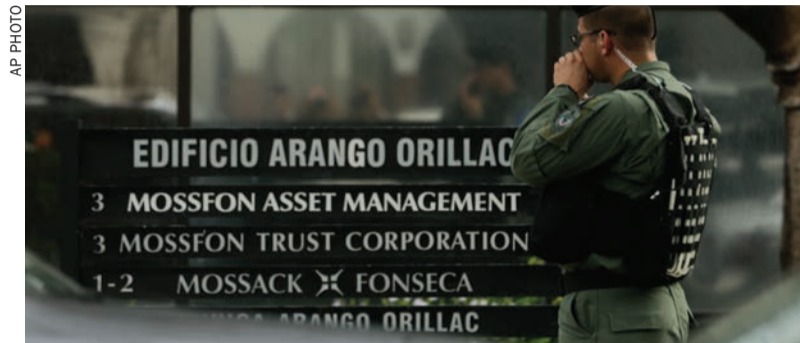
Organized crime prosecutors raid Panama Papers firm office

ORGANIZED crime prosecutors raided the offices of the Mossack Fonseca law firm yesterday [Macau time] looking for evidence of money laundering and financing terrorism following a leak of documents about tax havens it set up for wealthy international clients.

Soon after news reports based on a trove of documents from the firm began emerging more than a week ago, Panama's government had said it would investigate. A half dozen police officers set up a perimeter around the offices while prosecutors searched inside for documents.

The attorney general's office said in a statement that the objective of the raid was "to obtain documentation linked to the information published in news articles that establish the use of the firm in illicit activities." It said searches also were made at other subsidiaries of the firm in Panama and at the telephone company's computer support center.

Mossack Fonseca has denied any wrongdoing, saying it only set up offshore financial accounts



A police officer stands outside Mossack Fonseca law firm while organized crime prosecutors raid the offices

and anonymous shell companies for clients and was not involved in how those accounts were used.

The law firm said on its Twitter account that it "continues to cooperate with authorities in investigations begin made at our headquarters."

The search came a day after intellectual property prosecutors visited Mossack Fonseca to follow up on the firm's allegations that a computer hack led to the leak of millions of documents about tax havens.

The firm filed a complaint charging the security breach shortly before the first media reports

working with the documents offered details on how politicians, celebrities and companies around the globe were hiding assets in offshore accounts and shell companies.

"Finally the real criminals are being investigated," co-founder Roman Fonseca said in a message to The Associated Press earlier this week.

Fonseca has maintained that the only crime which can be taken from the leak was the computer hack itself. He has said he suspects the hack originated outside Panama, possibly in Europe, but has not given any details. AP

TRADE

China exports up 11.5 percent in March, first gain in nine months

CHINESE exports have risen for the first time in nine months, in a sign that the outlook may be improving for the world's No. 2 economy.

Customs data posted online yesterday show that China's exports rose 11.5 percent in March compared with a year earlier, to USD160.8 billion, after slumping by 25 percent in February.

It's the first year-on-year gain in exports since June. However, the performance also reflects an unusually large contraction in exports in March 2015.

"A dramatic turnaround in [year-on-year] growth was always likely," Marcel Thieliant and Mark Williams of Capital Economics said, also because of the effects of the Lunar New Year holiday, which "extended into early March last year but was confined to February this year."

Chinese economic data in the first months of the year are distorted because many businesses close during the

weeklong holiday, which falls at different times in January and February.

Imports fell 13.8 percent in March to \$131 billion.

In the first three months of this year, total exports and imports fell 11.3 percent.

China's economy expanded by 6.9 percent in 2015, its slowest rate in a quarter century, and is expected to slow further this year as leaders engineer a transition away from unsustainable growth based on investment and export manufacturing. Beijing forecasts growth of 6.5 to 7 percent this year.

An update on the state of the economy is expected tomorrow when officials are set to release first-quarter GDP data.

The trade report follows other recent data that point to possible stabilization in China's economy, including an official monthly survey released earlier this week of factory purchasing managers that showed a strong rebound in activity. AP

AD



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Marcy Gordon, Washington

FEDERAL regulators say five of the biggest banks in the U.S. haven't worked out strong plans for how they might reshape themselves in case of failure, which could leave them unable to survive without another taxpayer bailout.

JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Bank of New York Mellon and State Street Bank were cited yesterday by the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. for gaps in their bankruptcy plans known as "living wills" that they were required to submit. The five banks — with a total of about USD5.6 trillion in assets — were among eight Wall Street behemoths whose plans were evaluated.

The two agencies found the five banks' plans are "not credible" or insufficient for an orderly restructuring in the event of bankruptcy. The regulators gave the banks an Oct. 1 deadline to fix the problems or face possible "more stringent" requirements. That could include ordering the banks to beef up their capital cushions against unforeseen losses. If the regulators still weren't satisfied, banks eventually could be forced to sell off assets.

The news comes in a week when several major banks are expected to report weak earnings for the first quarter.

"We are going to do everything we can to fix this issue," JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon said in a conference call with reporters.

The biggest U.S. bank, with some \$2 trillion in assets, reported yesterday that its first-quarter profit fell more than 8 percent from a year earlier, hurt by weak performance in its investment business.

In their 18-month review, the Fed and the FDIC also found weaknesses that must be addressed in the plans of Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stan-



People walk past a branch of Chase Bank, in New York

BANKING

Five US big banks get failing grades for crisis plans

ley. The agencies' assessments differed. Only the FDIC deemed Goldman's plan "not credible," the more serious label, while only the Fed accorded the "not credible" finding to Morgan Stanley.

The agencies also found shortcomings to be fixed in Citigroup's plan, but they didn't rise to the "not credible" level.

All eight banks must file the next round of plans by July 1 of next year.

The exercise was mandated under the financial overhaul law enacted in the wake of the crisis that struck in 2008 and

set off the Great Recession. It is designed to check that big banks — which received hundreds of billions in bailouts — are prepared in case of financial disaster and aren't "too big to fail."

The big banks are in strong financial shape and are facing no threat of collapse. They sit on sturdy bases of capital that the regulators ordered them to shore up in recent years. The banking industry as a whole has recovered steadily since the financial crisis, marking climbing quarterly profits.

Rather, the "living will" as-

sessments are part of the regulators' effort to avoid another taxpayer bailout of Wall Street banks in a crisis and to end the marketplace perception that the government would step in and rescue them. Under the 2010 overhaul law, the FDIC has the authority to seize and dismantle big financial firms that could collapse and threaten the broader system. The banks' "living wills" could serve as guidelines for possible breakups by the government.

Wells Fargo said it was "disappointed" by the regulators' assessment of its plan. Still, the

bank noted that the regulators acknowledged that it had taken steps to correct the problems.

"We view the feedback as constructive and valuable," San Francisco-based Wells Fargo said in a statement.

The two agencies already had put the big banks on notice in mid-2014 that they had to correct serious deficiencies in their "living wills" — such as a lack of details and relying on unrealistic assumptions. The banks were told to go back to the drawing board. Only the FDIC, not the Fed, used the "not credible" wording at that time. AP

corporate bits

'GUANGDONG, HK AND MACAU POWER INDUSTRY SUMMIT' TO BE HELD IN NANNING



The annual "Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Power Industry Summit" involving China Southern Power Grid Company Limited (CSG), CLP Holdings Limited, China General Nuclear Power Group and Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) will be held in Nanning, Guangxi from

May 11 to 13, with the theme of "Strengthening Cooperation to Achieve Mutual Benefits and Win-Win Situations". Hosted this year by CSG, the summit will invite experts and guests to probe into the current trending topics, including "the 13th Five Year Plan" and "the Belt & Road Initiative".

HERBALIFE SEMINAR TOMORROW

Herbalife is set to hold the "Herbalife Asian Region Tour Seminar" with David Heber, Chairman of Herbalife Nutrition Institute and Nutrition Advisory Board, at the Landmark Hotel Lagoon Ballroom tomorrow.

A press release issued by Herbalife stated that according to past research conducted in Macau, the region constitutes an aging society, thus medical problems will ensue, mainly relating to poor diet and daily routines. Therefore, maintaining a healthy weight has become a high priority to many people, especially the older generation.

The speaker has repeatedly been included on lists



such as "The Best Doctors in America" and "Who's Who in America." According to the press release, he is also a leading figure in obesity research, primarily focused on how to effectively prevent obesity, and understanding the relationship between obesity and aging.

'THE VOICE OF LEGENDS' TO ARRIVE TO MACAU

"The Voice of Legends" live show is set to perform in the city on May 14 at The Venetian, Cotai Arena. Liza Wang, Lo Ka Leung, Teresa Carpio, Elisa Chan, Danny Summer and Kenny Bee will bring the glamour of decades past to Macau when they perform together on the same stage for a night.

The stars will sing a selection of their all-time greatest hits at the arena. According to a statement, Liza Wang, Elisa Chan, Teresa Carpio, Gallen Lo will bring their "powerful signature voices" to the audience. Hong Kong singer and songwriter Kenny Bee will bring the vocals that made legendary band The Wynners famous to



the show, while rock singer Danny Summer will share a night filled with classic tunes.

In addition, a special guest star will appear on stage to perform with "The Voice of Legends."



Sun Wenlin (right), sits with his partner Hu Mingliang at home a day before going to court to argue in China's first gay marriage case in Changsha in central China

Despite court ruling, gay rights movement makes gains

Gerry Shih, Changsha

FOR years, Chen Tiantian could only read about the gay rights movement in faraway places. She knew that there were activists in Beijing and a vibrant community in Shanghai, and that in San Francisco, a distant mecca, gay pride parades took up entire streets.

But yesterday, the 20-year-old English major sat on the steps of a courthouse and spoke fervently about how the struggle for equality had arrived in her central Chinese hometown — and how she planned to take part.

“It’s hard to believe, but we’re right in the middle of this,” said Chen, who came with several friends to support a local couple who had challenged the city’s civil affairs bureau after they were denied a marriage certificate. “It’s like I’m finally entering the struggle myself.”

Though it was dismissed by the court in Changsha, China’s first legal challenge to a law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples has galvanized many of the hundreds of young Chinese gay rights supporters who gathered at the courthouse, some of them waving small rainbow flags. The hearing’s sizable public turnout and coverage by usually conservative Chinese media appeared to reflect early signs of shifting social attitudes

in China on the topic of sexual orientation.

The lawsuit that was dismissed was brought by 26-year-old Sun Wenlin against the civil affairs bureau for refusing to issue him and his partner, Hu Mingliang, a marriage registration certificate. The judge’s ruling against the couple came

“I’m going to become active, but I’m just worried that as a college student we have no financial power to do anything real.”

CHEN TIANTIAN

down after a three-hour hearing — but that didn’t dampen the mood of many of the hundreds of young Chinese who gathered outside the courthouse hoping for a chance to “witness history,” in the words of one supporter.

Some supporters, who had traveled overnight from neighboring provinces to line up at 5 a.m. to attend the hearing, said they felt energized because having a gay marriage lawsuit argued in a Chinese court for the first time was a small but significant victory in itself. Unlike in most politically sensitive legal cases, security outside the courthouse was light and the atmosphere was relaxed.

More seasoned activists said they too had reason to be optimistic given a pickup in legal challenges, even if successes in court remained few and far between.

Chinese society and the government have generally frowned on nontraditional expressions of gender and sexuality, but awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues is rising.

China doesn’t legally recognize same-sex marriage, and officials with the central government have said they do not see the law changing soon. It also remains unclear how far gay rights activism will be allowed to go under the current political climate in China, where lawyers groups and feminist activists have been jailed in recent months.

But many gay rights activists in China say they feel public attitudes are shifting substantially given the growing mains-

stream media coverage of LGBT issues.

In 2014, a Chinese court ruled that gay conversion treatments were illegal. Earlier this week, a labor arbitration panel in the southern province of Guizhou heard China’s first transgender job discrimination case and is expected to make a ruling in the coming weeks.

Ying Xin, the director of the Beijing LGBT Center, said there was a sharp uptick in awareness of gay issues compared to 2009, when the group started doing street performance art in Beijing.

“This is a moment because of all the news coverage, and people are gaining exposure,” Ying said, pointing out recent coverage of LGBT issues and lawsuits in domestic online and broadcast news outlets.

Central China Television, the state broadcaster, has covered gay issues on several occasions and sent a reporter yesterday to interview Sun after the court decision.

As he left the courthouse amid applause and cries of “Hero,” Sun, the plaintiff, told reporters and scores of supporters that he would continue to appeal until all of his legal options were exhausted.

“The bigger significance of this case is that it will let more people know about their rights,” said Gou Gou, a Beijing-based

lawyer from an informal group of legal professionals called the Rainbow Lawyers network. “But young people are the most passionate. This will hopefully direct them to become more involved with the right training.”

For Chen, the English student, yesterday’s hearing seemed like an awakening. She attributed the Internet to her knowledge of LGBT issues, saying she had read voraciously about everything from the battle over same-sex marriage in the United States winding its way to the Supreme Court to news of homophobic attacks in Russia.

Chen said she had long wanted to join some sort of organization or cause but had no idea how to participate in Changsha, which had no organized gay community to speak of.

“I’m going to become active, but I’m just worried that as a college student we have no financial power to do anything real,” Chen said. “But this case definitely gave a lot of people courage to stand up. For gay people in China to make that first step was really not easy.”

For the past week, Sun and Hu have been tracked by two college students who are making independent documentaries about them. Yang Dangling, 22, who traveled from the eastern city of Nanjing with her camera, said LGBT student clubs were forming on campuses across the country in the past five to 10 years.

Despite a surge in their national profile, Sun and Hu have sought to maintain a low-key lifestyle in Changsha. Several months ago, police came to the house to urge Sun to drop his case, but left after he reiterated his determination to press on.

Sun said his parents have been fully supportive of his legal battle, while Hu’s mother and father, who live in the Hunan countryside, are more conservative but have come to accept their son’s sexual orientation.

The night before the hearing, Sun and Hu spoke to local reporters before settling down for 10 yuan (USD2) bowls of rice and fried peppers in a nearby eatery, where they contemplated the progress of China’s gay rights movement.

Sun insisted he didn’t want to be a spokesman for all gay people in China, but only fight for his individual rights and set a legal precedent. Social attitudes can only change with economic development, he said.

Hu, the more soft-spoken of the two, interjected to rebut the notion. He recalled bringing Sun home to the countryside several months ago, where he introduced him to some old friends, who shrugged off the revelation that he was gay.

“These people knew me for 20 years,” Hu said. “If you know someone who is gay, that changes your perspective. It just takes exposure.” AP

Chinese pressure seen in Taiwanese deportations from Kenya

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

THE deportation of nearly four dozen Taiwanese from Kenya to China, where they're being investigated over wire fraud allegations, is focusing new attention on Beijing's willingness to assert its sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan, and the leverage it wields over smaller nations to achieve that.

A Chinese spokesman said yesterday that under Chinese law, Beijing has jurisdiction in the case of the 45 Taiwanese because the victims of the crimes they're suspected of committing were Chinese. They're part of a larger group of 117 Taiwanese and mainland Chinese detained by Kenya on suspicion of trying to swindle money from Chinese victims using electronic communications.

Yet legal experts say Chinese law is not quite so explicit and the case's handling appears to be based mainly on the "one-China principle" that insists Taiwan be viewed as part of China — and Taiwanese as Chinese for legal purposes.

"I think the Chinese are taking a hard approach to these matters," said Joseph Cheng, a scholar of Chinese politics formerly at the City University of Hong Kong. "They are saying we can play hard ball and in places like Kenya, we have a lot of influence."

Analysts say China's specific goal is to extract concessions from Taiwanese President-elect Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse Beijing's position that Taiwan and the mainland are part of a single Chinese nation. The sides split



Chinese suspects involved in wire fraud (center), sit in a plane as they arrive at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing

amid civil war in 1949, and China has threatened to use force to gain control over the self-governing island.

Part of Beijing's approach is to isolate Taiwan internationally, excluding it from global institutions like the United Nations and leaving it with just 22 formal diplomatic allies. Kenya and Taiwan have never had diplomatic relations.

Although Beijing eased the pressure under Taiwan's China-friendly outgoing president, Ma Ying-jeou, indications are it's re-deploying such tactics to influence Tsai ahead of her May 20 inauguration.

"They are saying that unless we get an agreement, we will do what we want without consulting you," Cheng said.

Commenting on Facebook, Tsai warned the incident would deepen negative sentiments among Taiwanese toward China and ur-

ged Beijing to open immediate negotiations on the matter.

"The Beijing authorities' ignorance of [Taiwan's] own sovereignty and jurisdiction over the case has deeply hurt relations across the Taiwan Strait," she wrote.

One of the first signs that China was hardening its attitude came last month when China established diplomatic relations with the Taiwanese ally of Gambia. In that case, Beijing said only that it was acceding after months of requests from the small African nation.

As a major investor in Africa, China has used its influence with several of the continent's governments to further its own aims. South Africa has barred the Dalai Lama, a nemesis of Beijing, while Zambia has used force to suppress anti-management protests against Chinese-run copper mines.

Kenya is a particularly close ally and its government may have

Analysts say China's specific goal is to extract concessions from Taiwanese President-elect Tsai Ing-wen

been more than willing to comply with Chinese demands that the Taiwanese be turned over to Beijing. Along with massive investment in Kenyan infrastructure and businesses, China has chosen the capital, Nairobi, as the African hub for state broadcaster CCTV's African operations.

"Kenya has diplomatic relations with China and it regards Taiwan as China's Taiwan," said Beijing lawyer Li Fangpin, noting that Chinese law about jurisdiction in such cases is not very explicit. "The deportation may be based on the bilateral agreements between China and Kenya."

Taiwan has strongly protested, saying Kenya ignored due process and China violated a tacit agreement not to interfere in legal matters involving Taiwanese abroad. However, officials say it will send a legal team to Beijing to look into the matter in response to a Chinese invitation.

"Of course I have expressed our deep disappointment about the whole process. What they have done was rude and they didn't

follow the agreement we made before for dealing with this kind of case together," Taiwan's top China envoy, Andrew Hsia, said about Tuesday's phone conversation with his Chinese counterpart Zhang Zhijun.

An Fengshan, a spokesman for the Chinese Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office, reiterated China's jurisdiction in the case, but also sought to reassure people on the island. "The legal rights and interests of the criminal suspects will be guaranteed according to the law," he said at a news conference yesterday.

He also said the authorities in Taiwan haven't done enough to crack down on Taiwanese-led gangs that China says have defrauded its citizens and companies of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Kenya says it acted appropriately, and a government official on Tuesday denied Taiwanese claims that tear gas was used to force some of the Taiwanese to board the flight to China.

Some of the Taiwanese deportees have already arrived, but the detention center in Beijing believed to be holding them declined to confirm their presence. The spokesman's office for the city's police department did not immediately respond to faxed questions about the issue.

Cheng, the scholar of Chinese politics, said he expects China to continue employing such pressure until Tsai concedes, but will use legal and diplomatic justifications to avoid the appearance of direct threats. "They don't want to create a negative impression," he said. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing summons G7 diplomats to protest ministers' statement

BEIJING summoned diplomats from the Group of 7 industrialized countries to protest a statement from their foreign ministers criticizing China's island-building activities in the disputed South China Sea, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China "solemnly clarified" to the diplomats its position on the issue. In an earlier statement, Lu defended China's land reclamation work in the Spratly islands as within its territorial rights and accused the G-7 of diverging from its mission of safeguarding the global economy.

"After this [G-7] statement

was issued, we indeed found some things were correct and some were incorrect," Lu told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference. "As part the ritual of the exchanges among countries, when we find something wrong, we will definitely clarify to the relevant country our opinion and stance."

Unconfirmed reports said China summoned the Japanese ambassador and the No. 2 ranking diplomats from the other six on Tuesday.

The statement issued by the G-7 foreign ministers on Monday expressed strong opposition to any "intimidating, coercive or provocative unilateral actions that could

alter the status quo and increase tensions."

China's massive project to create islands by piling sand on coral reefs and topping them with airfields and ports has been criticized by the U.S. and others as militarizing the region, an accusation China flatly rejects.

The statement, which didn't mention China by name, also expressed concern about the East China Sea, where Japan and China both claim a string of uninhabited islands.

Lu's statement issued Tuesday and posted on the ministry's website said the G-7 countries should have focused on global economy instead of "hyping up maritime



A Chinese man is reflected in glass as he reads China's nationalistic tabloid Global Times' front page article with a headline that reads: "the U.S., Philippine and Japanese military steer tension in the disputed South China Sea"

issues and fueling tensions in the region."

Yesterday, Lu complained that some media have not fully reported on China's position and said China would not be pressured into altering its policies on the South China Sea. China claims almost the entire strategically vital waterway and its island groups as its own territory. **AP**

Spain court releases two ICBC executives with conditions

A Spanish court has ordered the conditional release of two executives of China's state-owned ICBC bank in Madrid that were among six arrested in February in a money laundering and tax fraud probe.

The Madrid court said this week only one of the six detained still remains in preventive custody. Three others were allowed out on bail within days of their arrest.

The case has been placed under a secrecy order but police said it was a follow-up on one in 2015 that targeted gangs using the bank to launder to China some 40 million euros (USD45 million) proceeding from Chinese-run bargain stores in Spain.

The court said the two ordered released must hand in their passports, stay in Spain and appear before court twice a month. **AP**

Katy Daigle & Teresa Cerojano,
Manila

PHILIPPINES

Manila water plan draws US rep's criticism for World Bank role

IN a bustling, densely populated corner of Manila, fruit vendor Coring Gutierrez reads USD35 due from her latest water bill, more than triple what her family of six paid 15 years ago.

"As long as we get water," she sighs, reflecting the relief many of the Philippine capital region's nearly 12 million residents feel about having a steady and safe water supply.

Water was not supposed to become so expensive for Manila under a 1997 World Bank deal that privatized the seaside city's water and sewage management.

That arrangement is under fire by the U.S. congressional committee that oversees the international development bank, which is now questioning whether the World Bank and its lending arm, the International Finance Corp., should join in such "public-private partnerships."

In a letter sent this week to the World Bank's president, the committee's ranking member accuses the IFC of conflict of interest for its equity stake in one of two companies set up under the 1997 Manila water deal.

The IFC's stake in Manila Water Co. is "leading to warped incentives that negatively influence the institution's ability to focus on expanding water access," U.S. Representative Gwen Moore, a Democrat from Wisconsin, says in the letter to World Bank President Jim Yong Kim.

Moore wants the World Bank and the IFC to "cease promoting and funding privatization of water resources," pending an evaluation of the IFC's conflicts policy and practices and congressional hearings on the subject.

The IFC welcomed Moore's letter as a chance to discuss the issues, saying "the World Bank Group takes real or perceived conflicts of interests very seriously," according to the IFC's chief communications officer, Geoffrey Keele. In an email to The Associated Press, he noted that the IFC's role in advising the privatization deal was done several years before it invested in the company, and that "the risk of perceived conflicts of interest was examined at each stage of the Manila Water investment approval."

Privately owned water utilities have existed for centuries in Europe and the United States, but have recently ballooned into a huge industry.

Worldwide, one in 10 people lack access to clean water, and for cash-short governments, privatization can help close that gap. But critics contend that privatizing water can make it more expensive, limiting access of the poor to the basic human right to clean water.

The record in Manila has been



Filipino subcontractors of Manila Water Co. covers a pipe next to a garbage filled creek in suburban Mandaluyong, east of Manila

mixed.

Through much of the 1990s, supplies reached only about a quarter of the population, while the city utility lost up to 62 percent of its supply to leaks, illegal meter tampering and ad hoc connections. Sewage contamination made tap water undrinkable.

Today, the IFC cites Manila as a success story, with relatively reliable services, though costs to consumers have soared.

In 1997, the city paid the IFC \$6.2 million to restructure management of its troubled water and sewage systems. Twenty-five-year concessions were awarded to two companies: Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co.

The IFC opted to provide \$60 million in loans to Manila Water Co., which took over wealthier districts where customers were more likely to pay. The IFC also bought a \$15 million chunk of equity, or about 2.5 percent, in Manila Water. The company became profitable within two years, launched a public offering in 2005 and has invested in water systems in other countries, including India, Vietnam and Indonesia.

Politicians who fear making unpopular decisions about utility tariffs tend to favor privatization. Even some U.S. communities are turning to the private sector to fix outdated systems or improve oversight and counter troubles such as the recent heavy metal contamination of tap water in Flint, Michigan, and New York City.

Moore says the IFC and World Bank created a situation in Ma-

nila where prices were bound to soar, as profits were prioritized above the bank's mission to alleviate poverty. She worries Manila is being touted as a model for other cities in Africa and Asia.

"I am increasingly uneasy with water resource privatization in developing countries, and do not believe that the current ring-fencing policies separating the investment and advising functions of the IFC are adequate,"

Water was not supposed to become so expensive for Manila under a 1997 World Bank deal that privatized the seaside city's water and sewage management

her letter says, noting that the IFC was contracted to orchestrate programs in Benin and Mozambique.

Keele, the IFC spokesman, said the World Bank Group, in most cases, supports publicly run utilities with investments for upgrades and expansion. But sometimes governments seek out private operators.

"In these cases, we assist the government in finding a private partner to do this through a public-private partnership, or PPP," he said. "Our job is to support governments and help find a solution that works for them, whether it is a private- or public-sector led solution." They might prefer private management if, for example, they are seeking management expertise, he said.

Worry over privatizing access to water is growing, as dozens of municipalities terminate private management contracts or let them expire without renewal. In 2011, Italians voted in a referendum against privatizing control of water.

A year earlier, Paris took control over its supply back from the water giants Suez Environment and Veolia Environment, which provide water services to nearly 200 million people worldwide.

As urban populations expand while resources run dry, optimizing water use and sewage management is crucial for public health and quality of life.

The U.N.'s International Resource Panel warned last month that nearly half the world's population could be under severe water stress by 2030, with projected demand outstripping supply by 40 percent.

It's a tough balance to strike: If water is too cheap, there is little incentive to conserve. Too costly, and the public suffers.

Philippine law caps the rate of return on public utility assets at 12 percent, and in 2014 the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System ordered Ma-

nila Water to cut rates, saying it was overcharging customers. The company refused, took the case to the International Chamber of Commerce for arbitration, and lost. The 2015 ICC ruling said the IFC-brokered contract violated Philippine law.

"Ironically, the World Bank - an institution with a poverty alleviation mission - has aligned its own financial interests more closely with large private corporations than with the millions of people who desperately need clean, safe drinking water," said Nathaniel Meyer of the Boston-based watchdog Corporate Accountability International.

Manila Water's spokesman, Jeric Sevilla, said the company provides full services to 99 percent of its coverage area and is upgrading its distribution network with some 5,000 kilometers of new pipelines.

The roughly 700 percent increase in rates since 1997 is in line with costs and less than what the poor would pay on the black market, he said.

But customers complain of weak or erratic water pressure and occasional shutdowns.

"Even at night, very little water flows from the tap," said Michael Eleazar, a rice trader from Manila's San Andres district who earns \$660 to \$1,000 a month. He buys bottled water for drinking, but still pays \$19 a month to Manila Water for water for bathing and for laundry, just once a week.

"No matter how we try to save water, the bill is still high," he said.

Eleazar counts himself lucky to have water at all. Many remain off the water grid.

"It is difficult not to have water. It's better not to have electricity," said 65-year-old Leoncia Duka, lighting a makeshift fire to cook a pot of rice for her grandchildren in the scrap-wood shanty they call home.

"The dishes remain unwashed," Duka said, chuckling. "So I said, let's just eat on banana leaves."

Asit Biswas, founder of the Mexico City-based think-tank Third World Center for Water Management, says it's hard to assess Manila Water's record. There are no independent studies and the company refuses to provide technical data for analysis.

"The emotional argument, that water is a human right, is a bit ridiculous. Food and shelter are also considered human rights, yet we pay for those without a thought," he said. "But private management is usually going to be more expensive." AP

SOUTH KOREA

Parliamentary elections seen as key for president Park

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Koreans voted in parliamentary elections yesterday that were expected to hand a decisive win to President Park Geun-hye's conservative party, and enable her to push ahead with controversial economic reforms. Exit polls, however, indicated her party would not regain its majority in the National Assembly.

Pollsters had predicted that the ruling Saenuri Party would crush a divided opposition and raise its expectations to take the presidency in 2017, after Park's single term expires.

But exit polls by three national television networks unveiled after voting ended at 6 p.m. showed Saenuri managing 118 to 147 seats in the 300-seat assembly. The networks projected the main opposition Minjoo Party winning 97 to 128 seats, and the People's Party, a new party created mostly



A local resident with her child comes out of a polling booth to cast her ballot for parliamentary elections at a polling station in Seoul

by those who defected from Minjoo, taking 31 to 43 seats. Such an outcome would jeopardize Park's plans for economic reforms and blow open next year's presidential race.

It remained to be seen whether the exit polls would prove to be accurate. South Korean television networks have a spotty record of predicting election results with their exit polls. Official

results are expected today.

There has been disappointment among South Koreans over a sluggish economy, but it seems that criticism of Park's economic policies has taken a back seat to national security issues following North Korea's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

Hostility between the rival Koreans in election years has often been seen as helping the

conservatives by allowing them to highlight their hard-line approach against the North. Liberals have traditionally backed rapprochement policies with the North.

Officials from the main opposition Minjoo Party had expressed concerns that Saenuri could achieve something close to a two-thirds supermajority in the National Assembly.

Official figures show household debt at new highs and the unemployment rate for people under 30 approaching levels not seen since the late 1990s, when millions lost their jobs during a crippling financial crisis.

In a survey of 1,000 adults unveiled last week by Gallup Korea, the percentage of respondents saying Park was doing a good job as president rose by 5 percentage points from the previous week to 43 percent.

The survey showed that Park's supporters highly rated her diplomatic policies and stern mea-

sures against North Korea, including economic sanctions and the shutdown of a factory park in the North that had been jointly run by the rivals.

Since losing its second consecutive presidential election in 2012, the Minjoo Party has struggled with factional infighting and lawmaker defections, and saw its seats decline from 127 to 102 in the current assembly.

In this year's general election, the Minjoo has been forced to compete for mainstream liberal votes with the People's Party led by its former co-chairman, Ahn Cheol-soo, who is seen as a potential candidate for the 2017 presidential election.

Ahn's People's Party has focused its campaigning efforts in the southwest Jeolla region, which has traditionally been the core liberal support base.

South Korea's electorate is deeply divided along generational and ideological lines, and also by fierce regional loyalties. Voters in the southeast Gyeongsang regions have for decades overwhelmingly voted for conservatives in parliamentary and presidential elections.

The National Election Commission estimated that 58 percent of the country's 42 million voters participated in yesterday's election, a higher turnout than four years ago, when 54.2 percent of the electorate voted. **AP**

AD



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UK

Story of minister and dominatrix sparks debate over media

Jill Lawless, London

HAVE you heard the one about the British politician and the dominatrix? Probably not until now — and critics of the government and the press say that is a problem.

Opposition politicians called yesterday for a Cabinet minister to give up authority over press regulation after he acknowledged that he had a relationship with a sex worker several years ago — and that several newspapers knew about it but kept quiet.

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale says he had a relationship in 2013-14 with a woman he met online and later learned was a sex worker. He says he ended the liaison when he learned someone was trying to sell the story to a tabloid newspaper.

No laws were broken, and the government is standing by Whittingdale, saying he is entitled to a private life.

"This is an old story which



John Whittingdale, Culture Secretary

was a bit embarrassing at the time," Whittingdale said in a statement. "The events occurred long before I took up my present position and it has never had any influence on the decisions I have made as culture secretary."

None of Britain's scandal-hungry newspapers ran the story of Whittingdale's sex life at the time, although several investigated it. The story resurfaced this week online and in the satirical newspaper Private Eye, which questioned why no newspaper had thought it newsworthy.

Critics of the government say newspapers may have

“[It seems] the press were quite deliberately holding a sword of Damocles over John Whittingdale.”

CHRIS BRYANT
LAWMAKER, LABOUR PARTY

used knowledge of the embarrassing relationship to exert influence over Whittingdale, who is under pressure to introduce tighter regulation of the press in the wake of the tabloid phone-hacking scandal.

Labour Party lawmaker Chris Bryant said it looked as if "the press were quite deliberately holding a sword of Damocles over John Whittingdale." Labour culture spokeswoman Maria Eagle said Whittingdale "must now recuse himself from any decision-making" over press regulation, "to allay any concerns about perceptions of any undue influence."

Whittingdale became culture secretary in 2015, after the relationship ended. But at the time of the affair he was chairman of Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee, which investigated press ethics after revelations of tabloid wrongdoing, including eavesdropping on the mobile phone voicemails of celebrities and people in the public eye.

Some media-watchers have found it hard to believe Britain's tabloids would pass up a story involving sex and politics, two of their favorite topics. But Bob Satchwell, executive director of the Society of Editors, said he did not believe newspaper editors had colluded to suppress the story.

Satchwell said that in the wake of the hacking scandal, which has seen newspapers sued for invasion of privacy, "papers have become extremely careful about stories involving anyone in public life." AP

SPAIN

Police arrest suspect tied to Jan 2015 Paris attacks



Spain's Interior Ministry says police have arrested a Frenchman they believe supplied the arms to Paris attacker Amedy Coulibaly for use in the January 2015 attacks in the French capital. A ministry statement yesterday said Antoine Denive, 27, from the northern French town of Sainte Catherine was arrested Tuesday in the southern coastal town of Rincon de la Victoria on a European arrest warrant. It said a Serbian man and a Montenegrin man were also arrested. It said Denive left France several weeks after the January 2015 attacks and moved to the southern Spanish province of Malaga, where he allegedly continued illegal activity under a false identity. The January 2015 attacks in Paris left 17 victims and three attackers dead.

USA

State judge rules Cruz eligible for presidential nomination



A New Jersey judge has ruled that Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz meets the constitutional requirements to be president and may appear on the state's presidential primary ballot. Judge Jeff Masin ruled that a child of a citizen-father or citizen-mother is "indeed a natural born Citizen within the contemplation of the Constitution." Cruz, who was born in Calgary, Alberta, to a Cuban father and American mother, faced challenges to being on the June 7 primary ballot from Catholic University of America law professor Victor Williams and the South Jersey Concerned Citizens Committee. The challengers argued Cruz was a naturalized citizen because he was not born on U.S. soil.

CUBA

Havana opens state wholesale market to some private businesses



Cuba says it is opening its state-controlled wholesale market to a limited number of private business owners in response to rising prices that have angered many ordinary Cubans. Without access to wholesale goods, private business have been buying basic supplies in retail outlets and raising the prices to generate profit, leading to widespread hikes in the cost of food and many household goods. State-run media said yesterday that food and personal-service businesses that are either cooperatively run or rent space from the government will be able to buy goods at prices 20 percent below retail. They will also be able to do business with state-run importers, a potentially important new benefit that could give access to U.S.-made goods. The new measures also establish price caps on some goods bought wholesale and sold privately, among them Cuban-produced soft drinks and beer, rum, cigarettes and chicken. State media said the measures would go into effect on May 2.

OBITUARY

Prolific British playwright Arnold Wesker dies at age 83

Danica Kirka, London

PROLIFIC British playwright Arnold Wesker, who drew on his heritage as a working-class Jew to create plays that captured the dialogue and struggles of the common man, has died, his son Lindsay said yesterday. He was 83 and had Parkinson's disease.

Wesker, who wrote more than 40 plays that were translated into 18 languages, first gained prominence with a trilogy about the lives of Jewish socialist intellectuals: "Chicken Soup with Barley" (1958), "Roots" (1959) and "I'm Talking about Jerusalem" (1960). He was known, together with writers including John Osborne and Brendan Behan, as one of the "angry young men" of the British stage in the 1950s — though he dismissed the label.

The playwright drew on his youth in east London, where conversation, argument and song were woven into the fabric of daily life. He loved the rhythms, the dialogue and the thirst for knowledge gained just by sitting around talking.

"There were quarrels and they were upsetting, but in a strange way there was so much love around, it overshadowed the distress," he told the BBC's "Desert Island



British playwright Arnold Wesker

Discs" program in 2006.

Born on May 24, 1932, Wesker never went to college but instead had a string of jobs that informed his writing, including bookseller's assistant, farm laborer, kitchen porter and pastry cook, as well as service in the Royal Air Force in 1950-52.

"I really do feel I missed out not going to university," he told the BBC. "I just failed exams. I didn't even pass my English exams. When I write prose, I keep my fingers crossed that I'm writing it as I remember having read it in good literature."

In the stiff, upper-class world of British drama in the 1950s, Wesker was part of a wave of new voices who took on all subjects, the "kitchen sink" of drama. Together with playwrights like Harold Pinter,

Wesker helped broaden the appeal of theater to a new generation.

His plays have experienced a revival of late, with "Chicken Soup" performed in 2011 at London's Royal Court Theatre. Dominic Cooke, the Royal Court's artistic director at the time, said Wesker understood theater "is always metaphorical, even when the social context of the play is realistic and detailed."

"In 'Chicken Soup,' for example, the gradually disintegrating family stands for the fading political idealism of the 20th century, but the daily life of the family on stage is brought to life with insight and honesty," he said.

Wesker's other well-known plays include "Chips With Everything," based on his service in the RAF, and "The Kitchen," which draws on his days as a pastry cook. They were stories of ordinary people and real life. And he loved telling them well.

"He genuinely loved words," his son Lindsay said. "That was really the joy."

Wesker was knighted in 2006 for services to drama.

He is survived by his wife, Dusty, sons Daniel and Lindsay, and a daughter, Elsa Hastad.

Funeral arrangements are pending. AP

what's ON



"POST MODERN STILL LIFE" DRAWING & PAINTING
BY MARCO SZETO
OPENING HOURS: 10am-6:30pm
UNTIL: May 15, 2016
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ORGANIZER: Dare to Dream Gallery
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THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS – EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
TIME: 10am-6pm (no admittance after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: July 31, 2016
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

INK WASH OF THE FORBIDDEN CITY – PAINTINGS BY CHARLES CHAUDELOT
TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: June 19, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION
TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admittance after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)
VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE
TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)
VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

Offbeat

COUNTRY ARTISTS CONDEMN LGBT LAWS, BUT LABELS SILENT

Several country music artists and songwriters have condemned proposed laws that critics say discriminate against LGBT people, but anyone looking for reaction from the record labels and production companies on Nashville's Music Row has heard only the sound of silence.

New laws in North Carolina and Mississippi have drawn the ire of businesses and celebrities alike, with Bruce Springsteen and Bryan Adams canceling shows in those states. Legislation dealing with the treatment of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people was vetoed by Georgia's governor, but bills are still being considered in Tennessee and South Carolina.

Numerous artists with ties to Nashville have denounced the proposals here, which would ban transgender people from using restrooms that don't conform to their sex at birth and would allow counselors to refuse services to LGBT people on religious grounds. Among them: Emmylou Harris, Billy Ray Cyrus and his pop star daughter Miley Cyrus, and actor Chris Carmack of ABC's "Nashville."

Gretchen Peters, a singer songwriter who has written hits like Martina McBride's "Independence Day," said the bills being considered in Tennessee are deeply personal to her as the mother of a 31-year-old transgender man.

"The people who are at risk are people like my son who would really be called out publicly, and anyone who is a trans person knows that can escalate into a really dangerous situation," she said. "I live in fear of that as a mother."

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	RTPi Live
18:05	Fillers
18:10	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	Comedy
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Champions League: Benfica - Bayern München (Repeated)
01:25	Fillers
01:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema



CINETEATRO

14 APR - 20 APR



THE HUNTSMAN: WINTER'S WAR

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 6.30, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: Cedric Nicolas-Troyan
Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Emily Blunt
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 114min



10 CLOVERFIELD LANE

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Dan Trachtenberg
Starring: Mary Elizabeth Winstead, John Goodman
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 106min

TRIVISA

ROOM 3
2.15, 4.00, 9.45 pm

Director: Jevons Au, Frank Hui, Vicky Wong
Starring: Richie Jen, Jordan Chan, Ka Tung Lam
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min

ZOOTOPIA

ROOM 3
5.45 7.45 pm

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

24 MAR - 27 APR

BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE

1.15, 4.00, 6.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Zack Snyder
Starring: Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, Diane Lane
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 153min

this day in history



1968 BERLIN STUDENT UNREST WORSENS

A massive student rally in West Berlin has ended in violent clashes between police and protesters.

Students blocked the city's main thoroughfare, the Kurfürstendamm, in protest at the shooting last week of one of their leaders, Rudi Dutschke.

Mr Dutschke was shot three times outside the offices of the German Socialist Students Federation (SDS).

He is still seriously ill in hospital.

Students chanted Mr Dutschke's name interspersed with shouts of "Murderer Springer" - a reference to millionaire publisher Axel Springer.

Students blame Mr Springer's papers for inflaming public opinion against them and say the man who shot Mr Dutschke was influenced by views expressed in a Springer publication.

Since the attack on Mr Dutschke students have been attempting to hinder distribution of Springer papers which include the mass circulation tabloid Bild Zeitung.

As huge traffic backlogs built up around the Kurfürstendamm police used water cannon and officers on horseback to disperse the protesters.

More than 180 people were arrested.

Peter Brandt, son of the West German foreign minister, Willy Brandt, was among those detained.

Later there were clashes outside three police barracks where marchers had gathered in anticipation of the release of some of those arrested.

Student dissent has been growing for some time in West Germany with the SDS organising sit-ins and non-violent demonstrations.

However, more aggressive action has been taken since the death in June last year of student Benno Ohnesorg.

He was shot by a police officer during a demonstration against the visit of the Shah of Iran to Berlin.

The SDS is part of the Extra-parliamentary Opposition group set up in 1966.

It consists of student associations, trades unions, writers and other who believe there is currently no effective parliamentary opposition to the ruling Social Democrats.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Student leader Rudi Dutschke survived being shot but his injuries contributed to his death in 1979.

In 1969 the man who shot him, carpenter Joseph Bachman, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

He committed suicide while in prison.

The Berlin student unrest mirrored protests by young people around the world in the late 1960s.

In the US, young people demonstrated against the Vietnam war while in Paris students rioted over the "bourgeois" university system and the "police state".

However, by the early 1970s the German student movement was fractured and had lost much of its impetus and influence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You get a vision of the future — and you like what you see! It's a good time for you to ask big questions and figure out who's really on your side. Things are just about to get interesting!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today is all about power struggles, unfortunately — so roll up your sleeves and dive in! You may not like having to duke it out, but you can ensure that your side has a fighting chance.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Now is a good opportunity to take some time to yourself or hang out with a small group of like-minded people and really think things through. You can get deeper than usual, so don't give up too soon!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try to bend at least a little today — standing too firm is sure to cause you problems! If you show that you can compromise, at least one person starts to take you more seriously and may offer new opportunities.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Try something a little different today — you need to shake things up! It's a good idea for you to push yourself to your limits, in at least one way, so you can learn a little more about yourself.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Someone close needs your opinion — but you need to edit it first! Your instincts may lead you toward brutal honesty, but a bit of finesse is required to make this person really listen.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Kick back and enjoy the day — your energy is just right for having fun! Whether you've got a holiday party to attend or plan, or you're just spending some quiet time alone with family, you're all smiles!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Be wary of conflicting ideas today — especially with family or roommates. Things can escalate to full-on warfare before you realize what's happening, and nobody needs that now.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You can get the gist of almost anything today — so make sure that you're not just letting yourself coast, mentally. Ask questions and get to the heart of the matter before this phase passes you by.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Financial news comes your way this morning that may seem somewhat distressing at first, but you find ways to cope. In fact, you may even end up profiting when you decide to take action!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Life is still easy for you today — people just seem to naturally line up with your ideas. You know this can't last forever, but keep working with what you've got and you can relax for a little while.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Someone explains how your plans are unrealistic early in the day, but you may not choose to listen to them. You're more about your dreams than about anyone else's so-called reality!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Make ___ at; 6- ___ about (approximately); 10- P.M. times; 14- European capital, in song; 15- Farm unit; 16- Twist; 17- Fit to be tied; 18- Work up lather; 19- Controversial orchard spray; 20- Legendary island; 22- Timmy's dog; 24- Autos; 25- Swordlike knife; 26- To a greater extent; 29- "Goldberg Variations" composer; 30- Suffix with buck; 31- Type of tea; 37- Run up; 39- Carnival site; 40- Rope fiber; 41- Harbingers; 44- Explorer Vasco da ___; 45- High headdress; 46- Reverberated; 48- Metal marble; 52- Mature male European red deer; 53- Compositions; 54- Gambler; 58- Apprehends; 59- Crucifix letters; 61- Baseball manager Joe; 62- Curses!; 63- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 64- Lower a sail; 65- Fast jets, for short; 66- Hanna-Barbera bear; 67- Where Hercules slew the lion;

DOWN: 1- Capital of Western Samoa; 2- Divide; 3- Asian inland sea; 4- Having bristles; 5- Perceived to be; 6- Watering hole; 7- Sgts., e.g.; 8- ... man ___ mouse?; 9- Provide a substitute for; 10- Covered with water; 11- Wrong; 12- Characteristic; 13- Binge; 21- Walked heavily; 23- Pains; 25- One of superior rank; 26- Disfigure; 27- Writer Sarah ___ Jewett; 28- Fabled fliers; 29- Lasting a short time; 32- Bicker; 33- Lighthearted; 34- Golfer Aoki; 35- Title; 36- Delighted; 38- Answer; 42- Loudly; 43- Tailor's line; 47- King Minos, for one; 48- Dispatches; 49- Autocratic Russian rulers; 50- Convocation of witches; 51- Some bridge players; 52- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 54- Golfer Norman; 55- Streetcar; 56- Great lake; 57- Actress Sofer; 60- Prefix with classical;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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IACM 28 387 333
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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid reaches semis with Ronaldo decisive hat trick

AP PHOTO



Tales Azzoni, AP Sports Writer

CRISTIANO Ronaldo came through for Real Madrid again, scoring a hat trick to lead his team back to the semifinals of the Champions League with a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg yesterday.

Ronaldo netted goals in the 16th and 17th minutes, and then added a decisive third with a remarkable free kick in the 77th as Madrid overturned a 2-0 loss in last week's first leg to win 3-2 on aggregate.

The Portugal striker delivered when Madrid needed a goalscorer, sending a curling shot in-between a couple of defenders in the Wolfsburg wall to earn his team a place in the semifinals for the sixth straight season and avoid a major upset to the German side.

"It was a perfect night," Ronaldo said. "I had said it was going to be a magical night and that's what happened. We played with intensity and the fans supported us a lot to help

the team win a game that was complicated. It was perfect."

Ronaldo took his tournament tally to 16 goals from 10 games this season, one shy of the Champions League record he set in the 2013-14 season. He remains the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League, now with 93 goals.

"He scored three goals when the team needed him," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "He is special."

It was Ronaldo's 40th hat trick for club and country, and the sixth this season.

"For those who doubted Ronaldo, he has vindicated himself again," Madrid defender Sergio Ramos said. "We need him."

Several minutes after the final whistle, Ronaldo and the rest of Madrid players returned to the pitch to show their appreciation to the fans who were still celebrating at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"It was a special night, we started with tremendous intensity and showed our rival how

much we wanted this," Zidane said. "The fans were phenomenal today. We can only thank

I had said it was going to be a magical night and that's what happened. We played with intensity and the fans supported us a lot.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

them for how they supported us."

An elimination by Wolfsburg would have been embarrassing for 10-time champion Madrid

as the German club was considered the weakest of the quarterfinalists and was making only its second appearance in the Champions League.

In yesterday's other match, Manchester City reached the semis for the first time with a 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain, advancing 3-2 on aggregate.

Madrid hadn't reversed a first-leg loss in the Champions League since the 2001-02 season, when Zidane was still playing. But the 10-time European champion came into the return match with high hopes thanks to an impressive home record — having won 12 of its last 13 games at the Bernabeu with an average of nearly five goals per match.

"It was sensational, from the first minute to the last. When the fans really get behind the team they are like another player," Ramos said. "There were people who thought the comeback was not possible, but we managed the rhythm of the game well."

Needing at least two goals to stay alive, Madrid started all-out on attack under steady rain, and it didn't take long for Los Blancos to erase the first-leg deficit.

About 10 minutes after Ramos struck the top of the crossbar with a header from a corner, Ronaldo opened the scoring from close range after Dani Carvajal finished a long run through the right flank with a low cross into the area. The ball appeared to deflect off a defender before reaching the striker for an easy finish from close range.

The home fans among the crowd of nearly 80,000 were still on their feet when Ronaldo added the second, a header from the near post after a well-taken corner by Toni Kroos.

The pace slowed down after the second goal and Wolfsburg, playing in the knockout stage of the Champions League for the first time, had two good chances to get back into the game just before halftime.

A long-range shot by Brazilian midfielder Luiz Gustavo forced Keylor Navas to make a difficult save in the 34th, and Bruno Henrique missed a great chance from inside the area in the 37th when his shot was blocked at the last moment.

"Today we were just a little bit off," Wolfsburg coach Dieter Hecking said. "We deserved to get here, people will remember our games. We improved as a team this season. I'm really proud."

Karim Benzema could have scored Madrid's third just before halftime but the France striker wasn't able to get a shot away after receiving a pass from Carvajal in front of the goal.

Ramos nearly found the net in the 66th, but his header hit the post and bounced back to goalkeeper Diego Benaglio, who just kept the ball from crossing the line.

Benaglio had no such luck, though, with Ronaldo's free kick about 10 minutes later.

Wolfsburg had lost an important piece of its midfield when Julian Draxler had to be replaced because of an apparent muscle injury in the 32nd.

LEICESTER and its striker Jamie Vardy led the way in this week's Associated Press Global Football 10 after the club moved closer to the English Premier League title with a 2-0 win over Sunderland at the weekend.

Vardy scored two second-half goals in a victory that also guaranteed the surprise English leader a place in next season's Champions League. He takes player of the week for his per-

Leicester, Vardy top AP Global Football 10

formance.

"Four years ago he was a stranger, but Jamie Vardy is now the face of the day in the Premier League," Manos Staramopoulos of Dimocrazia in Greece said. "The forward, 28, scored twice against Sunderland and essentially takes Leicester to touching distance of the miracle of winning the title."

Tottenham had to settle for runner up to Leicester, despite beating Manchester United 3-0 on Sunday with three goals in six minutes against Louis van Gaal's side.

Real Sociedad takes third after its surprise 1-0 victory at home against Barcelona in the Spanish league. The result allowed Atletico Ma-

drid to move three points behind Luis Enrique's side, which still tops the standings in Spain.

"Real Sociedad proved that it's not just the likes of Real Madrid that can beat Barcelona with a victory that has kept the race for the La Liga title well and truly alive," Marco Monteverde of News Corp. Australia said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS GLOBAL FOOTBALL 10

PLAYERS

1. Jamie Vardy, 84 points.
2. Andy Carroll, 77.
3. Divock Origi, 60.
4. Cristiano Ronaldo, 58.
5. Hatem Ben Arfa, 46.
6. Paul Pogba, 44.
7. Geronimo Rulli, 40.
8. Luis Suarez, 35.
9. Miroslav Klose, 29.
10. Fernando Torres, 25.

TEAMS

1. Leicester, 85.
2. Tottenham, 81.
3. Real Sociedad, 74.
4. Juventus, 65.
5. Bayern Munich, 55.
6. Atletico Madrid, 49.
7. Wolfsburg, 40.
8. Real Madrid, 30.
9. Paris Saint-Germain, 28.
10. Liverpool, 23.

opinion

Views on China

Lulu Yilun Chen & Shai Oster, Bloomberg

BEAUTY OBSESSION DRIVES CHINA SELFIE APP'S BILLIONS VALUATION

China's love affair with physical beauty is helping to fuel a selfie-editing app's valuation of USD3 billion.

Meitu Inc. is shooting for at least that much in its latest funding round, according to people familiar with the company, a target that would make it one of China's 10 largest private startups and eclipse household-names like Yelp Inc.

It's banking on China's growing pre-occupation with ideals of comeliness, a passion that's inspired countless Internet memes and a surge in cosmetic surgery. Meitu's apps help 270 million monthly active users slim faces, lengthen legs and otherwise spice up their online appearance - essential among image-obsessed social media mavens.

"I never post a photo online without using Meitu first," said 26-year-old accountant Pan Nana from Qingdao, who's used the app for more than six years to streamline body parts and conceal acne. "It's the first app I've ever used to beautify selfies and I haven't come across another that has as many functions."

Meitu, founded in 2008, arrived at an opportune time. Social media use exploded in the wake of years of hyper-economic expansion, while foreign entertainment helped popularize new ideas of attractiveness. That ardor surfaced this year through well-publicized social media frenzies, including an online dare encouraging women to cover their waists with a sheet of A4 paper - thus proving they're skinny. In the same vein, another challenge involved touching belly buttons by wrapping an arm behind their backs.

Meitu's suite of apps can help. They allow people to adjust their photos in almost every conceivable way and with a single touch, from lightening complexion (fairness is considered attractive in China) to adjusting height and slapping on virtual make-up.

The startup, backed by IDG and Qiming Venture Partners, is raising about \$200 million in its latest round of funding, the people familiar with the matter said, requesting not to be named because the matter is private. It's also planning an overseas initial public offering as soon as this year, with Hong Kong a possible listing destination, one of the people said.

Meitu joins a bunch of startups playing off the country's newfound mania. SoYoung Technology (Beijing) Co., a developer of an application that helps users find plastic surgeons based on location, is raising \$50 million in its latest financing round, the company said in March.

Meitu completed its third round of investment in 2014, gaining a cumulative amount of \$360 million and a valuation of \$2 billion from backers such as Innovation Works, founded by Kai-Fu Lee, the former China head for Google Inc. Its apps have already been installed on more than 900 million mobile devices. It's consistently topped photo and video app rankings on Apple Inc.'s App Store in China this year, according to data provided by market researcher App Annie.

Meitu's using its latest round to expand into facial recognition and smartphones, as it partners with Foxconn Technology Group to expand in Southeast Asia and India. The company is targeting 5 million smartphone shipments for 2016, Meitu Chairman Mike Cai said in an interview last year.



BLOOMBERG

THE US TROOPS, PHILIPPINE POLICE IN BAR BRAWL FACE SANCTIONS

American troops involved in a bar brawl with Filipino policemen face possible disciplinary sanctions in an incident earlier this month that the Philippine military says has no bearing on ongoing large-scale combat exercises by the treaty allies.

Philippine military spokesman Capt. Celeste Frank Sayson said the April 2 scuffle in western Palawan province was a misunderstanding that was settled amicably. A Youtube video showed one of three Filipino policemen drawing a pis-

tol during the confrontation.

The U.S. military said in a statement that "any potential misconduct of U.S. service members is completely unacceptable" and will be dealt with by the troops' home unit. It did not give details of the incident nor identified the troops involved.

Sayson said the incident would not affect Balikatan, referring to the name of the joint military exercises by U.S. and Philippine troops.

OUT OF INDIA

British royal couple goes on wildlife safari



Britain's Prince William (left) and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge

Wasbir Hussain & Anupam Nath, Kaziranga National Park

AFTER a night of traditional music and dance, The Duke and the Duchess of Cambridge, headed out in a jeep yesterday into the wilds of remote northeast India for a wildlife safari to see rhinos, elephants and more.

Dressed in cotton casuals and wearing local Assamese hand-woven gamochas, or scarves, around their necks, the British royal couple looked relaxed as they sat in the back of the open jeep driving through park during the hot and humid morning, local resident Ranjit Rajak said.

Prince William and his wife, the former Kate Middleton, spent several hours at the Kaziranga National Park in hopes of drawing attention to the plight of endangered animals, including the park's 2,200-population of a rare, one-horned rhinos.

The animals are under threat from wildlife poachers and habitat loss. Already this year, six rhinos have been killed for their horns, after 20 were poa-

ched in 2015.

The royal couple was joined by a park official acting as a guide on a tour across dirt tracks, tall grasslands and thick evergreen forest.

They met a group of forest rangers and wildlife wardens at an anti-poaching camp inside the 480-square-kilometer reserve, which is also home to other endangered species including swamp deer and the Hoolock gibbon.

V.S. Bhaskar, a top Assam state government official, said the royal couple saw rhinos, wild boars, buffalos, hog deer and a variety of birds. "They enjoyed the trip quite a lot. They were very happy," he said.

Prince William asked the forest rangers about the conservation challenges they face, he said.

The rangers told him that the poachers were using sophisticated automatic weapons, whereas the forest guards had old rifles, which were being upgraded, Bhaskar said.

Prince William carried a khaki golf cap to shield himself from the hot sun, wildlife officials said.

Will and Kate had arri-

ved Tuesday evening at the 12-cottage jungle resort where they stayed, and were entertained by a presentation of traditional Bihu dance. The Assamese New Year of Bihu began yesterday, a time of song, dance and merry-making among most of the state's 31 million people.

The prince tried to play a traditional bamboo jaw harp, a vibrating reed instrument, between his lips. "I need some more practice," he told the group of musicians.

The couple have already visited Mumbai and New Delhi on a weeklong tour of India. Today they will make a one-day trip to neighboring Bhutan.

William and Kate will then head back to India, where they'll wind up their tour with a visit to the Taj Mahal, retracing the steps of a 1992 visit to the monument of love by William's mother, the late Princess Diana.

The couple are traveling without their two children - 2 1/2-year-old Prince George and 11-month-old Princess Charlotte. They had taken George to Australia with them in 2014 on their last royal tour. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	30-50 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Ride-hailing app Uber launches a motorbike taxi service in the Indonesian capital where Southeast Asian rivals Go-Jek and Grab are already battling for dominance. Jakarta is one of the world's most congested cities and motorbike taxis ordered from a smartphone app have exploded in popularity in the past 18 months as a way to beat snarled traffic. "UberMotor" service would provide cheap and reliable transportation for hundreds of thousands of people.

INDIA Tiny bone fragments carry a world of significance and perhaps closure for at least one American family who lost a loved one over the mountains of India in World War II. During a solemn ceremony, U.S. military members pay final respects to what they believe may be the remains of one to two crew members from a B-24 bomber that crashed on a supply run from India to China over the Himalayan Mountains.



MIGRANT CRISIS The European Union's president says he is concerned about an increase in the number of migrants arriving from Libya, as the EU focuses on sending people back to Turkey. EU Council President Donald Tusk said that "the numbers of would-be migrants in Libya are alarming," and that member countries should be ready to help Italy and Malta should they call for it. More than 15,000 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean from Libya to Italy in March.

FRANCE's prime minister says he'd favor a ban on Muslim headscarves in universities, prompting criticism from within his own government. In an interview with the daily Liberation, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said France should "protect" French Muslims from extremist ideology. He said the headscarf, when worn for political reasons, oppresses women and is not "an object of fashion or consumption like any other."

AP PHOTO