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our most sincere gratitude to**

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Chief Executive of the Macau Special Administrative Region

Mr. Ho Hau Wah

Vice Chairman of the National Committee of
the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

Mr. Yao Jian

Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of
the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region

Mr. Cai Si-ping

Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
the People's Republic of China in the Macau Special Administrative Region

Mr. Leong Vai Tac

Secretary for Economy and Finance of the Macau Special Administrative Region

Mr. Tam Chon Weng

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture of the Macau Special Administrative Region

**And all our friends throughout the community who joined us
at the Grand Opening of Wynn Palace and helped us begin an
exciting new page in the history of Macau.**

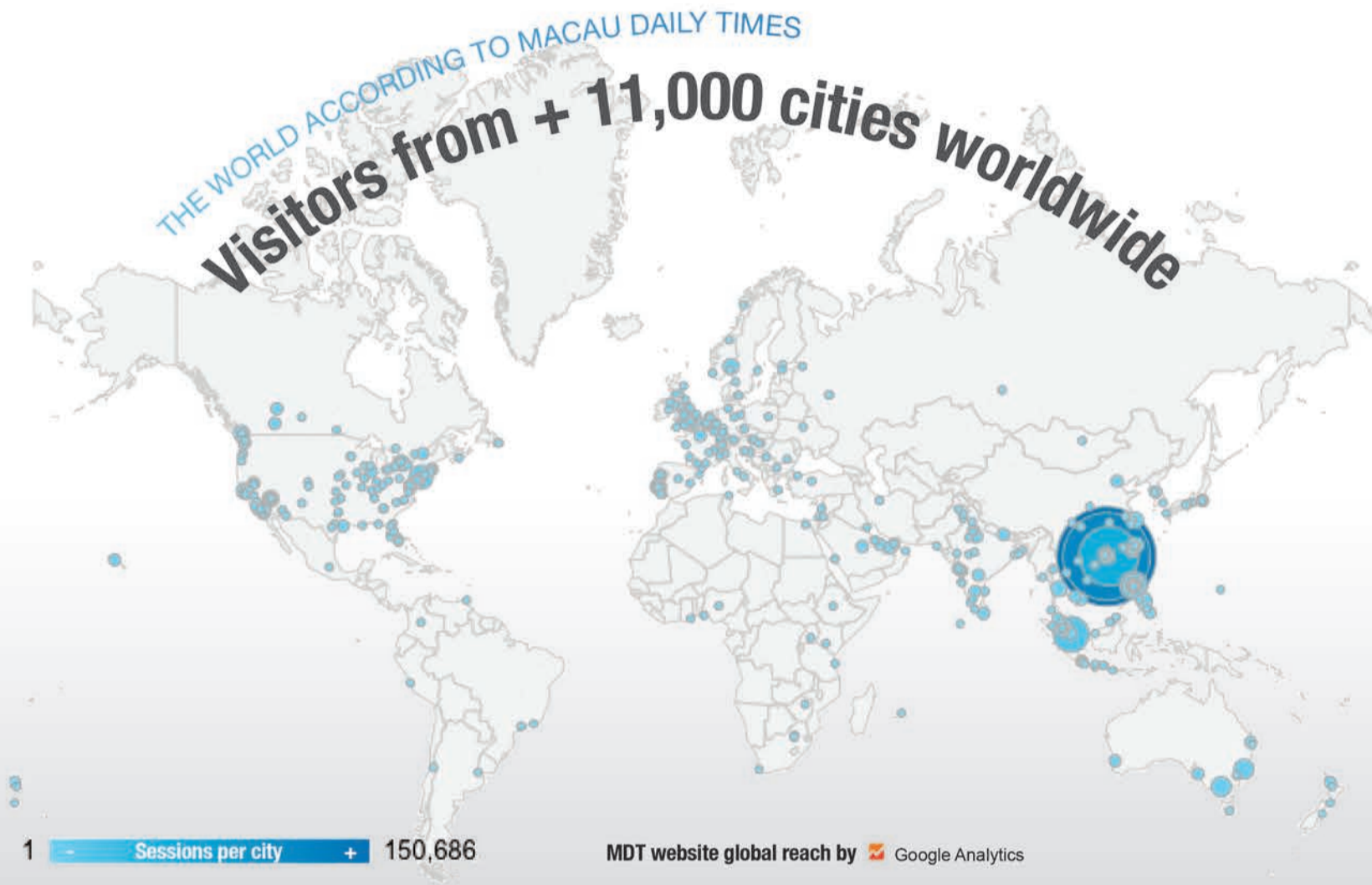
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



ONE RIDE TOO MANY

A local resident was the victim of an unusual theft after being driven, in his own car, by an unknown person to the Science Center. He had one drink too many

P6 CRIME



DEBUT OF A CHILDREN'S SHOW

"Chalk About," a playful show aimed primarily at children, will debut at the Cultural Centre. MDT had a chat with performer Christine Devaney

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JAPANESE PREMIER ABE WONS RIO FINALE AS SUPER MARIO

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA's coast guard launched live-firing exercises in the Tonkin Gulf yesterday, the latest in a series of military drills that come amid renewed tensions among disputants to territory in the South China Sea. [More on p11](#)



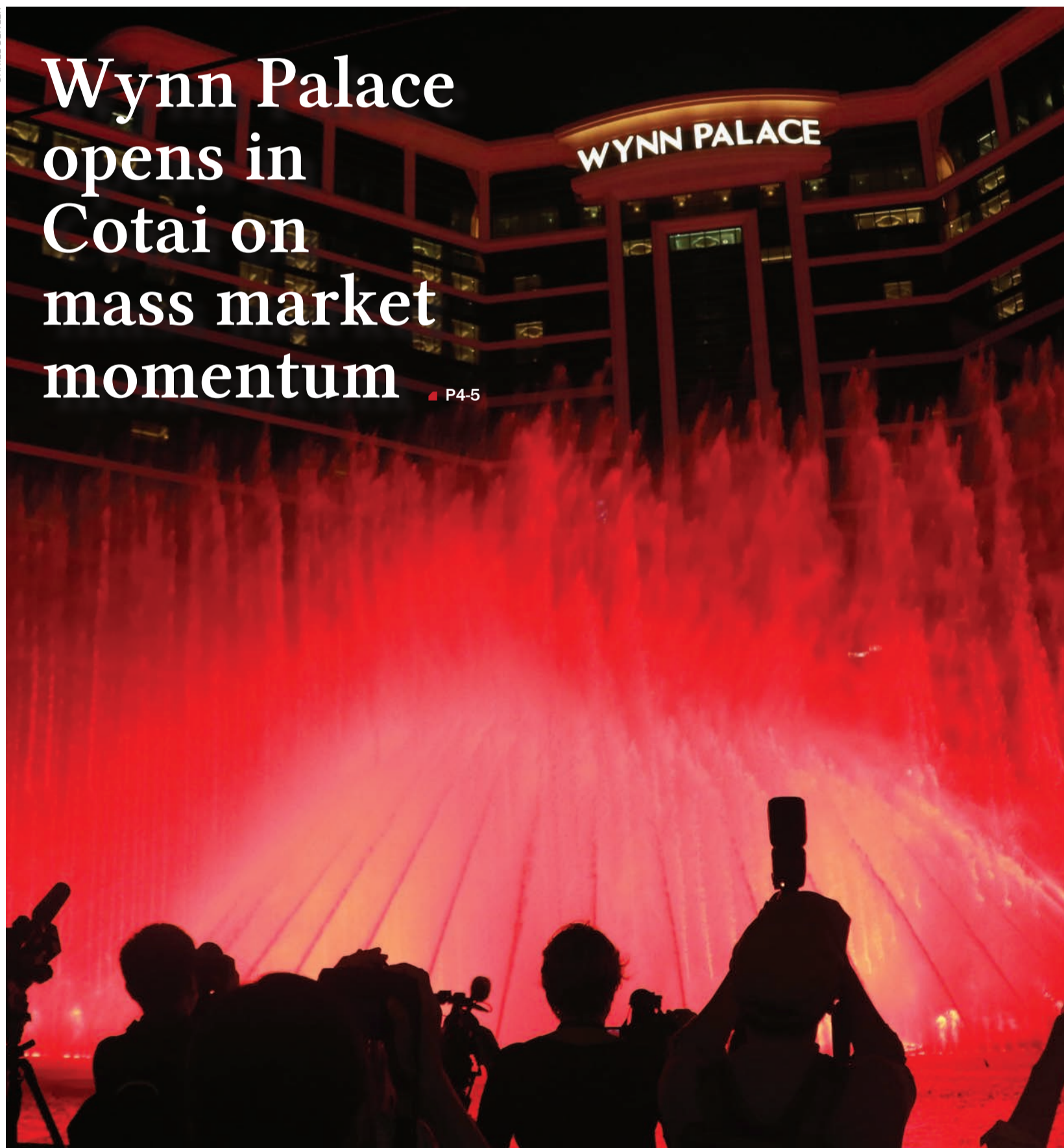
MALAYSIA An ethnic Chinese rapper in Malaysia has been detained for allegedly insulting Islam in his latest music video. Wee Meng Chee, popularly known as Namewee, was detained on Sunday at Kuala Lumpur's airport as he returned from abroad, on suspicion of "defiling a place of worship with intention to insult religion."

NORTH KOREA Despite claiming only two gold medals in Rio, North Korea is as determined as ever to fulfill one of leader Kim Jong Un's primary goals: to become an international sports superpower. North Korea's small Olympic team won its two golds in weightlifting and gymnastics, and three silver and two bronze medals in other categories. [More on p12](#)

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Beijing envoy visits Taipei amid protests

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Wynn Palace opens in Cotai on mass market momentum

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DANIEL BEITLER



ANALYSIS

Macau's gamblers are coming back. You can bet on it

David Fickling

THINGS seem to be going pretty well in Macau right now.

Shares in Galaxy Entertainment, Sands China and SJM Holdings have all risen more than 10 percent over the past month. Gross gaming revenue in July fell less

than estimated and is showing signs of bottoming out.

As long as no one blows it by dumping a load of new hotel rooms on the recovering market, the territory might just make it out of the woods.

Whoops.

The Wynn Palace opening yesterday will add some 1,700 la-

visibly appointed rooms to the market, along with crushed-diamond facials and air-conditioned gondola rides. Then next month Sheldon Adelson's Sands Parisian will open a few hundred meters away, contributing 3,000 more rooms plus a replica of the Eiffel Tower.

Together, the two resorts will

increase the number of Macau hotel rooms by about 15 percent, the biggest two-month jump since at least 2009.

Hotel rooms obey rules of supply and demand similar to those governing copper and wheat, so a surge of new capacity can be expected to put downward pressure on prices, absent a countervailing increase in demand.

There are signs that price effect is happening already. Revenue per available room in Macau has been declining on an annual basis for 18 months straight, and average daily room rates in March and June were at their lowest levels since 2010.

That doesn't sound so great – so why is Bloomberg Intelligence's index of Macau's six casino stocks trading on the best forward price-earnings valuation since early 2011?

Well, remember that countervailing increase in demand? It looks like it might be showing up just in the nick of time.

Hotel occupancy in the territory in June was stronger for the season than in any of the past five years bar 2014, the peak of Macau's casino market.

In four-star hotels such as Adelson's Venetian Macao, 85.7 percent of rooms were occupied, outstripping even 2014's June figure. Five-star hotels, the market in which Steve Wynn is playing, are trailing the four-star places, but still saw the best June occupancy for any of the last five years except 2014.

That's a particularly impressive result when you consider that, cheap rooms or not, this is low season. Occupancy ra-

tes tend to tick up by between 5 percent and 10 percent above June levels in the second half of the year, and Golden Week in the first week of October is one of the strongest periods after Lunar New Year.

There's a feedback effect that may come from all those extra hotel rooms, too. Occupancy rates of 80 percent to 85 percent are typically as close to full house as you'll see in the hotel industry. The shortfall from 100 percent normally indicates rooms that are empty midweek but still booked out when demand peaks on Friday and Saturday night.

So for all that Macau's casino operators fret about the caps on gaming tables imposed by the government, at present one of the most significant hard constraints on revenue is that there simply aren't enough hotel rooms to accommodate all the people who'd like to come.

Gross gaming revenue, the territory's main measure of gambling spend, is already limping toward a recovery. After 26 months of declines, it may finally see a year-on-year increase in August if revenue trends in the first two weeks of the month play out, CICC's Chris Kwai wrote in a note to clients last week.

Add 15 percent more hotel rooms and, all things being equal, there's a good chance of getting 15 percent more gamblers. If that in turn translates into 15 percent more revenue, things for Macau's casino operators will be looking distinctly more lustrous by the time Golden Week starts. **Bloomberg**

GAMING

Brokers optimistic about region's mass GGR growth

AS Wynn Palace opened yesterday, gaming analysts' consensus is that the region's gross gaming revenue will grow by 7 percent yearly, Deutsche Bank reported.

Sands China has announced that the ratio of promotional expenses to gaming revenues had a 1 percent increase from the first to second quarter, thus the broker concluded that it could reflect in further market competition as Steve Wynn's second local resort launches.

Echoing the sentiments,

Merrill Lynch's analysis suggests that the region's gaming stocks are likely to see a sustainable recovery in the second half of the year, believing that the last half of the year would see an 11 percent growth.

Merrill Lynch forecasted more mass visitors in the summer holiday period would contribute to mass revenue growth in the third quarter, adding that Wynn Palace and The Parisian Macao would bring more tourists into the region.

The analysts are expect-

ing mass revenue in July to see high single-digit growth, with third quarter growth at 8.6 percent quarterly and 8.8 percent yearly.

Although the broker noted that VIP room performance would still be subdued, it anticipates that the long weekend of Mid-Autumn festival and "golden week" on October 1 would drive up mass revenue in the coming two months.

According to banking firm Goldman Sachs, Wynn Palace's hotel rooms for the "golden

week" during October are already fully booked but some rooms are still vacant for the first three weeks in September; "historically a weak time," the analyst reported.

Meanwhile Goldman Sachs projected that for every 10 percent increase in mass-market table yield, Wynn's group EBITDA would increase by 5 percent. It adjust-

ed group EBITDA for 2016-2018 by negative 3 percent to 1 percent, with target price lowered from USD16 to USD15.4, but keeping a 'buy' recommendation. **LV**

STOCKS	RATINGS	TARGET PRICES (HKD)
Wynn Macau (01128.HK)	Buy	17.2
Galaxy Entertainment Group (00027.HK)	Buy	35.5->35.4
MGM China (02282.HK)	Neutral->Buy	2.8->14.4
Sands China Ltd (01928.HK)	Buy	12.8->14.4
Melco Int'l Development (00200.HK)	Neutral->Buy	33.5->35.9
SJM Holdings (00880.HK)	Buy	14->11
Melco Crown Entertainment (MPEL)	Neutral	US\$17.2->16.5

Source: Merrill Lynch

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Wynn Palace opens its doors to fountain show spectacle

Daniel Beittler

WYNN Palace opened its doors to the public last night at 8 p.m. following a ceremony officiated by CEO of Wynn Resorts, Steve Wynn, and Macau Chief Executive Chui Sai On, according to a statement from the company.

Hundreds of guests flocked into the Cotai resort minutes after it opened. Meanwhile, back in Macau, tourists and residents alike waited for shuttle buses outside Wynn Macau to take them to the operator's second property.

Just prior to the opening of the doors, onlookers

outside the property were given a taste of the property's highlight fountain show across its eight-acre performance lake.

Propelling water upward in a 'dancing' manner, the fountains are synchronized to a set list of Chinese and Western pop songs and musical numbers. According to the statement from Wynn Resorts, the fountain show utilizes close to 1,200 water jets shooting up to eight million gallons of water into the air in more than a dozen choreographed shows.

In the making for more than six years, Wynn Palace embodies a floral theme throughout the property, including two massive floral sculpture located in

the South and North Lobby Atriums. Both colored sculptures, one of a carousel and the other a Ferris wheel, were designed by renowned floral designer Preston Bailey and are fabricated from more than 100,000 real flowers each.

Also on display at Wynn Palace are thousands of works of fine and decorative art, assembled over a six-year period and representing an investment in excess of USD125 million.

The resort offers more than 1,700 furnished rooms, suites and villas with numerous personal touches overseen by Steve Wynn. The spa is the largest in Macau and features 22 treatment rooms.

At a preview to the pro-

perty hosted by Steve Wynn last week, the company leader told reporters that Wynn palace is probably the "most beautiful" resort in the world.

"[This is] arguably the most beautiful hotel in the whole world," he said. "And it's not in London, Paris, New York or Rome, it's in the People's Republic of China, in the Special Administrative Region of Macau. The most beautiful hotel in the world sits here now, for all the world to come and see." "It's unlikely that we will see a hotel of this scope [...] in our lifetime again," added Steve Wynn.

The property is Steve Wynn's 13th to date, he reminded reporters last week.

Region ranks fifth in Asia-Pac broadband access



Macau has ranked fifth for access to fixed broadband services in 2015 in the new report of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). According to the study, titled "State of ICT in Asia and the Pacific 2016: Uncovering the Widening Broadband Divide," 29.1 percent of the region's residents subscribed to such services last year. The study highlighted that the gap between developed and developing countries in fixed broadband access is widening, thus targeted policy interventions should be taken in order for the trend to change. ESCAP's latest report has shown that nearly 75 percent of such subscriptions in Asia and the Pacific are driven by East and North-East Asia. Topping the list were South Korea (40.2), Hong Kong (31.9), New Zealand (31.5) and Japan (30.5) and Macau.

Man halts bus after it skips stop

A man stepped in front of a bus on Sunday night in order to stop it after the driver attempted to skip the bus stop at Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. The driver said the bus was already full with passengers, which led him to skip the stop. The man and the driver then argued for about 15 minutes until the police arrived to handle the situation. One driving lane was temporarily jammed. The man eventually got on the bus that he had stopped.

Dog tests considered unfair



The Vice-President of the Society for the Protection of Animals Macau (ANIMA), Chan Hon Keong, has deemed the latest Civic and Cultural Affairs Bureau (IACM) test for dogs to be unfair. The lack of fairness stems from the fact that upon collecting the test results, the IACM makes the decision of whether dogs should wear a muzzle or not, according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou. Tests such as whether a dog makes eye contact have been included in the set of criteria. Chan claims that it is unnecessary for average family pets to meet such high standards. Chan also highlighted that dogs who do not show aggression might become aggressive if they are forced to wear the muzzle.





CRIME

If you drink don't drive... Or ask someone else to drive you

Renato Marques

A local resident and car owner was the victim of an unusual theft after he was driven by an unknown person, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed in a press conference held yesterday at its headquarters.

This unusual story starts with a man (30) "doing the right thing," according to the PJ. As

he had drunk multiple alcoholic drinks in a hotel bar in the NAPE area, he decided around 4:00 a.m. last Saturday that he was not in a condition to drive home.

But the praiseworthy attitude was not rewarded as he expected.

He asked an unidentified person in the hotel to drive his car to the car park of the Macao Science Center, which the person did.

During the short trip, the car owner fell asleep only to wake around 9:30 a.m. inside his car in the parking lot.

He decided that he was now in an acceptable condition to drive and so proceeded to return home.

However, shortly afterward he realized that his wallet was open and missing a sum of money that he claimed was inside.

The man filed a complaint to the PJ claiming to have been the victim of a theft of some MOP47,000 in different currencies (MOP, HKD and RMB).

For the time being there are still no suspects, but the PJ says it is investigating the case.

In a separate case, the police informed that in the early hours of August 19 a man (20) noticed that his mobile phone was missing after leaving a Karaoke Bar in the NAPE area.

Using another phone he tried to call his missing phone without success.

A few hours later (around 11:00 a.m.) he received a call from his phone number. On the other side of the line was a man claiming to have found his phone but asking the sum of RMB500 as compensation in exchange for returning it.

The amount should be transferred to a WeChat wallet account, a condition the victim accepted and performed accordingly. However he did not receive his phone, but instead a second call from the same man demanding more money.

The complainant then decided to file a complaint to the PJ claiming a total loss of MOP6,000 (phone) and RMB500 (compensation paid).

The case is also being currently investigated.

Group of three caught loaded with stolen goods

A group of three men from Mongolia was caught at the Border Gate Square with luggage full of stolen goods from several shops in the peninsula and islands, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) informed in press conference yesterday.

According to the police report, the men were acting suspiciously, carrying heavy luggage into the Border Gate area around 7:00 p.m. on August 20.

Approached by the officers on duty in the area, the men were requested to open their luggage. Inside was discovered a large quantity of new clothes, wine bottles, shoes, phone chargers, bags and foods.

The majority of the clothing items still had their anti-shoplifting alarms attached; a indication of the origins of the products.

Also found with the stolen merchandize were shopping bags with their interiors modified to include metallic foil paper with the apparent purpose of disguising the goods from alarm systems at shop exits.

Further questioning at the police station found that the men holding valid tourism visas had come to the territory with the purpose of stealing high-value goods intended for resale in Mainland China. They claimed to be living with financial difficulties and performed the robberies in order to raise money so that they could return home.

The thefts occurred across several shops in Cotai and the Border Gate area and in supermarkets in Taipa.

The total value of the stolen products is said to amount to MOP22,000.

The men were presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) accused of aggravated theft.

Wong Sio Chak makes positive evaluation of crime level during first Semester

THE Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, presented the results of crime during the first semester of 2016 yesterday.

In the press conference the Secretary made a positive evaluation of the level of crime during the period, saying that although a slight increase of 1.4 percent in the total number of crimes was registered, the number of violent crimes is still low. As a result, he justified the situation of the territory as "secure" and the situation of crime as "stable."

In the report provided to the press it noted that violent crimes rose 14.8 pct and crimes related to the gaming industry continued to rise when compared with the same period of last year.

The crime of usury registered the biggest growth (52.3 percent), followed by the illegal detention (27.1 percent) and extortion (20 percent).

On this topic, Secretary Wong highlighted that authorities are paying special attention to these kinds of cases, remarking on the fact that the three cases which occurred between July and early August resulted in the death of incarcerated prisoners. Secretary Wong however emphasized the fact that these are "isolated cases" and that those involved "are not Macau residents."

Also rising significantly were drug trafficking crimes (16.7 percent) and crimes against people, such as sexual abuse of children. That crime registered significant growth, almost tripling in the number of cases (from 4 to 11).

On the other hand, crimes related to illegal immigration are dropping – recording a decline of 17.3 percent of illegal immigrants and overstay in the first half of this year.

Regarding the operations of car-hailing companies, Wong said "the authorities continue to be attentive to the illegal transport activities and the provision of transport services in private vehicles via the mobile application for smartphones," adding "the police will carry out their work according to the regulations and legal proceedings." **RM**

Cultural heritage councillor criticizes government for demolishing historical buildings

CHEANG Kok Keong, member of the Cultural Heritage Council, has criticized top officials of Macau's cultural affairs, saying that they are childish and ignore public opinion. The comments followed the demolition of a former drug rehabilitation center, which made room for new infectious disease buildings, according to a report by All About Macau.

"People use metaphors that allude to stubborn children. [...] If the officials focus only on how to perform better in pursuit of merits while sacrificing everything in their way, then Macau's cultural relics will face a disaster," Cheang said.

Earlier, a banner reading "cultural relics killer Alexis Tam" appeared at the Hotel Estoril, hung on the external walls. Cheang considers that this represents the public's strong opposition of the government's demolition of cultural relics.

Cheang went on to state that a number of Macau's government officials know little about Macau's history, and that they do not have a deep affection for the territory.

"They want to continue their own rising, whereby they need to do something earth-shattering," said Cheang.

Cheang, who also serves as the president of the Association for Macau Historical and Cultural Heritage Protection, worries that the city will only hand out history books to its visitors. **Staff reporter**

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Q&A CHRISTINE DEVANEY
CHOREOGRAPHER AND PERFORMER

Debut of children's show blending dialogue, humor and dance

Daniel Beitler

ON Saturday and Sunday, "Chalk About," a playful show aimed primarily at children, will debut at the Macao Cultural Centre. Performed by Christine Devaney and Niels Weijier - and designed and choreographed by Devaney in collaboration with Leandro Kees - the show attempts to explore some of the 'ultimate' questions of human existence, like the meaning of personal identity and of life.

Devaney, a Scottish choreographer and performer by trade, formed the production group "Curious Seed" back in 2005 with the aim of creating engaging and thought-provoking performance work that challenges the scope of movement-based performances.

She sat down with the Times to talk about "Chalk About," her distinctive mesh of dance, conversation and humor, and the importance of encouraging children to ponder life's biggest mysteries.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Why has the show been designed as an interactive performance? What was the inspiration behind this?

Christine Devaney (CD) - The roots of "Chalk About" came from a week-long workshop, where Argentinian choreographer Leandro Kees (who I'd never met or worked with before) and I talked, danced, drew and played together - sometimes all at the same time! - as a way of getting to know each other.

This process of two people



Christine Devaney during a performance

from very different backgrounds, gradually building a friendship through the sharing of life stories and dancing, became the basis and the heart of the work - and is still really what the show is about. We wanted to bring this chatty and open playfulness to the audience.

I still love the moment [when] we invite people onto the stage with us at the start to help us set up the first scene. It reminds me of who this performance is for.

MDT - Why is it important to encourage children to question their identity and ask bigger questions? What sort of thinking does this promote?

CD - I think it's important for all of us to consider these questions.

The way that we encourage the audience to do this in the show is through two performers. We

offer stories, questions and physical metaphors that open up these topics.

I would hate the show to come across as preaching or telling the audience what to think. [...] Instead I hope that it promotes independent thinking and other ways of seeing those [whom] we sometimes make presumptions about, including ourselves!

For all its playfulness, "Chalk About" is also complex, layered and seems to create a space for self-reflection, and leads people to think: "What's my story?" That's important to me.

MDT - What is the benefit of mixing different forms of performance, dance, conversation and humor in a children's show?

CD - This is something I do in different ways with most of my work. These are exactly the things that excite me and inte-

rest me, so it felt quite natural to bring all this [into a single performance] for children.

When children play, they can move quite easily from one mode of playing to another, so I think they accept how we shift from one way of expressing what we want to say in the show to another.

It's also interesting to play with children's (and adults') preconceptions of what a play, a dance show or theater experience can be.

MDT - How does "Chalk About" compare with some of the group's earlier work, and is it more of an extension or a departure from it?

CD - This is the first time we have made a show specifically for a young audience, but I would say that some aspects of it are an extension of my creative interests and others are a departure.

For example, we made a show

in 2007 called "Code Butterfly," with 13 teenage girls and five professional female performers in the show together. My interest then was how these young girls, almost women, were dealing with the transitional time in their lives. [...] Although there are no children performing with us in "Chalk About," all of the conversations we had with children helped shape the show - and in fact their voices feature in the soundtrack.

MDT - What's next?

CD - We're currently developing a show called "Teenage Trilogy," which is about being a teenager now and older people remembering their teenage years. We've been interviewing lots of people about their personal experiences, [since] I usually like to [collect] contributions to the work from [the intended] audience.



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SANDS CHINA PARTICIPATES IN "ONE DAY VOLUNTEER"



Around 40 MSO athletes and family members enjoy Po's Kung Fu Feast Character Breakfast with the DreamWorks All-Stars with 30 Sands China Care Ambassadors on Sunday morning at Sands Cotai Central during One Day Volunteer 2016

Some 30 Sands China Care Ambassadors spent a day with the Macau Special Olympics (MSO) athletes and their families Sunday as part of the Macau Youth Volunteer Association's "One Day Volunteer" 2016 programme.

Around 40 MSO athletes and family members joined the Care Ambassadors at Po's Kung Fu Feast Character Breakfast with the DreamWorks All-Stars at Sands Cotai Central Sunday morning, where they interacted with DreamWorks characters while enjoying a buffet breakfast together.

Sunday's activities marked the company's eighth year of participation in the annual programme. Sands China Care Ambassadors have been taking part in "One Day Volunteer" since 2009, serving the elderly, the physically and intellectually disabled, and those with hearing impairments by accompanying them on activities.

"The One Day Volunteer" event was initiated in 2000, and aims to encourage the general public to utilize every opportunity presented to them to serve others in need.

MARKETS

Global stocks, oil turn lower ahead of Fed meeting

Joe McDonald, Beijing

MAJOR stock markets and the price of oil turned lower yesterday as investors looked ahead to the Fed's meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for clues on timing for possible interest rate hikes.

FED WATCH: Investors are looking ahead to a speech by Fed chair Janet Yellen at an annual summer gathering in Jackson Hole for indications of how policymakers view the outlook for economic growth and interest rates. Analysts expect Yellen to express caution but support the impression the U.S. central bank is on track to raise rates as early as this year.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Recent market price action suggests that nervousness about Fed policy may persist ahead of the Jackson Hole symposium," Citigroup economists



said in a report. "With markets pricing almost even odds for another Fed hike this year, and given the retreat in the dollar and the rally in risky and emerging markets, this allows investors to once again ponder their portfolio exposure in the backdrop of subtle shifts in Fed messaging."

LOW ENERGY: Energy companies fell as a rally in

oil prices last week reversed, with sharp losses on Monday. Benchmark U.S. crude shed USD1.32 to \$47.20 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, tumbled \$.158 to \$49.30 per barrel in London.

CORPORATE DEALS: Shares in Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta jumped about 11 percent after a U.S. national security panel cleared its acquisition by China National Chemical Corp. The state-owned company, known as ChemChina, said the \$43 billion deal still requires approval from anti-trust regulators. But the security clearance was considered a key hurdle as Syngenta has a lot of business in the U.S. (See p10)

Separately, Pfizer said it is buying the cancer drug company Medivation in a deal

valued at about \$14 billion. Pfizer will pay \$81.50 per Medivation share, a 21 percent premium to the Friday closing price. Medivation Inc.'s stock soared more than 19 percent before the opening bell yesterday.

ASIA'S DAY: Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gained 0.3 percent to 16,598.19 while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 0.7 percent to 3,084.81. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.3 percent to 22,997.91 and Seoul's Kospi advanced 0.9 percent to 2,017.94. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.4 percent to 5,497.40 and benchmarks in Thailand, New Zealand and the Philippines also rose. India's Sensex lost 0.1 percent to 28,036.76 and Taiwan also declined.

CURRENCY: The dollar gained to 100.55 yen from Friday's 100.22 yen. The euro declined to \$1.1304 from \$1.1325. AP

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Conductor
Lü Jia

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Chopin:
Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11

Schumann:
Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, Op. 38, "Spring"

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opinion

Views on China

Tim Culpan, Bloomberg

THE CHINESE ARE COMING, TO SELL YOU A CHEAP SMARTPHONE: GADFLY

In the next five years, a majority of U.S. consumers will have bought a Chinese-brand smartphone. Such a prospect may raise the hackles of purported American patriots and presidential candidates, but it's reality.

Outside of Apple and Samsung, Chinese brands rule the global smartphone market. LG gets a hand in from time to time, BlackBerry isn't dead yet, and Nokia keeps bouncing from one identity crisis to another – but the trend is irreversible.

Yet ask any consumer in the U.S. to name a smartphone that isn't Apple, or at the very least one that isn't Apple or Korean. There's only one way for Chinese brands to go from here. That's why their pending dominance is a fact, not just speculation or fear mongering.

Just as television makers Zenith, Motorola and RCA were eventually replaced by Japanese names like Sony, Sharp and Panasonic, so too will Chinese brands overtake the U.S. market.

The latest entrant looks set to be Xiaomi. The richly valued upstart appears ready to dip its toes in one of the world's most important electronics markets. While China is larger by volume, the U.S. is lucrative because average device prices are much higher.

In an interview with Bloomberg Television on Friday, Xiaomi's vice president and international front man Hugo Barra said a U.S. move is inevitable:

We will lead with social media, with the channels that allow us to get in touch with the young generation that are enthusiastic about new technology. We are definitely going there.

Xiaomi's entry into the U.S. has been in doubt on concern that the Chinese company, which has been widely criticized as a wholesale copycat of Apple and others, would immediately face intellectual property lawsuits.

However, Xiaomi's purchase this summer of around 1,500 patents from Microsoft seems to have quelled those worries and given the Beijing startup the courage to move directly onto Apple's home turf.

The Chinese company won't be short of competitors. ZTE, the world's number six smartphone brand, is fourth in the U.S., while TCL-Alcatel holds fifth spot. And then there's Huawei, now the world's number three, which will start selling its latest device under the Honor brand later this week. With solid technology, financial muscle and global aspirations, expect to see more of Huawei in the U.S. in years to come.

What's significant about a Xiaomi move is that along with the brand, the company is likely to bring the same business model that emaciated profits in the Chinese smartphone market: namely, direct online sales, social media-focused marketing and razor-thin margins.

That model has proven so compelling that Lenovo (which now owns Motorola's smartphone business) and Huawei have both incorporated it into their own strategies, while Oppo and Vivo are key beneficiaries. With ever fewer differences between Android models, this price fight portends declining share for Apple and Samsung.

This means that Chinese expansion will result in the U.S. starting to look a lot like every other market in the world. Whereas Apple and Samsung hold a combined 59 percent of the U.S. market, according to Counterpoint Research, they have just a 33 percent share worldwide. Global slots three through seven are all Chinese.

So while the nostalgic may decry the rise of China, they still need to face the fact that the U.S. smartphone industry has passed its zenith.

AP PHOTO



A Chinese family walk on a pedestrian overhead bridge near the office building of the China National Chemical Corp., also known as ChemChina

ChemChina says US security panel clears Syngenta acquisition

CHINA National Chemical Corp. said yesterday a U.S. national security panel has cleared its proposed acquisition of Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta.

The USD43 billion acquisition still requires approval from anti-trust and other regulators in the

United States and other countries, the state-owned company, also known as ChemChina, said in a two-sentence statement.

If completed, the deal would be the biggest foreign acquisition to date by a Chinese company. Shares in Syngenta jumped over 11 percent to 423

Swiss francs yesterday's news of the security clearance.

A group of U.S. legislators called in March for a review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. They cited the potential for "risks to our food system" and the U.S. agriculture industry.

CFIUS, led by the U.S. Treasury Department, has objected to a handful of Chinese purchases of U.S. technology industries but almost all acquisitions have been approved. Still, mergers consultants say the prospect of undergoing a CFIUS review has put off some potential Chinese buyers of U.S. assets, making acquisitions in Europe and other markets look more attractive.

The Syngenta bid comes amid a spree of global acquisitions by Chinese companies that are looking for technology, brands and new markets to speed their development.

ChemChina Chairman Ren Jianxin is China's most aggressive global dealmaker and has spent more than \$60 billion on acquisitions since 2010. They include Italian tire brand Pirelli, Norwegian chemical supplier Elkem and KraussMaffei, a German industrial machinery maker.

Ren has said he hopes to expand Syngenta's presence in China and other emerging markets.

The Syngenta deal is also part of a shake-up of the global agricultural and chemical industry as tumbling commodity prices squeeze spending by farmers. AP

Yahoo ad partner Media.net sells to China group for USD900 million

A group of Chinese investors said it's acquiring ad-tech startup Media.net for about USD900 million in cash, with plans to eventually sell the company to an obscure telecommunications firm whose shares have been suspended from trading since last year.

Media.net, which is based in Dubai and New York, is touting this as the third-largest ad-tech acquisition in history. However, the complex deal more closely resembles a reverse merger, where a private company takes over a public one and bypasses the formalities of an initial public offering.

Technology entrepreneur Divyank Turakhia started Media.net in 2010 and bootstrapped the business. The company provides the technology powering contextual ads offered by Yahoo! Inc. and Microsoft Corp.'s Bing search engine. The system is similar to one offered by Google, choosing which ads to show based on the content of the web page they appear on.

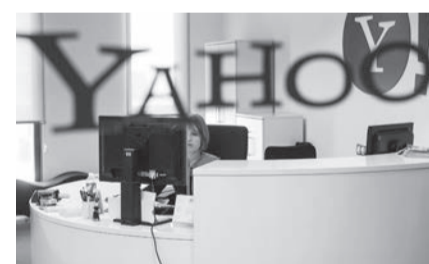
The deal comes as merger activity involving ad-tech companies is declining. There were 43 deals during the first half of the year, according

to research firm PitchBook Data. That's a 45 percent decline from the same period last year.

Media.net generated \$232 million in revenue last year, more than half of which came from mobile visitors, Turakhia said. The U.S. accounts for 90 percent of Media.net's revenue, but the company is hoping to make a big push into China after the deal, he said.

The consortium buying Media.net is led by Zhang Zhiyong, the chairman of Beijing Miteno Communication Technology Co. His telecom firm has been "moving aggressively" into mobile advertising and hoped to accelerate the transition through an acquisition, Zhang said through a translator.

But the cellular tower provider only has about \$23 million in cash and equivalents, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. To pull off the deal, Miteno needed to orchestrate a two-step financial dance. First, the financiers made a payment of \$426 million to Turakhia, the founder, chief executive officer, and sole shareholder of Media.net. He said he'll collect the rest later. Then Miteno will acquire Me-



dia.net from the consortium, which Turakhia expects will happen before the end of the year. That transaction may involve equity, additional fundraising or a combination of the two, he said.

Trading of Miteno shares on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange has been halted since December, which is unusual. Zhang said suspending a stock is a common regulatory practice when a company is looking at acquisitions. Turakhia said he expected shares to resume trading in September.

Zhang said the structure of the two-part transaction has allowed Miteno to start raising money while waiting for regulatory approval. He said he expects many other companies, especially those in China, to copy the strategy in the future.

Bloomberg

Beijing envoy visits Taiwan amid protests

A Chinese envoy arrived in Taiwan yesterday for a city-to-city dialogue, amid a chill in relations between the sides following the inauguration of the island's independence-leaning president Tsai Ing-wen in June.

The visit by Shanghai Communist Party official Sha Hailin marks a rare point of direct contact between the self-governing island democracy and China in the wake of Beijing's announcement that it was freezing exchanges between the liaison departments responsible for communication between the sides.

Sha heads the Chinese financial hub's United Front Work Department, a body generally used for outreach to minority groups, organizations and figures not under the direct control of the ruling Communist Party.

About a dozen politicians from pro-independence parties staged an airport protest over Sha's arrival, saying his rank was insufficient to merit a meeting with Taipei Mayor Ko Wen-je. Ko was due to hold a welcoming banquet for Sha and his delegation yesterday.

"Such forums should be attended by the mayors of both cities for various exchanges. Therefore if [Ko] meets with a United Front Work department official, it would be on



Protesters shout and wave placards written with slogans reading "Refuse United Front Work," (left), "One Taiwan, One China," (right), and "23 Million Taiwanese Decide the Feature of Taiwan," (bottom), outside the venue of a dinner party held by Taipei Mayor Ke Wen-je welcoming Sha Hailin, head of the United Front Work Department of Chinese Communist Party's Shanghai Municipal Committee

an unequal footing," said Chou Ni-an, a member of the national legislature representing the Taiwan Solidarity Union.

"This is wrong. We don't need to endorse China's United Front Work," Chou said.

China claims Taiwan as its

own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. The election of President Tsai Ing-wen upended Beijing's strategy of using economic inducements to convince Taiwanese that political unification is not only inevitable but also in their best inte-

rests.

Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party holds a strong legislative majority and favors Taiwan's formal independence from China, although she has taken no steps toward that goal.

Despite that, her refusal to

■ About a dozen politicians from pro-independence parties staged an airport protest over Sha's arrival

endorse the concept of a single Chinese nation prompted Beijing to suspend contacts between the liaison bodies days after her inauguration, in an attempt to ratchet up pressure on her.

Although China says Taiwan has been part of its territory since ancient times, the sides have only been unified for four of the past 120 years, splitting most recently amid the Chinese civil war in 1949. Taiwan does not acknowledge Beijing's claim of authority over it, while surveys show an overwhelming majority of Taiwanese favor maintaining their current state of de-facto independence.

During Sha's visit, the sides are expected to sign cooperation agreements between city districts, their film festivals and marathon races. **AP**

China stages live-firing drills in Tonkin Gulf amid tensions

CHINA'S coast guard launched live-firing exercises in the Tonkin Gulf yesterday, the latest in a series of military drills that come amid renewed tensions among disputants to territory in the South China Sea.

The Maritime Safety Administration said ships and boats were barred from the area between its southern island province of Hainan and the northern coast of Vietnam from yesterday until tomorrow.

China's navy and air force have held a series of drills in surrounding waters since an international arbitration panel issued a ruling last



A missile is launched from a guided-missile destroyer during a live ammunition drill in the East China Sea

month invalidating China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. China angrily rejected the

ruling and said it would begin flying regular air patrols over the strategic waterway while con-

tinuing to develop airstrips, harbors and other infrastructure of military value on man-made islands

it controls in the disputed Spratly group.

On Sunday, China said its planes and ships held war games in the Sea of Japan last week, during which it deployed its latest-generation frigate.

Beijing didn't say who the latest military drills were targeting or why the Sea of Japan was chosen as the location. However, China has grown increasingly assertive over its claim to a chain of uninhabited islands controlled by Japan, recently dispatching more than a dozen coast guard vessels to the area as Chinese fishing vessels swarmed the surrounding waters.

China also plans joint naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea next month in a move criticized by the U.S. as harming regional stability. **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Foreign ministers from China, Japan, South Korea to meet today

THE foreign ministers of China, Japan and South Korea are due to meet today in Tokyo amid frictions between Beijing and its neighbors over territorial claims and regional security.

The foreign ministries of China and Japan said Monday that Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida would chair the meeting with China's Wang Yi and South Korea's Yu Byung-se.

First held in 2007, the trilateral meetings resumed last year after being suspended for two years amid a sharp downturn in China-Japan relations.

Tensions between Tokyo and Beijing remain high over claims to an uninhabited East China Sea island group controlled by Japan. Ties between China and South Korea have frayed recently after Seoul approved the deployment of a U.S. missile defense system that Beijing says will harm its own security. **AP**

JAPAN

Prime Minister Abe wows Rio finale as Super Mario

Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's brief but showstopping gig at the Olympics closing ceremony as the Nintendo game character Super Mario offered a tantalizing glimpse at Tokyo's plans for the 2020 games.

The organizers for the Tokyo games crammed the works into a brief two-minute film montage before Abe's appearance: athletes participating in more than a dozen sports, as iconic Japanese images like Tokyo Tower, cherry blossoms, a bullet train, Tokyo Bay Bridge and the famous "scramble" intersection in Shibuya whiz by.

Anime and video game characters including Pac Man and Hello Kitty are featured, along with the beloved blue Doraemon cat, who pulls from his pocket of magic gadgets a green warp pipe to whisk Abe, transformed briefly into Super Mario, from his limousine in



AP PHOTO

Tokyo straight to Rio.

Abe emerges atop the "pipe" in a big red Super Mario cap and costume, holding a glowing red ball kicked to him by famed manga soccer star Captain Tsubasa.

Tokyo 2020 organizers said in a statement yesterday that Abe came up with the Super Mario idea during a brainstorming session. Staff at Nintendo would say only that the government asked to borrow the character for the show.

At least on Twitter, Abe pretty much upstaged other highlights of the Olympics finale.

Even China's Communist Party newspaper People's Daily, not generally a fan of the hawkish Japanese politician, put out a tweet, though without any comment: "#Japanese PM Shinzo Abe appears from imaginary tunnel, disguised as #SuperMario".

Abe, who emerged from the Super Mario outfit in his usual get-up of a smartly tailored suit and tie, was getting mostly favorable commentary on his impersonation of the game character.

As they gear up for the 2020 games, the organizers appear to have achieved what they were striving for: "Cool!" "OMG" and "I want to go to Tokyo!" were among various comments on Twitter. **AP**

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH KOREA

Celebrating two Olympic golds, country vows to be sports power

DESPITE claiming only two gold medals in Rio, North Korea is as determined as ever to fulfill one of leader Kim Jong Un's primary goals: to become an international sports superpower.

North Korea's small Olympic team won its two golds in weightlifting, where it has a number of world-class and world-record-holding lifters, and gymnastics. Weightlifter Rim Jong Sim won the gold in the women's 75-kilogram division, while gymnast Ri Se Gwang won the men's vault. The North also won three silver and two bronze medals.

"When our Rim Jong Sim stood on the podium with our national anthem playing, she cried and my mother and I cried, too, as we watched on TV," Ri Yun Gum, an 18-year-old government worker, said yesterday in Pyongyang as the Rio games were coming to a close. "I think our athletes are able to win not just because they train hard, but because of their mental toughness."

The performance was a tad shy of expectations, since North Korea had four golds in London.



Jang Sok Ha, manager of the newly opened Pyongyang Sports Equipment Factory, talks to the Associated Press during a tour of the facility

But transforming North Korea, which has very limited economic resources and a population of only about 25 million, into a player to be reckoned with on the global sports stage is one of Kim's pet projects, and he has poured funds into the

development and training of promising athletes over the past several years.

It has already made a visible mark on Pyongyang.

The relatively affluent capital has seen the rise of a number of major new or renovated sports venues, and each year its

usually restricted streets are opened for the Pyongyang Marathon, which has become a major tourist attraction. Though pickup volleyball games and football matches in schoolyards have long been a staple in the city, it's now a common sight

to see young people out jogging or even canoeing on the two main rivers that run through Pyongyang.

And while South Korea lets its top athletes get out of military service as a gold medal reward, elite athletes returning home to the North after winning international competitions often get a hero's welcome — and maybe a condo.

Of course, Pyongyang's push to garner international prestige and generate national pride by winning medals isn't terribly original. It appears to have been pulled straight out of the playbook of former Soviet bloc countries like East Germany, and is similar to the strong political significance sports are still given in Russia and China, North Korea's two biggest historical backers.

But the campaign is also seen as part of Kim's effort to make North Korea a more modern nation.

"There are two reasons

why sports are important," Jang Sok Ha, manager of the newly opened Pyongyang Sports Equipment Factory, told The Associated Press on Monday. "People in good health can work harder, but they also need cultural rest and recreation."

Jang's sparkling new factory, which opened in April, is a big part of the drive and is one of the largest in the country. Its task is to provide regular people affordable sports equipment — from soccer balls to badminton rackets.

Standing in the factory showroom, surrounded by everything from field hockey balls to judo uniforms and bags of talcum powder for weightlifters, Jang proudly produced a basketball signed by former NBA star Dennis Rodman, one of the only foreigners to ever meet with Kim. He then grabbed a ball emblazoned with "Naesongsan," his factory's brand.

"Our balls are good enough to be used by the NBA, too," he said.

North Koreans are able to follow the Olympics, or at least some selected events, on TV and radio broadcasts and in newspapers, all of which are run by the state. **AP**

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

S. Korea, US start drills despite N. Korea's nuclear threat

SOUTH Korea and the United States began annual military drills yesterday despite North Korea's threat of nuclear strikes in response to the exercises that it calls an invasion rehearsal.

Such fiery rhetoric by Pyongyang is not unusual. But the latest warning comes at a time of more tension following the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat and a U.S. plan to place a high-tech missile defense system in South Korea.

The North's military said in a statement that it will turn Seoul and Washington into "a heap of ashes through a Korean-style pre-emptive nuclear strike" if they show any signs of aggression toward the North's territory.

The North's "first-strike" units are ready to mount retaliatory attacks on South Korean and U.S. forces involved in the drills, according to the statement, carried by Pyongyang's state media.

South Korea's Unification Ministry expressed "strong" regret over the North's warning, saying the drills with the U.S. are defensive in nature. Seoul and Washington have repeatedly said they have no



South Korean protesters shout slogans during a rally demanding to stop the joint military exercises, Ulchi Freedom Guardian, or UFG, between the U.S. and South Korea near U.S. Embassy in Seoul

intentions of invading Pyongyang.

The 12-day Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills that began yesterday are largely computer-simulated war games. The training involves 25,000 American troops and 50,000 South

Korean soldiers, according to the U.S. and South Korean militaries.

The drills come just days after Seoul announced that Thae Yong Ho, No. 2 at the North's embassy in London, had recently defected to South Korea

because he was disillusioned with the North's leadership. Pyongyang's state media called him "human scum" and a criminal who had been ordered home for a series of alleged criminal acts, including sexually assaulting a minor.

South Korea's President Park Geun-hye said yesterday that there were signs of "serious cracks" in the North's ruling

elite class after defections of key figures she didn't identify. Park told a security meeting that Pyongyang could carry out cyberattacks or other provocations on South Korea to divert public attention away from such domestic problems.

Many analysts said Thae's defection was an embarrassment to the North Korean government of leader Kim Jong Un, but would not weaken the unity of the country's elite class.

North Korea has already boosted its war rhetoric because of the planned deployment of the U.S. Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system in South Korea, which Washington and Seoul says is needed because of the increasing North Korean threats.

About 28,500 U.S. troops are in South Korea to help deter potential aggression from North Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended with armistice, not a peace treaty. AP

■ The North's military said that it will turn Seoul and Washington into 'a heap of ashes through a Korean-style pre-emptive nuclear strike'

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Paolo Santalucia, Nicole Winfield, Ventotene

AP PHOTO

THE leaders of Italy, France and Germany headed yesterday to one of the birthplaces of European unity in a symbolic bid to relaunch the European project following Britain's decision to leave the EU.

Spurring economic growth, bolstering security and creating new options for European youth are among the topics expected to be discussed by Italian Premier Matteo Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande.

Renzi greeted Hollande and Merkel at Naples' military airport, and the three were then heading by helicopter to the island of Ventotene to pay their respects at the tomb of Altiero Spinelli, considered one of the founding fathers of European unity.

Spinelli, along with another anti-fascist confined to Ventotene in the 1940s, co-wrote the "Ventotene Manifesto" calling for a federation of European states to counter the nationalism that had led Europe to war.

The document is considered the inspiration for European federalism.

"Two symbols in one: idealistic values and concrete commitment," Renzi wrote yesterday of Ventotene and the Garibaldi in his weekly newsletter. "We want that the Europe after Brexit — the Europe hit in its heart by terrorism — will relaunch the powerful ideals of unity and peace, freedom and dreams, dialogue and identity."

Italy has a lot to gain from a reinvigorated EU as it copes with flat GDP, the migrant crisis and political uncertainties over a constitutional referendum this fall on which Renzi has staked his government's survival.

Renzi has called Ventotene the "cradle of Europe" and is keen to highlight its historic role in the founding of the EU as Italy seeks even greater integration, particularly on the security front to help it cope with migrants, and flexibility from



In this Monday, June 27, 2016 file photo, German Chancellor Angela Merkel (center), the Prime Minister of Italy Matteo Renzi (right), and the President of France Francois Hollande brief the media during a meeting at the chancellery in Berlin

BREXIT

Italy brings German, French heads to EU symbolic birthplace

Brussels as it tries to rein in its record public debt.

Yesterday's mini-summit will now serve as a warmup for an EU-wide summit in Bratislava in September designed to chart the EU's post-Brexit way forward. It follows an initial three-way huddle by Renzi, Merkel and Holland in Berlin in the days immediately following the June 23 British referendum.

There, the three leaders pledged their commitment to European unity and plotted a common proposal to relaunch the European project focusing on three key areas: improving security, boosting economic growth and strengthening options and programs for young people.

This summit will also give Renzi a chance to hash out options as Italy copes with slow growth and other financial worries, especially at its banks which are struggling under some 360 billion euros (USD408 billion) in bad loans.

According to recent Eurostat figures, growth was flat in Italy in the second quarter, compared with 0.4 percent growth in the EU. Unemployment was 11.6 percent in June, well above the EU average of 8.6 percent. Youth unemployment was even worse: 36.5 percent in Italy, exceeded in the EU only by Spain, and nearly twice as high as the EU average of 18.5 percent.

Renzi, however, has a bigger concern on the horizon, a gam-

ble that he brought on himself and is worrying Europe as it could affect Italy's political stability and strengthen the euroskeptic, populist 5-Star Movement.

He has called a referendum for this fall proposing a host of changes to the constitution, including reducing the power of the Senate and giving the central government control of some policy areas now in the hands of regions. Renzi has suggested he would resign if it fails, an outcome that Italy's business lobby Confindustria has warned would create "political chaos" and lead Italy back into recession.

In an interview this weekend with La Repubblica, Renata

Colorni, whose father helped spread the "Ventotene Manifesto" through Italy's resistance movement and whose mother married Spinelli, said she had little hope that today's Europe could ever meet the Ventotene founders' original ideals.

"Honestly, today I don't see first-rate politicians, I only see statesmen who move through the European scene worried about losing the next national elections," she was quoted as saying. "What's missing is the will to risk it all for an ideal."

Charting a course is difficult until Britain formally begins the exit process, probably next year, and lays out proposals for its future relationship with the EU. **MDT/AP**

Union can't do without army in long term, Czech premier says

Ladka Bauerova

THE European Union will need a common army to bolster its security over the long term after the U.K. follows through on its decision to exit the bloc, Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said.

The 28-nation trading pact will need to muster a joint military to face intensifying threats including terrorism, a newly aggressive Russia and the unprecedented influx of refugees from the Middle East and beyond, Sobotka told a gathering of Czech diplomats in Prague

Monday. A common EU army shouldn't compete with NATO but should rather make the EU a "more actionable and reliable partner," he said.

Sobotka joins a number of European officials who, following terrorist attacks in Paris and the U.K.'s Brexit vote, have

called for greater military integration. The U.K. has in the past preferred to coordinate all military action through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but its departure from the EU may pave the way for Germany and France, who support closer cooperation, to chan-

ge the approach to security in the bloc. Sobotka said leaders may discuss a joint army at a September meeting of EU leaders.

"I'm convinced that we can't do without a common European army in the long term," he said. "I hope that the autumn European summit will bring concrete proposals and pledges."

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in March 2015 he supported the creation of a European

army to show Russia the EU's members are determined to defend their values. In May, the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, was reported to have prepared a defense document that included creating common defense structures via provisions laid out in the bloc's 2009 Lisbon Treaty, the Times reported. The Commission said in June that there were no plans to propose an EU army. **Bloomberg**

what's ON



CAFFEINE – WORK BY JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES
 TIME: 11am-9pm
 UNTIL: September 30, 2016
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: TOM N TOMS' COFFEE, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 20 – B, Regent Court Res-do-chao A)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 0160

PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED BY JAO TSUNG-I
 TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30 pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

ARTS IN THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE
 TIME: 10am-6pm daily
 (No admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Wednesdays, opens on public holidays)
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: Travessa de António da Silva, No. 10 (near Lilau Square)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS – EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE
 TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30; Closed on Mondays; Free admission on Sundays)
 VENUE: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
 ADMISSION: MOP5
 ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE ENCHANTING RED BOAT
 TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays; free to public on 15th of every month)
 UNTIL: October 9, 2016
 ADMISSION: MOP15
 VENUE: Praceta do Museu de Macau 112
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

THE EXHIBITION ARCHITECTS SKETCHES X 3: YOUNG ARCHITECTS SERIES
 TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
 UNTIL: September 15, 2016
 VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, No. 8 Calçada da Igreja de Sao Lazaro
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / (853) 2852 3205
 FACEBOOK: creativealbergue.scm

Offbeat

ALASKA: HOMELESS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN BREAKS FIST-BUMPING RECORD

Three hundred people in Alaska looking to raise awareness of homelessness are the new world record holders in fist-bumping.

KTVA-TV reports (bit.ly/2bVGmVv) a Guinness World Records representative verified each of the fist bumps passed along a line of registered participants in a fenced-off area last week.

An improper fist bump could have meant disqualification. The United Way of Anchorage organized the event. Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Alaska First Lady Donna Walker and people who work with homeless youth were among those who joined in.

United Way of Anchorage president Michele Brown said fist-bumping was chosen to represent a strong affirmation of what the community stands for.

The previous record was set by a chain of 250 people.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
19:00	Merciless (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary Serie
21:30	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Merciless
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

18 Aug - 24 Aug



BEN-HUR_

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm
 (3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Timur Bekmambetov
 Starring: Morgan Freeman, Rodrigo Santoro, Jack Huston
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 124min

DOREAMON: BIRTH OF JAPAN_

ROOM 1
 4.45 pm

Director: Shinnosuke Yakuwa
 Duration: 97min

LINE WALKER - THE MOVIE

ROOM 2
 2.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Jazz Boon
 Starring: Nick Cheung, Louis Koo, Francis Ng
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
 Duration: 97min

CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY_

ROOM 2
 4.30 pm

Director: Jun Takagi
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
 Duration: 120min

ROBINSON CRUSOE

ROOM 3
 2.30, 7.30 pm

Director: Vincent Kesteloot, Ben Stassen
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
 Duration: 90min

BFG_

ROOM 3
 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Syeven Spielberg
 Starring: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
 Duration: 117min

MACAU TOWER

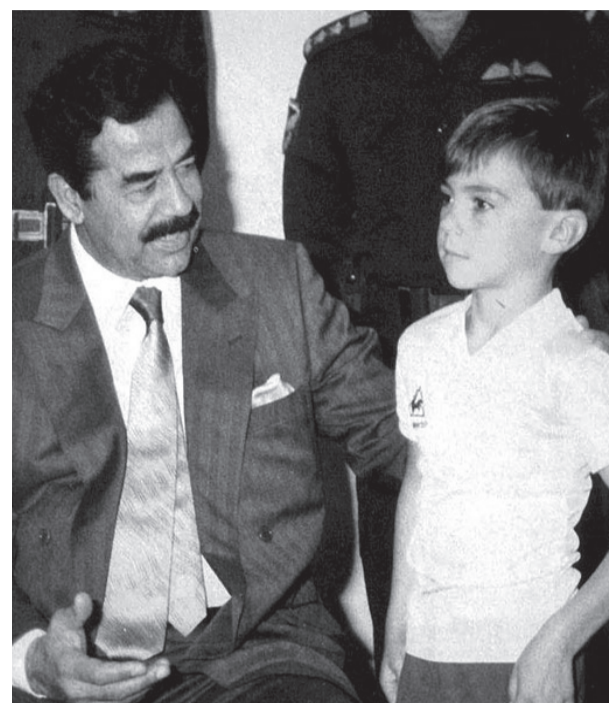
18 Aug - 31 Aug

HEARTFALL ARISES_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ng Ban Yu
 Starring: Sixuan Chen, Babyjohn Choi, Mavis Fan
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
 Duration: 106min

this day in history



1990 OUTRAGE AT IRAQI TV HOSTAGE SHOW

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has appeared on state television with western hostages, provoking a storm of outrage.

Saddam told the group of more than a dozen mainly British people they had been detained to prevent war and said Iraq wanted to see that they were safe.

They are among hundreds of foreigners being held in Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait at the beginning of August.

However, the Iraqi leader told them they were not being held as "human shields" saying Iraq was in a position to destroy any attacker.

Saddam singled out one young British boy - named only as Stuart - and ruffled the child's hair.

Speaking through an interpreter, he asked Stuart if he was getting his milk.

The Iraqi leader told the group: "We hope your presence as guests here will not be for too long.

"Your presence here, and in other places, is meant to prevent the scourge of war."

They would become heroes of peace, Saddam added.

The detainees, who looked strained and nervous, were promised tuition for their children and given permission to write to their families.

At the end of the 30-minute taped appearance, the Iraqi leader posed for photographs with the hostages before shaking each one by the hand.

A spokesman for the Gulf Support Group, set up by relatives of stranded Britons, said the interview "made all of us feel sick".

The British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, also criticised the broadcast.

Mr Hurd said: "I think the manipulation of children in that sort of way is contemptible."

The TV appearance has also been condemned by the US.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Saddam made a second TV appearance with the hostages. In early September the women and children, including five-year old Stuart Lockwood, were allowed to fly home.

The men were not allowed to leave until early December. Stuart Lockwood returned with his family to Worcester, central England but suffered a personal loss in 2001 when his father, Derek, died of a heart attack.

The refusal of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from Kuwait led to the UN-backed Operation Desert Storm in January 1991.

It would end in February with the defeat of the Iraqis and their subsequent forced departure from Kuwait.

On 13 December 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by American forces at a farmhouse in ad-Dawr near Tikrit in a hole in Operation Red Dawn.

On 5 November 2006, Saddam Hussein was found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by hanging. Saddam's half brother, Barzan Ibrahim, and Awad Hamed al-Bandar, head of Iraq's Revolutionary Court in 1982, were convicted of similar charges. The verdict and sentencing were both appealed, but subsequently affirmed by Iraq's Supreme Court of Appeals.

On 30 December 2006, Saddam was hanged.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You have no real problems compared to how bad some have it. Realizing that makes you want to reach out and use your money and energy to help others. Some do it for financial reasons, but you're doing it for strictly karmic ones.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

Most of your friends don't want to hear your problems right now and you can't really blame them. But there is someone who wants to hear all about it, totally free. Single out that one compassionate friend.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21

It seems just plain wrong to be frustrated today, but none of the festivities can change how you feel. At least you're clear about it. What will help is doing something creative. Consider it therapy.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Is your main source of happiness really money? Say it ain't so. You'll find if you explore your less well-known motivations that you have a lot more to offer the world than that.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

All financial dealings will come to a grinding halt soon enough. Spend today getting clear about what to do with your money, then do it. Whether you're spending it, saving it or investing it, it demands your attention.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When it comes to mundane daily matters, business moves at a snail's pace. You really can't blame people for it, either. Give up early on getting much done today. Relent and join in the festivities instead.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It's time to give up on the big bucks, at least for the next few days. Giving it a rest is good for the soul, as well as the only logical response to what's going on around you. If you just can't relax, try your best.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You might long for 20 assistants instead of one, but honestly, they wouldn't bring in twenty times the money for you. It's time to let that fantasy fade away into the contentment of reality.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There are plenty of metaphors flying around today. Figure out how they apply to your life. You might not make any money off of it, but the changes you do experience will be worth all the money you could possibly hope for.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Others are impressed with your generosity and, frankly, so are you. You never knew you had it in you to give as much. You're not even in it for the tax receipts. In fact, you're only too glad to help.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your credit card is maxed out and your bank account is overdrawn, but don't let that mislead you into thinking you're going to miss out on anything important. You still have plenty to give that has nothing to do with either.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You already understand one of life's most important pearls of wisdom: When you give from the heart, the one who receives the most is you. You know that when you give to others, you're really treating yourself well.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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Hard

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8	1							
			4					3
5								

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	30	overcast/shower
Harbin	16	29	clear
Tianjin	25	30	cloudy/thundershower
Urumqi	16	25	clear
Xi'an	25	36	cloudy
Lhasa	11	26	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	26	35	shower
Chongqing	30	39	clear
Kunming	18	27	shower
Nanjing	27	34	cloudy
Shanghai	28	34	cloudy
Wuhan	26	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	27	36	cloudy
Taipei	26	33	clear/drizzle
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	17	31	drizzle
Frankfurt	14	24	drizzle/clear
Paris	14	27	clear
London	14	23	clear
New York	16	28	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace; 5- New Orleans is The Big ___; 9- Puccini classic; 14- Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 15- Peter Fonda title role; 16- Chilean pianist Claudio; 17- Kemo ___; 18- Speckled steed; 19- Got wind of; 20- Ancient Egyptian king; 22- Japanese immigrant; 23- Arranges in groups; 24- Extraterrestrial; 28- Narrate as history; 34- Be right with ya; 38- Kind of fingerprint; 39- Hebrew month; 40- Reformulate; 41- Tranquil; 43- Worry; 44- IV units; 47- Compositions; 48- Ancestors; 51- Binge; 52- Curved letters; 57- Explosion; 61- Subscription continuation; 63- Perform better than; 64- China's continent; 66- Capital of Latvia; 67- Available; 68- Dirty look; 69- Inwardly; 70- Arranges; 71- Capital on the Aare; 72- Professional charges;

DOWN: 1- Does a Daffy Duck impression; 2- Boise's state; 3- Like lungs; 4- Wide-awake; 5- Monetary unit of Ireland; 6- Island greetings; 7- Large body of water; 8- Monetary unit of Japan; 9- Falafel sauce; 10- Minerals; 11- Sp. ladies; 12- Feel concern; 13- BMW rival; 21- Barbecue leftovers?; 25- Old Ford; 26- Charged atom; 27- Rubber; 29- Polar cover; 30- Bugs, clunkers, and rides, e.g.; 31- Think tank output; 32- Madcap; 33- ___ Tu": 1974 hit; 34- "Carmina Burana" composer; 35- Roman emperor; 36- At any time; 37- Word that can succeed building, web or burial; 42- Ruhr Valley city; 45- Geom. point; 46- Cow or doe; 49- Lens settings; 50- More spine-tingling; 53- Letter cross-line; 54- Hog; 55- American symbol; 56- Does in; 57- Rude dude; 58- Moon goddess; 59- Env. notation; 60- Neb. neighbor; 62- Deserve; 64- Liturgical vestment; 65- Call on

Yesterday's solution

S	E	S	E	B	A	N	C	L	I	N	E	D		
T	A	L	K	E	L	A	L	A	C	C	R	A		
T	S	E	E	A	L	I	A	D	I	A	R	Y		
R	E	D	S	Q	U	I	R	E	L	A	S	S		
U	T	E	R	I	N	E	S							
R	E	A	T	A	D	E	N	T	A	B	L	E		
A	C	R	O	S	S	S	E	R	D	R	E	D		
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
I	L	I	A	R	A	E	P	A	L	A	T	E		
N	E	E	R	A	R	N	E	S	E	N	O	R		
D	A	T	A	M	B	A								
T	E	L	M	A	K	E	B	E	L	L	E	V	E	
A	T	A	R	I	T	L	L	C	R	E	W			
U	N	T	I	L	R	E	E	L	E	T	R	E		
T	A	H	O	E	I	S	M	E	R	E	B	S		

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

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	<p>Wa Seng San Cheong Wa U Kok, Taipa 2 Bedrooms Apartment Nicely Furnished HKD 9,900 / 650 sq ft Ref: 16010555</p>	<p>The Buckingham, Mid Floor Unit D, Taipa 2 Bedroom Apartment Fully Furnished HKD 18,000 / 1,147 sq ft Ref: 16020558</p>	<p>Super Flower City Unit A Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Stadium Views HKD 21,000 / 2,200 sq ft Ref: 16060591</p>	<p>One Central, Tower 7 Macau 2 Bedroom Apartment Central Location HKD 21,000 / 1,300 sq ft Ref: 15090533</p>

Tom Withers, Rio de Janeiro

RIO GAMES | BASKETBALL

Carmelo Anthony caps Olympic odyssey with third gold medal

CARMELO Anthony had one last thing to teach his young teammates.

On the podium wearing his third Olympic gold medal, Anthony, who led this inexperienced U.S. team from the moment it first gathered weeks ago in Las Vegas, pointed toward one end of Carioca Arena, to the spot where the American flag was about to rise.

"I just told them, 'Look at the highest flag,'" Anthony said, "and that's what we did."

Now there's nothing left to do for Anthony, whose Olympic career began in disgrace and ends with him being the most decorated player to ever wear a USA jersey. It's a comeback almost hard to believe.

"I don't think I can explain how I feel right at this moment," he said, later adding he will retire as an Olympian.

The only U.S. male player to be chosen for four Olympic teams, Anthony became the first to win three golds as the Americans saved their best for last and crushed Serbia 96-66 on Sunday.

The blowout win capped a remarkable 12-year journey around the five interlocking rings for Anthony, only 20 and fresh off his rookie year in the NBA when he played on a 2004 team re-



United States' Carmelo Anthony (15) dunks against Serbia during the men's gold medal basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics on Aug. 21

ght of them wearing olive wreaths on their heads, bronze medals around their necks and disappointment on their faces, was a low point for the sport's standard of excellence. USA Basketball was down and deflated.

But along with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul, Kevin Durant and others, Anthony helped pump pride and power back into the U.S. program, which remains on top of the world.

Anthony grew over his Olympic run spanning games in Europe, Asia and South America. He matured as a person and found his voice, which he has used to address social issues at home. He became more than just a player whose talents seem to perfectly suit the international game. Anthony, so often criticized for not winning NBA championships, became the model for U.S. players.

He showed commitment, dedication and heart. While James

and Paul and other skipped these games, Anthony signed up for another tour of duty to represent his country.

"It's just his love for the game," said U.S. forward Paul George, who completed his own amazing story following a horrific leg injury. "It's his passion for the country and his love for the game, that's all that it comes down to."

During his stay in Brazil, Anthony became the leading scorer in U.S. history and he returned late in the second half of Sunday's rout just so he could snatch one rebound and move past David Robinson on the career list.

However, Anthony's most significant mark in Rio may have come when he visited the city's favelas, blighted areas he compared to Baltimore's inner city of his youth.

It's another sign of his maturity, which outgoing U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski saw developing 10 years ago.

After the Americans lost to

Greece in 2006 in the FIBA World Championships at Tokyo, Anthony sat at the postgame podium with Coach K and expressed humility and determination.

"He didn't make any excuses," Krzyzewski said. "He took responsibility for the loss and gave credit to the Greek team and we've built on that. I call it character, and in that moment, sometimes after a loss, you find out a deep character in someone. That's what happened with Carmelo and in the commitment of LeBron and Kobe and Chris, all these guys have great character and it just built to where we now have a great culture."

The Americans haven't lost since, winning 76 straight games counting exhibitions. And Anthony has collected three golds as precious to him as an NBA ring. A fifth Olympics isn't in his plans, but neither was a dozen years wearing the red, white and blue. **MDT/AP**

AD

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Peter Prengaman,
Mauricio Savarese, Rio de Janeiro

Samba, reflections and pride in final Rio Olympics party

SHAKING to samba and expressing a sense of longing with uniquely Brazilian words, Olympians and fans said goodbye to the Rio Games with one last big bash that was both revelatory and a sigh of relief.

The closing ceremony on Sunday celebrated the 16-day spectacle that was the Rio Games, which combined numerous highlights with ugly and even bizarre episodes that sometimes overshadowed competition. Cariocas — as Rio's residents are known — weren't swayed by the issues that led up to these Olympics, and braved rain and strong winds on the final night to cap their moment in the worldwide spotlight.

While South America's first Olympics are over, safely and with a grandiose finale, many problems remain. Still, Brazil showed Sunday it still definitely knows how to party.

"These were marvelous Olympic Games in the 'marvelous city,'" said International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, playing off the "cidade maravilhosa" nickname of Brazil's postcard city of inviting coastlines, year-round sun and lush tropical vegetation.

While the stadium erupted in applause at that declaration, a few minutes later there were boos of sadness when Bach announced: "I declare the Games of the XXXI Olympiad closed."

The closing ceremony in iconic Maracana Stadium was also meant to take care of some business — formally signaling the transition to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan.

But Sunday's party was all about Brazil, designed to be more low-key than the opening, which focused heavily on Rio.

The ceremony featured original footage of Alberto Santos Dumont, the man that Brazilians recognize as the inventor of the airplane. The theme, "Brazilians can do with their bare hands," was a nod to the emerging economy of the world's fifth most populous nation.

Dressed in colorful feathers, dozens of dancers formed in the shape of the arches of Lapa, a popular area of Rio akin to Roman ruins, then morphed to make the shape of iconic Sugarloaf before quickly changing again, this time to the official 2016 symbol.

Samba legend Martinho da Vila, whose tunes make their way into many popular telenovelas, sang "Carinhoso," or "Affectionate."

Olympians poured in under light rain, waving their flags while many shook their bodies to samba-infused pop that made the stadium feel like a Carnival parade. Britain's athletes wore shoes with soles that lit up in changing colors of red,

AP PHOTO



People watch Britain's athletes parade into Maracana stadium during the closing ceremony at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro

■ Sunday's party was all about Brazil, designed to be more low-key than the opening, which focused heavily on Rio

white and blue, while Tongan taekwondo athlete Pita Taufatofua danced onstage in a grass skirt as a DJ performed, reprising a moment that captured attention when he carried the flag for his country during the opening ceremony.

The show widened its lens to greater Brazil, a massive country with a land mass slightly larger than the continental United States. There was a tribute to cave paintings of some of the first inhabitants of the Americas, in Serra da Capivara, in Northeastern Brazil, today one of the nation's poorest regions.

Spectators watched performers shake it to frevo, a frenetic dance that — if it's even possible — makes high-octane samba seem like a staid ballroom affair. Holding small umbrellas, dancers jumped and marched while performing acrobatics.

They shook it to "Vassourinhas," which means "small brooms," a popular song that was also the name of a famous

club in the northeastern city of Recife.

The show also built performances around "saudade," which means anything from longing for someone to sadness to remembering good times. It is one of the most important words in Brazilian Portuguese. Lights flashed translations for the word in many languages, and a group of women sang "Mulher Rendeira," or "Lace-making Woman," a nod to the country's African heritage. Brazil was the last country in the Americas to outlaw slavery, in 1888.

The games had many memorable moments, both for Brazilian competitors at home and athletes from around the world.

Soccer-crazed Brazil got partial payback against Germany, winning gold two years after a 7-1 World Cup semi-final shellacking that left Brazilians fuming. American gymnast Simone Biles asserted her dominance with four golds, swimmer Michael Phelps added five more to up his staggering total to 23 and the world's fastest man, Usain Bolt, put on his usual show with three golds just days before turning 30 years old.

But there were also ugly episodes, like American swimmer Ryan Lochte's fabricated story about a harrowing robbery that was actually an intoxicated-fueled vandalism of a gas station bathroom, and bizarre issues like Olympic diving pools going from crystal blue to gunky, algae green — at a time when Rio's water quality in open waters is one of the biggest local

environmental issues.

With the games over, Brazilians now return to problems that have long consumed the country of 200 million people. The economy is mired in its worst recession in decades, and later this week the Senate is expected to begin the trial on whether to permanently remove suspended President Dilma Rousseff, who was impeached in May for breaking fiscal rules in her managing of the federal budget.

There's widespread expectation that the games in Tokyo, one of the world's richest, most recognizable, cosmopolitan cities, will run more smoothly than they have in Rio. But there's also worry in Japan over whether the Olympics will eventually further drag down an economy that has been struggling for decades.

The governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, accepted the flag from International Olympic Com-

mittee President Thomas Bach and Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes, signaling the transition.

Many people, from Brazilians to IOC members, will analyze how things went for the Rio Games in the months ahead. But on Sunday, one strong sentiment was relief — that despite some problems, overall the games went well.

That wasn't a given going in. The Zika virus scared away some competitors and tourists, rampant street crime in Rio and recent extremist attacks around the world raised fears about safety and Brazil's political crisis, and the economic angst behind it, threatened to cast a pall over the competitions.

"We are very resilient, we didn't leave anything important unaddressed," said Augusta Porto, 36, a translator and Rio resident. "We can welcome people despite the serious problems that we have faced in the recent past." AP

RIO 2016 - MEDALS

#	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	United States	46	37	38	121
2	Great Britain	27	23	17	67
3	China	26	18	26	70
4	Russia	19	18	19	56
5	Germany	17	10	15	42
6	Japan	12	8	21	41
7	France	10	18	14	42
8	South Korea	9	3	9	21
9	Italy	8	12	8	28
10	Australia	8	11	10	29

opinion

Our Desk

Renato Marques



PORTUGUESE... AND OTHER LANGUAGES

A couple of days ago there was apparently a proposal at the Legislative Assembly (AL) follow-up committee on land affairs aiming to "give more importance" to the use of the English language in Macau and more specifically in matters of land.

But the proposal with which everybody in the room seem to have agreed to and signed, seems also to have lost its founding father/mother, since the president of the referred committee, Ho Ion Sang, admitted "not to know exactly who proposed the idea."

Either way, according to Ho, the purpose for the unusual proposal had to do with poor translations, as a "legislator noticed" that some words on the report of a contracted consultancy company (in English) "had translation problems into the official languages [of Macau]."

Please do let me know if you think my opinion is too narrow minded but from the way I see it, where there is a bad translation, my first option would be to fix the translation.

However, considering the issue differently, the AL legislators decided that what is best in this case is to create a new "status" of a third language that has, in fact, been unofficially there all along.

Whether one has lived in Macau for a short or longer period of time, I'm sure that everybody (except maybe aliens) understands already that most 'intergroup' communication is done in English, or at least, English assumes "a role of a platform" between speakers of several other languages who cohabitate the MSAR.

This so-called "platform," contrary to others of the same kind, has really produced an effective result on the communication and understanding among different people and especially between the Chinese and Portuguese communities that, otherwise, would live even further apart than they already do.

What is needed is to politically accept and acknowledge that the English language is important in the Macau SAR, not just because we are geographically and culturally (as some say) near Hong Kong, but for the very same reason that the language is important elsewhere - because it is the "Lingua Franca."

How about Portuguese? Isn't this column about "Portuguese" and its ancient and historical connections to Macau? No! It is not! But that doesn't mean that Portuguese isn't important or doesn't have its rightful place in Macau. I believe it does and I believe its importance will be highly recognized (finally) once people stop using as a cliché or some "old family jewel" that is so precious that nobody uses it for several generations.

Speaking of Portuguese, just as I was hearing about this proposal for the English language, I was also pleased to learn that, contrary to what people in general think, Portuguese is well understood by the great majority of our legislators.

I knew already that some could understand and even speak a good number of words and sentences but what I didn't know is that they all can understand it and very well, because all of them dispense the help of the interpreters/translators of the AL during the periods when legislators or the government address the plenary in Portuguese.

I just hope they can keep practicing (what they also preach) and keep listening to the enquiries and replies in Portuguese, so they won't take any chances of getting "lost in translation."

THE BUZZ GROUPS URGE STATES TO KEEP PLEDGES ON UN ARMS TRADE TREATY

Advocacy groups are urging countries behind a U.N. treaty aimed to track and limit trade in conventional weapons to keep their commitments, especially when it comes to sending arms to war zones like Yemen and South Sudan.

Government envoys from about 100 countries began meetings yesterday for a weeklong conference on the Arms Trade Treaty adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 2013.

The U.S. is among 130 countries that signed the treaty — 85, including Britain and France, have ratified it. A key measure calls on countries to block transfers of arms believed to be used for genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. Russia and China haven't signed it.

The conference will decide rules on reporting on arms transfers, notably whether they must be made public.



People walk in a strong wind caused by Typhoon Mindulle, in Tokyo, yesterday

Mindulle storm delays Tokyo flights

ONE flight from Macau to Tokyo and another from Tokyo to Macau were delayed yesterday due to typhoon Mindulle, which is currently bearing down on Japan, as announced by Air Macau.

As of 3:30 p.m. yesterday, the Airport Authority of Hong Kong (AA) announced that 11 flights between the Hong Kong International Airport and Tokyo's Narita International Airport had been delayed, in addition to three other flights between Hong Kong and Tokyo's Haneda Airport.

The strong winds forced the Narita International Airport to shut down. Three tropical storms are currently approaching Japan.

A dispatch from the Associated Press states that strong winds from the typhoon had forced air traffic controllers to temporarily abandon the control tower at Narita International Airport yesterday, shutting down one of Tokyo's two main airports for about an hour.

Narita was closed at 2:20 p.m. after the controllers left the tower when wind speeds reached 126 kilometers per hour, stated a Transport Ministry official at the airport who would give only his surname, Matsumoto. The airport reopened around an hour later.

It was the first time the tower had been closed because of a typhoon. It has

closed once before, during the magnitude-9.0 earthquake that triggered a massive tsunami in March 2011.

Typhoon Mindulle, which has caused a landfall south of Tokyo yesterday afternoon, brought heavy rain and strong winds to Tokyo and surrounding areas.

Eleven people were injured, three seriously, said Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Narita, which is located outside of Tokyo, said that 88 international and 34 domestic departures and arrivals had been canceled. More than 400 domestic flights were canceled to and from Tokyo's other major airport, Haneda.

Staff reporter/Agencies

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Song Zhenping



If you fly to Taipei. The exhibition "TERRACOTTA: The Rise and Legacy of Qin Culture" at Taipei's Palace Museum features about 300 culture relics of Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC). The exhibition started in May and will be open until August 31.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	20-40 Good
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN has protested to Moscow over the detention of a Japanese man visiting one of the disputed islands between the two countries. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said yesterday, however, the man's situation would not affect a planned meeting in September between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

PAKISTAN officials say protesters have attacked TV stations and clashed with police in the southern city of Karachi, leaving one person dead and eight others wounded, including three media workers.



YEMEN Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis marched on Saturday in support of Shiite Houthi rebels and their ally, former president Ali Abdullah Saleh. The march in the rebel-held capital, Sanaa, was in support of a new combined governing council the rebels and Saleh announced late last month, but which was immediately rejected by the United Nations.

ROMANIA Rescue teams are working to free nine people trapped by a flash flood in a huge bat cave in western Romania. A spokeswoman for the local emergency services said that two of the nine stranded in the cave by the flood that came after torrential rain yesterday were experienced speleologists, or those who study caves.



EU The leaders of Italy, France and Germany headed yesterday to one of the birthplaces of European unity in a symbolic bid to relaunch the European project following Britain's decision to leave the EU.

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