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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA While the global economy will dominate at this weekend's summit of the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging-market nations, politics and security issues form the backdrop to the gathering of world leaders in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou. **More on p10**



PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte rejected proposals yesterday for him to declare a state of emergency on a violent southern island to more rapidly defeat Abu Sayyaf extremists, who killed 15 soldiers in his government's largest single-day combat loss so far. He also said government troops and police would not enforce an arrest warrant for prominent Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari, so they could talk.



NORTH KOREA has executed a vice premier and banished two other top officials to rural areas for re-education, South Korean officials say. If confirmed, they would be the latest in a series of killings, purges and dismissals carried out since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011. **More on p13**

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Syria left 'homeless' as Macau calls deal off

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PHOTOS BY MDT READER



ROAD WORKS AND ROADBLOCKS

Two-day jam causes accidents, distress

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Daniel Beitler

LAWMAKER Ng Kuok Cheong said yesterday, at the sidelines of a press conference ahead of the pro-Uber demonstration planned for Sunday, that he hopes the gathering will produce a proposal for the regulation of app-hailing services in the city, as he has no proposals himself.

At the meeting yesterday, Macau Community Development Initiative leaders including lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San, outlined what they hope to achieve from Sunday's demonstration.

Ng explained that one of the primary purposes behind the demonstration is to invite the public to submit their proposals on how to regulate services like Uber. He also admitted that, at present, legislators do not have their own proposal that would see an improvement to the city's public services while balancing the interests of disputing parties.

"We must let people speak out about this and to encourage more [strategizing] to help Macau move ahead [with transportation improvements]," Ng told reporters.

"At this stage we [the legislators] have not proposed a suitable system for how to regulate this force in Macau, how to change the institutions, while at the same time balancing the interests of the [disputing parties]," he explained.

When asked if he will consider submitting his own proposal, the lawmaker said: "If I receive a proposal [that I think] is suitable for Macau then I will submit it. But at the moment, I do not have a concrete proposal," adding that he doesn't currently know how to expand the city's transport options.

"I need to study [the issue] more," he justified.

Ng says that the purpose of the demonstration is to gather opinions so as to draft a proposal for the government and



MCDI leaders speak at a press conference yesterday. The sign behind them reads: "Protest for Uber. Break down the monopoly; introduce competition; respond to what people want; improve the way people travel."

UBER CONTROVERSY

Lawmaker hopes Sunday's demo will produce ideas

the legislature to discuss. He is therefore not hopeful that the government will change their response to the ride-hailing app or optimistic that Uber will rescind their intent to withdraw.

"I don't think that the government will [backtrack on their decision]," he admitted.

"We know, of course, that Uber is only one company. We do not have to accept this one company, but [we need to consider] this new kind of transport. This is important because transport is Macau is really very difficult," added Ng.

Asked whether he has been in contact with Uber and whether they have expressed any indication that Sunday's gathering could reverse their decision to

withdraw from the territory, Ng said: "They have not directly contacted me, no."

Demonstrators will meet on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. in Tap Seac Square, where they will march to the Government Headquarters. Ng says that their Facebook event page suggests an attendance of at least 600.

The lawmaker also said that Sunday's demonstration will be "peaceful, rational and non-violent," as in the case of "normal demonstrations" in Macau.

Asked if the lawmaker uses the ride-hailing app in the city, Ng replied: "Never".

"There are many things that I never buy, but of course [question] whether they are suitable for Macau," he added to explain

why he is backing the protest.

On the allegations that the government is warning civil servants from participating in the demonstration or signing the petition, Ng said that he personally has received no complain-

ts as of yesterday. However he also stated that it was not appropriate for the government to send these instructions, as this sort of public participation "is a basic liberty for Macau people."

UBER DRIVERS TAKE UNOFFICIAL PETITION TO THE STREETS

AS OF last night, more than 16,600 people have signed the official Uber ePetition to support the service's continued operation in the city.

It is not only the app-based company that is gathering support from the local community, however.

Last night and over the next few

days, Uber drivers are independently taking to the streets to conduct their own petitions.

One such driver on Rua do Campo told the Times last night that they already have around 2,000 signatures between them. He added that they intend to present another front in the pro-Uber movement that is gathering momentum this week.

Special licensed taxis expect to start operations next year

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) plans to add a number of special taxis with app-based services to its operating fleet next year.

DSAT is in the process of issuing special licenses

for these taxis and expects the work to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year.

DSAT has also asked the parties that intend to bid for the licenses to provide services only through



appointments made electronically. The operators must also provide app-based services that meet the public's needs.

DSAT added that an additional 250 taxis will start operating in the fourth

quarter of this year. Earlier, the bureau had claimed that Macau will have a total of 1,500 to 1,600 taxis by the end of this year, according to a report by Jornal do Cidadão. Current DSAT data indicates that a total of 1,080 taxis are currently operating in the city. **Staff reporter**

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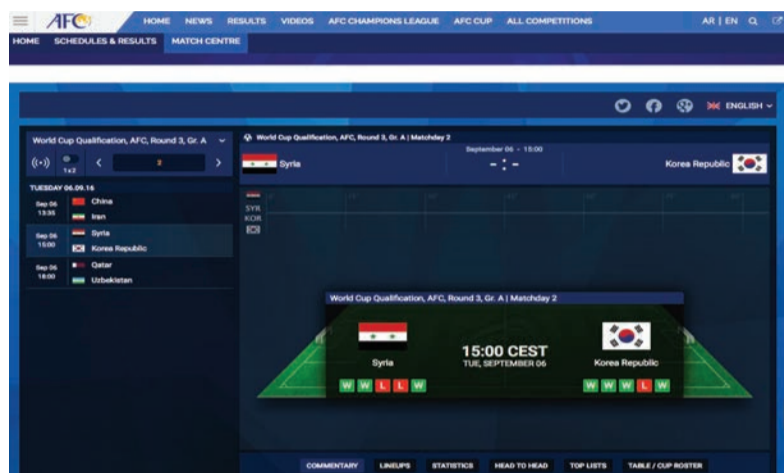
Syria, South Korea will not play qualifier in Macau

SOUTH Korea and Syria will not play their World Cup qualifier in Macau next week as previously scheduled, the football governing body in Seoul said yesterday night, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The Korea Football Association (KFA) said the 2018 FIFA World Cup final Asian qualifying round match between South Korea and Syria next Tuesday (Sept. 6) "will not take place at [the] Macau Olympic Stadium after the Macau Football Association and its Syrian counterpart failed to reach an agreement on details."

The KFA added that the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is in talks with the Syrian Football Association to determine an alternative venue for the match. The exact location is expected to be revealed no later than today, Yonhap said.

According to the South Korean agency, "The Taeguk Warriors were set to depart for Macau on



The Asian Football Confederation website last night still failed to mention the place of the match

Saturday," two days after they open their regional qualification round against China at the Seoul World Cup Stadium, today.

South Korea, ranked 48th in the latest FIFA world rankings, is scheduled to face Syria (105th) on Tuesday.

Syria, which was required to stage their home matches on neutral soil due to the ongoing civil war,

initially picked Lebanon to host the game against South Korea. However, on Aug. 23 they changed the venue to Macau, evoking security reasons, as Macau Daily Times reported earlier citing football official sources.

A KFA spokesperson said they are "trying to find out why Macau decided not to stage the match, and speculated that money may

be the problem. Syria would have had to pay for security and the use of the stadium". They also needed to cover their own transportation and lodging expenses, contrary to local reports which say that the Macau Football Association would have footed the bill (estimated at MOP6 million).

The Korean official added "if

A [Korean] official said they are trying to find out why Macau decided not to stage the match, and speculated that money may be the problem

Syria can't find a new venue for the upcoming qualifier in time, they will be forced to forfeit the match by AFC [rules]".

If Syria reverts their decision back to Lebanon, as originally envisioned, the official said that the "KFA will likely oppose the decision."

"It's not easy to purchase a large number of airline tickets to the Middle Eastern country on such short notice," added the official.

Officials from the AFC, FIFA and Macau's Sports Bureau confirmed to MDT earlier this week that Syria would play its "home matches" at the Macau Stadium; information that was confirmed on fifa.com earlier this week.

Last night, the South China Morning Post reported that the Macau Football Association expressed "disappointment" that negotiations with their Syrian counterparts had failed to reach an agreement.

"The decision not only leaves Syria and their opponents bereft of a venue, it almost certainly kills off a wider plan for the city to host all five of the conflict-ridden nation's "home" games in Group A of the Asian qualifiers – which includes a match against China," the SCMP said.

"Bringing Syria to play their matches in Macau would have been a win-win [situation]," Daniel Sousa, vice president of the MFA, said last night, as quoted by SCMP. **PC/Agencies**



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Macau student expelled for killing second cat

A student from Macau was expelled by the National Taiwan University (NTU) after killing a second cat in Taipei, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio.

The school's Student Disciplinary Committee made the decision on Monday and announced it the following day, suggesting that the student seek medical attention immediately.

The student, surnamed Chen, has killed two cats to date. In January, The Student Disciplinary Committee punished him with two demerits and two minor demerits after he was found to have tortured and killed a stray cat last year.

Chen's first case generated anger from the public, with more than 14,000 netizens signing a petition to expel him from NTU.

The second cat belonged to a restaurant in Taipei, where CCTV footage proved that Chen had captu-



red the cat at the beginning of August. He turned himself in to the police four days after the incident.

According to a BBC report, the Macau Tertiary Education Services Office said that "the office respects NTU's decision, and

hopes [for] Macau students who are studying outside the territory to cherish their opportunities of studying overseas, as well as to obey local laws."

NTU stated that it had already issued course credits to Chen, even though he is

no longer a student at the institution. Chen can still complete his tertiary education by applying to other schools with these credits.

NTU added that they are willing to provide counseling services for Chen. **Staff reporter**

Gaming association calls for government to continue cash handouts

FIVE representatives of the Power of the Macao Gaming Association delivered a letter to the government headquarters yesterday, calling for the government to continue the city's cash handout scheme in 2017.

The association praised the scheme, saying that the cash-sharing program has widespread grassroots support.

"It is a small gesture that can relieve the discontent among the public," the association said, adding that "it is a little encouragement given to the public under fair conditions."

In the words of a member of the association, the majority of the gaming industry – with the exception of one company – has not increased its employees' salaries. Many SMEs are also maintaining the same wage levels, much like the bigger companies. The association added that this makes laborers' lives more difficult, which could potentially lead to family problems and spread discontent throughout society.

Moreover, the association said families at the grassroots level needed the money most, as the cash handout scheme has been the only welfare program to benefit the public since the huge growth of the gaming industry.

The association also hopes that the government can build more affordable housing for young people. **Staff reporter**

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TWO-DAY TRAFFIC JAM

15 road accidents after police detour

At least seven road accidents were reported in Taipa on Tuesday night, and a further eight on the Macau peninsula after imposing construction works in the areas caused significant traffic congestion, which was again seen last night.

It is believed at this stage that the accidents, resulting from the congestion, may have exacerbated the situation.

Moreover, roadblocks set up for the touring Olympic delegation this week may have reduced the number of possible routes for vehicles – especially in the Taipa and Cotai areas – causing them to funnel into fewer lanes than normal.

Photos and reports shared on social media indicated that the traffic jam started

Photos and reports shared on social media indicated that the traffic jam started at 6pm and was unresolved by 8:30pm

around 6 p.m. and was still unresolved by 8:30 p.m.

The Sun Yan Sen Roundabout in Taipa is being held at least partially res-

possible as it was closed by police due to ongoing works in the area. Subsequently, drivers were rerouted onto the Largo do Ouvidor Arriaga roundabout, instead of being permitted to turn right into Taipa Central.

Those dissatisfied by the hours-long delay criticized the police as being “[unable to] handle the situation”. Instead of solving a problem in one street, police authorities caused several spanning different streets through attempting to detour the traffic, they said.

Last night, the Times received calls from frustrated readers who were caught up in the middle of the traffic jam and “paralyzed” for up to two hours.

It is not clear whether the situation will be resolved by tonight. **DB/RM**

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Expert says fashion industry now more 'mature'

Lynzy Valles

THE Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPPTM) announced yesterday the seven winners of its 16th annual "Macau Youth Fashion Technology Competition" on its website.

According to Victoria Kuan, senior manager of the Creative Fashion and Image Department at CPPTM, the center's summer workshop ran for almost two months and attracted 44 participants for 60 hours of training. The competition attracted 24 contestants.

Kuan, who has been in the fashion industry for over 20 years, said the region's young talent needs motivation to pursue careers in fashion, and that the industry must actively upgrade its training programmes.

"Every city needs a fashion school. We need to teach [interested] people [how to create] fashion or garments. No matter how big or small the city is, we need the talent," she explained to the Times.

Kuan said the region's resorts encouraged young fashion talent to apply their skills through occasional design competitions for department uniforms.

According to Kuan, the city's



Every city needs a fashion school.

VICTORIA KUAN
CPPTM

fashion industry is becoming "mature", as a number of local brands have already been created. She claimed that some retailers have even had Hong Kong celebrities as their clients, as well as local residents.

"[There] will be a good future [for the industry]. The designs and workmanship are mature," she reiterated.

Chio Weng Chong, who won first prize in the contest, said she is still quite unsure about pursuing a career in fashion, as she is currently studying visual arts at a local institute. However, she stressed that the contest had helped her enhance her skills.

CPPTM said in a statement that it conforms to international standards in its curriculum design and facility planning, in cooperation with the government.

CPPTM stated further that its fashion and creative courses encompass a wide range of modules such as personal image design, fashion design and production, marketing and sales; and even minor subjects like knitwear manufacturing, merchandising and management.

424 Macau double-plate cars have overstayed in Zhuhai for years

A total of 424 double-plate cars from Macau have stayed in Zhuhai for several years without returning to Macau.

Starting from Monday, the Zhuhai transportation management police and the Gongbei Customs will work closely together in order to locate the owners, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio.

All unregistered vehicles that entered Zhuhai through the Gongbei port must return to Macau with immediate effect. Zhuhai's police records indicate that more than 50 of the aforementioned owners drove to Zhuhai between 2005 and 2006.

The cars went completely unnoticed in the city after they hit mainland roads, leaving no paper trail. Zhuhai police also found the owners of the cars had incurred multiple traffic infractions.

On Tuesday alone, Zhuhai traffic police inspected five cars, with one of the owners of a vehicle fined RMB8,400 for 35 violations of transportation regulations.

Zhuhai Customs regulations state that any double-plate car from Macau with intentions of long-term usage in mainland China must return to Macau within three months of their first entry. **Staff reporter**

Sex education courses to run in October

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) will organize sex education training programs in October, along with sessions to introduce sex education resources to local teachers, student counseling, health promoters and social workers.

Each session will be limited to a maximum of 60 people. The training will include lessons on how to use secondary resources to conduct the education, and will also introduce some skills of teaching the topic.

The courses are free and will be presented by a Taiwanese medical foundation with a special focus on sex education.

In 2011, DSEJ launched programs to promote sex education in order to encourage both schools and social service organizations to conduct related training.



corporate bits

CTM, FAOM COLLABORATE ON 'MEDICAL RECORDS' APP



Following last year's announcement of a strategic partnership between CTM and The Workers' Medical Clinics of Ma-

cao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), the two parties today co-signed an agreement to collaborate on an application (app)

for FAOM clinics.

Developed by CTM, the app hosts outreach electronic medical records, aiming to improve the efficiency and quality of Macau's healthcare, as well as to strengthen data security and maintain the confidentiality of medical information.

According to a statement by CTM, the records will provide medical staff with a comprehensive suite of healthcare and support services, including preparation, outreach services and daily equipment management.

Both organizations are confident that the agreement will mark a great leap forward for e-health development in the region.

The app has been scheduled for a December launch.

MELCO ANNOUNCES FIRST-HALF 2016 RESULTS, PROFITS SOAR

Melco International Development Ltd. yesterday announced its interim results for the six-month period ending June 30, 2016. The results from the first half of this year show that profit attributable to the owners of the company amounted to HKD10.4 billion, soaring past the HKD11.1 billion recorded in the same period in 2015.

Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the Company was HKD6.73 for the six-month period, compared to HKD0.07 for the six-month period ending 30 June 2015.

Meanwhile, revenue for subsidiary Melco Crown Entertainment in the first half of this year increased by



10.3 percent year-on-year to USD2.17 billion (about HKD16.9 billion), while Adjusted Property EBITDA increased by 7.8 percent to USD494 million (approximately HKD3.8 billion).

The improvement is being attributed to the "satisfactory performance" of Macau's Studio City and the City of Dreams Manila, according to the company's statement.

"Despite fluctuations in the global economy and challenges faced by the gaming industry in Macau, Melco has continued to expedite its international expansion," said Lawrence Ho, CEO of Melco, according to a statement from the company.

"Going forward, as Macau's gaming industry has seemingly bottomed out and started to stabilize, we remain cautiously positive about its long-term outlook. Nonetheless, Melco resolves to accelerate its efforts in boosting its market share and presence in Asia," reasoned Ho. "We believe the resilient mass market segment will continue to be the main profit and growth driver to support a stable and sustainable industry development."

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

Robert Fenner & Lulu Yilun Chen

JUST across the border from Hong Kong in southern China, two gleaming towers of glass and steel are rising in a city long known for its manufacturing prowess. This is the new headquarters for Tencent Holdings Ltd., a USD599 million project aimed at creating a campus-like atmosphere for the urban setting. One 50-story tower is connected by skybridges to a shorter one, making them look like giant robots in a lover's embrace. Scheduled for completion next year, the Shenzhen skyscraper could become one of the largest labs for new internet services and connected devices. It will feature hologram tour guides, conference rooms that adjust temperatures based on attendance and alerts for the best parking spots before commuters arrive. Asia's biggest internet company is using the building to beta test its platform for the so-called Internet of Things.

"In China today, there has never been smart architecture of this scale," Ivan Wan, general manager and chief architect of Tencent, said in his first interview on the project. "Using our building as a massive testing field for the next generation of smart devices and technology is what makes this project iconic."

Tencent isn't the first tech giant to use its headquarters to make a statement. In California, Apple Inc. enlisted Norman Foster for its spaceship building in Cupertino while Facebook Inc. hired Frank Gehry to expand its base in Menlo Park. The design for Tencent's building came from NBBJ, a firm with a very long list of clients from the tech world, including Amazon.com Inc., Google, Samsung Electronics Co. and the finance affiliate of Tencent's archrival Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

With the second tower reaching 39 stories, Tencent's new building covers 340,000 square meters in the Binhai district, about a mile from the company's existing headquarters.

The multi-story connecting bridges, which intersect at floors 1, 21 and 34, aren't just visual elements to link the two buildings. They also house most of the common areas like pantries, auditoriums, conference rooms, the exhibition center as well as facilitating a 300-meter running track through both buildings.

There are also rooftop gardens, a swimming pool and rock climbing center, as well as multiple hotel-standard canteens and meditation rooms dispersed throughout the two buildings. "They wanted to energize and drive more communication among their employees," said Jonathan Ward, design partner at NBBJ. "They wanted something to be iconic,



Inside Tencent skyscraper that doubles as USD599 million test lab

In China today, there has never been smart architecture of this scale.

IVAN WAN
GM/CHIEF ARCHITECT, TENCENT

but they didn't want something that was frivolous. Not loud for the sake of being loud."

Tencent emerged as a technological behemoth on the strength of WeChat, the instant messaging service that's also a social network, payments platform, food delivery service and dozens of others functions in one. While the Chinese company drew on all its businesses in designing the building, it still features the personal imprint of founder Ma Huateng, who chose the ergonomic chairs to be used when construction is complete. Wan's team is trying to take the integration with Tencent's technology to a new level. Badges are able track anyone

in the twin towers (down to the exact room) and doors will open with facial recognition. Those parking instructions will come in through WeChat, which will also select the floor for the elevator. "It's a great strategy of getting in the head of your users to see if the product is fit for the market," said Nir Eyal, author of "Hooked," which focuses on how to build habit forming products based on psychology. "It's eating your own dog food."

Wan began planning for the new building back in 2010, a year after its existing headquarters opened to house a then workforce of 15,000, a number that has since doubled. Founded by a group of self-confessed geek college classmates in 1998, Tencent began by creating the QQ instant messaging service. Combined with its cartoon mascot, a winking, scarf-wearing penguin, and also WeChat, the company is one of the most recognized brands in the country and has a market value of about \$250 billion, even if those outside China are still getting to know it. NBBJ's design beat out six others, winning the support of a project committee that included management, staff and specialists. All levels

of the company took part in the development, including Chairman Ma.

"Pony was involved in the design process very often," said Ward, referring to Ma's English name. "He's low key. Not your typical bombastic chairman of a big company. He knows what he's doing. He doesn't have to be loud about it." That doesn't mean Ma is an easy boss. The 44-year-old who currently ranks as China's third richest man with a net worth of \$21.9 billion, has a habit of challenging his subordinates to keep them on the edge. After patiently hearing out his employees, Ma will often come up with tough questions. In time, this has become part of what Wan calls the Tencent "PK culture," referring to a gaming term for combat. "You never know where the questions are coming from, so you have to think about every aspect before you talk to him," said Wan. "It encourages the staff to be the best of themselves."

Ma challenged Wan and his team to include environmentally-friendly initiatives. With more than a billion combined users of WeChat and QQ, Tencent has a massive investment

in computer servers. The heat generated will actually be recycled to provide hot water for the pool, kitchens and bathrooms of the new building. The ventilation system recycles indoor air to cool down any incoming breeze and save energy while live data feeds will boost the ability to monitor water and electricity usage. The initiatives are designed to generate annual savings of about 6.85 million yuan a year.

Wan expects that the experience his team gains from this project — from procurement of bathroom facilities to the green initiative designs — can become standardized guidelines for the company's other construction projects. New buildings are planned for Guangzhou, where WeChat is based, as well as Beijing and Chengdu. It could also become a service for other companies or cities in China that aspire to similar initiatives, said Wan. By June next year when staff are fully set up in the building, Wan will know if Tencent has pulled off its ambition. "That's when real action starts, because by then we'll know if all these new smart products we created will work," said Wan.

Bloomberg

888 chief: leak mainly to blame for William Hill bid failure

into the third quarter. Average daily revenue per customer rose 22 percent on a like-for-like basis since the start of the third quarter to Aug. 27.

"We suspect that the combination of impressive momentum, market-leading technology and ambitious management means it may yet participate in the ongoing industry consolidation," Richard Stuber, an analyst at Numis, said in a note.

888's biggest strength is in online casinos, where first-half revenue rose 31 percent to \$137.4 million. The smaller

The combination of 888, Rank and William Hill would have created Britain's largest gaming company across all platforms

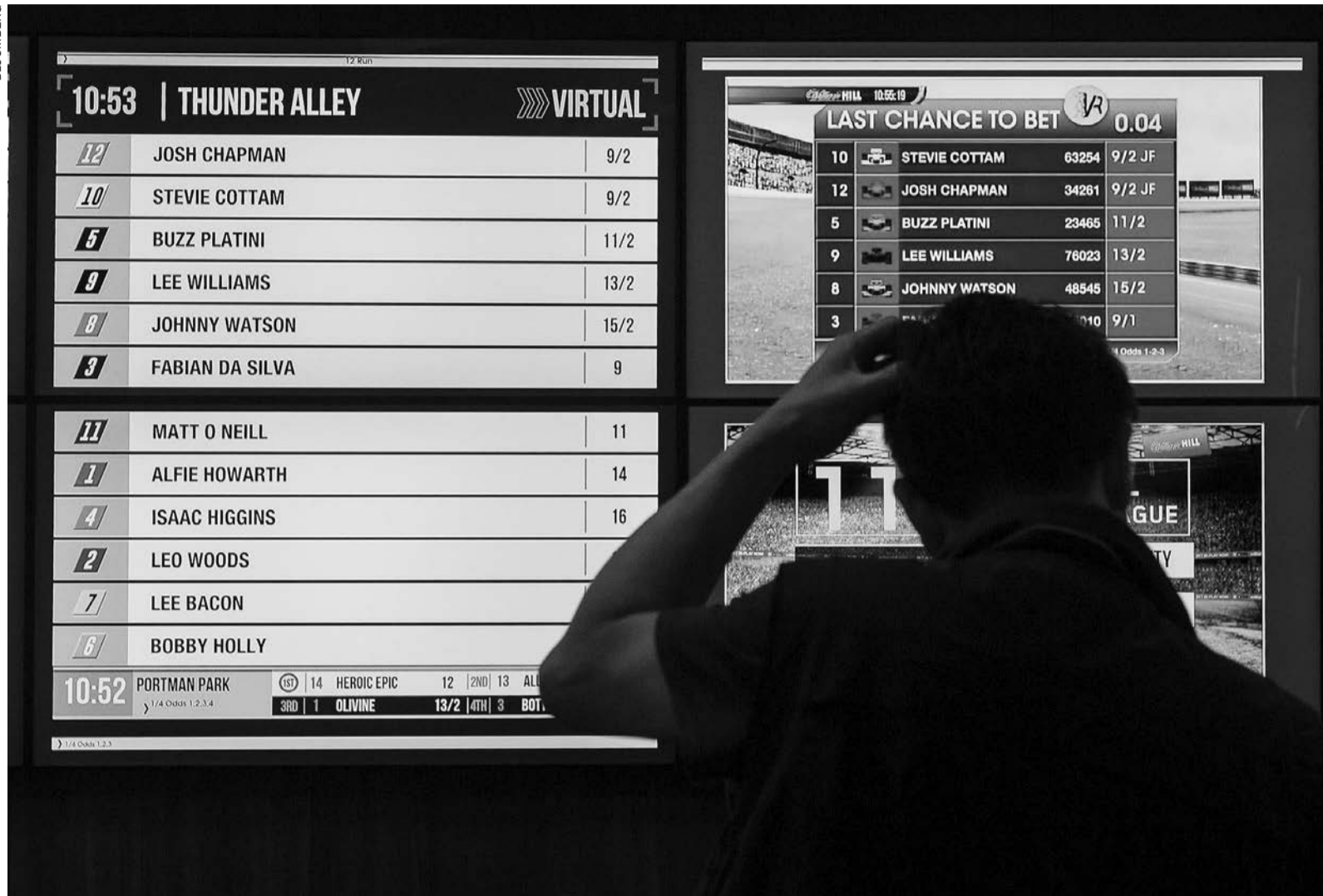
sports betting business boosted sales 63 percent to \$25 million, helped by the Euro 2016 soccer tournament.

The tournament also boosted results at bookmaker Gala Coral, which yesterday reported a 10 percent increase in third-quarter revenue in what may be its last such announcement before being acquired by rival Ladbrokes Plc.

888's Frieberger said he expects the U.S. to become an increasingly important market for the company as laws on gaming are loosened.

"It could be very big, the only question is time," he said. "Once it's going to happen, 888 will be one of biggest players in the U.S. online gaming market." **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



Betting odds on William-Hill screens

Paul Jarvis

A press leak was one of the main reasons that 888 Holdings Plc and Rank Group Plc failed in their 3.1 billion-pound (USD4.1 billion) pursuit of U.K. bookmaker William Hill Plc, according to 888 Chief Executive Officer Itai Frieberger.

The suitors announced their interest in buying William Hill on July 24, only hours after their plans were repor-

ted by the Sunday Times. The disclosure started the regulatory clock ticking, giving them less than a month to make a formal offer or walk away. After an increased proposal failed to gain the ear of William Hill's board, they gave up on their plans and are now barred from making a hostile bid for at least six months unless someone else does.

"The leak didn't allow us to have a conversation behind closed doors," Frieberger said by phone yesterday after 888

reported higher first-half earnings and revenue. "That's one of the root causes of why we couldn't progress it. Before we could make a call to William Hill, it was all over the press. That is very unfortunate."

The gaming industry has become a stamping ground for deals as companies seek greater scale amid a rush to capitalize on the booming online wagering market. The combination of 888, Rank and William Hill would have created Britain's largest gaming

company across all platforms, though stumbled after the bookmaker rejected the terms of a cash-and-share proposal. Still, 888 has room to grow, Frieberger said.

"We don't see M&A as a critical path in the way 888 moves forward," he said. "The only reason we will do a deal is to create additional shareholder value."

888 shares rose as much as 6.9 percent in London after the company said a strong first-half performance continued

AD



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Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

WHILE the global economy will dominate at this weekend's summit of the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging-market nations, politics and security issues form the backdrop to the gathering of world leaders in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Terror attacks in Europe, the looming U.S. presidential election and bloody ongoing conflicts in Syria and Iraq are among the issues making the world an uncertain and unsettling place.

World leaders including President Barack Obama, his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are expected to take up such topics, either when gathering as a group on Sunday and Monday or during bilateral meetings held on the summit's fringes.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose country has grown closer to China following the imposition of Western economic sanctions, will be in attendance, along with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, French Prime Minister Francois Hollande and new British Prime Minister Theresa May. May will face questions about Britain's decision to leave the European Union and its impact on the global economy amid rising economic nationalism.

Despite the wealth of controversial issues, China seems determined to deliver a non-confrontational, even uneventful summit, having endowed it with the middle-of-the-road theme of: "Toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy."

"Accounting for two-thirds of the world population and more than 80 percent of global economic output, G-20 nations deserve, and are expected, to play a bigger role in the managing the world economy," the official Xinhua News Agency said in a recent commentary. "The upcoming summit is undoubtedly a prime opportunity."

Climate change, human rights and the fight against the Islamic State group will also feature during the meetings, with Obama and Xi expected to offer an update on progress toward ratifying the Paris agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. White House officials have said they hope the historic climate change pact could enter into force by the end of the year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be present at his first major multinational gathering since a failed summer coup added new tensions to an already complex relationship with the U.S. and its allies.

AP PHOTO



A Chinese Coast Guard ship attempts to block a Philippine government vessel as the latter tries to enter Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea

Political issues weigh on upcoming G-20 summit in Hangzhou

Though no breakthroughs are expected, the gathering offers a chance for leaders to discuss disagreements ranging from China's claim to Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea to NATO's concerns over Russia's seizure of Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine.

The opportunity even for pro-forma contact between disputants such as China and Japan is significant and "no doubt this will be hailed and heralded as a reduction in tensions," said Dean Cheng, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs are an especially sharp regional concern. Pyongyang this week denounced a U.N. Security Council statement condemning its four latest ballistic missile launches, calling it "a hostile act" perpetrated by the United States and warning that it could precipitate America's "self-destruction."

The North launched a ballistic missile from a submarine Aug. 24, days after the U.S. and South Korea began their annual military exercises. A press statement approved Friday night by all 15 Security Council members, including Pyongyang's ally China, called

the four launches in July and August "grave violations" of a ban on all ballistic missile activity.

While China remains politically stable under stern, one-party communist rule, east Asia faces challenges ranging from Thailand's military governance to the election of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose bloody anti-drug campaign has drawn criticism from human-rights activists.

Obama is also expected to make a pitch for the Trans-Pacific Partnership free-trade agreement, a massive multinational deal that has stalled in the U.S. Congress amid fierce election-year opposition from both Democrats and Republicans.

Along with Washington's "pivot" to Asia that has boosted American military presence in the region, the TPP is a centerpiece of Obama's policy toward the continent and seen as a litmus test for U.S. leadership. Host China is not a party to the proposed agreement and regards the pivot as a hostile attempt to contain its regional influence through strengthened military alliances with American allies including Australia and the Philippines.

China's assertions of its territorial claims in the South China Sea will weigh on the

proceedings. A Hague-based international arbitration panel in July ruled against its claims to sovereignty over virtually the entire strategic water body. Beijing angrily rejected the verdict, vowed to continue developing man-made islands in the disputed area and says it would consider declaring an air defense zone that would require aircraft to heed its orders — a move sure to be condemned by the U.S., Japan and others.

As part of its efforts to counter such concerns, China has been pressing its drive for expanded economic cooperation through its "one-belt, one-road" policy linking it to Central and Southeast Asia and the Beijing-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Observers of the G-20 will be judging the response to such

Beijing's assertions of its territorial claims in the South China Sea will weigh on the proceedings

initiatives, whether "positive, reticent or divided," said University of Virginia China scholar Brantly Womack.

Leaders in attendance will also be considering the possible outcomes in November's U.S. elections, in which Democrat Hillary Clinton appears to have an edge over her Republican rival, Donald Trump. A former senator and secretary of state, Clinton is seen as an experienced hand on the wheel, while Trump has proposed policies that call into question America's commitment to free trade, immigration and the defense of its treaty allies.

While further from the core issues, ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and the wave of outward migration they've sparked also feature among concerns. Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi is among the specially invited guests at the meeting, likely bringing new scrutiny to his country's flailing economy and deepening security crisis.

The G-20 includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. AP

ECONOMY

Mystery of oil held on Chinese islands puzzles crude markets

CHINA'S got the world puzzling over its oil hoard.

From underground caverns by the Yellow Sea to a scattering of islands in the Yangtze River delta, the government has been stockpiling crude for emergencies in a network of storage sites dotted around the country. Record purchases this year by the world's biggest energy consumer have helped oil prices recover from the worst crash in a generation. What the country plans to do next could determine where they go from here.

The difficulty is that nobody outside China really knows for certain. The government won't say how much it's holding or when the tanks will be full. Energy Aspects Ltd. says the country will probably keep buying and fill up commercial tanks if it has to, while the likes of JPMorgan Chase & Co. say the purchases may soon stop. The difference in opinion is equivalent to about 1.1 million barrels a day, or more than the Asian country buys from Saudi Arabia.

"China seems to feel no obligation to report on its strategic stocks, and that might confer a genuine advantage in its favor,"

China seems to feel no obligation to report on its strategic stocks, and that might confer a genuine advantage in its favor.

JOHN DRISCOLL
JTD ENERGY SERVICES PTE

said John Driscoll, the chief strategist at JTD Energy Services Pte, who has spent more than 30 years trading crude and petroleum in Singapore. "The scope of their purchases can dramatically affect fundamentals and prices. However, since they will likely be shrouded in secrecy, it will remain challenging to quantify the impact."

China outlined in 2009 its plans to build reserves equivalent to

BLOOMBERG



100 days of net imports. But since then it's only provided sporadic scraps of detail on its strategic petroleum reserves, or SPR. That stands in contrast to the U.S., where the Energy Department has been detailing data on American inventories for more than three decades.

The Asian country had about 191 million barrels of crude in its SPR as of the middle of last year, according to a statement on the website of the National Bureau of Statistics in December. But it also said at the time that total combined capacity of seven above-ground sites and one location with underground caverns was the equivalent of only 180 million

barrels. The figures haven't been updated since.

The government also said at the time it has leased space in commercial sites, signaling it could buy additional oil while more of its own tanks are constructed. Nobody replied to a fax sent to the press office of the National Energy Administration asking for details about the SPR.

"SPR has been a China mystery due to the lack of government data disclosure," said Ying Wang, a Hong Kong-based analyst at JPMorgan. The bank estimates the amount of crude China is putting into stockpiles by calculating how much more oil the country is buying and producing than it's

using.

That amounted to about 1.2 million barrels a day over the first half of the year, according to JPMorgan. The bank estimates the country built up a total of about 400 million barrels by mid-2016 out of a targeted 511 million barrels. That means at the current rate of stockpiling, the storage would be filled up by August, leading to a potential drop in imports in September.

Energy Aspects looks at it differently. Because China can shift oil between commercial and strategic storage, the government may be able to increase purchases even if it runs out of its own space, said Michal Meidan, a London-based analyst for the industry consultant. Another 150 million barrels of commercial storage space is coming online by the end of next year that can be filled, she said. That means that while reserve buying may slow, it won't fall significantly.

"Even if SPR tanks only come online later in the year, more commercial tanks are starting up," Meidan said. Energy Aspects sees demand for the reserves dropping by only 100,000 barrels a day in the second half of the year to 300,000 barrels daily.

China's oil imports have averaged an unprecedented 7.5 million barrels a day so far this year, government data show. The purchases, along with temporary production outages in Nigeria and Canada, helped rebalance supply and demand in the market, leading Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, to jump almost 90 percent from mid-January to June. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (left), speaks during a joint press conference with China's Premier Li Keqiang (right)

Louise Watt, Beijing

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday hailed a new era in relations with China during his first official visit to a key trading partner, saying he aims to boost "stability and regularity" in their ties.

Trudeau and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang agreed to annual meetings and the eventual establishment of a mechanism to discuss national security and rule of law. Trudeau said they will work together to discuss issues of common concern, including climate change, judicial training, gender equality and empowerment

of women and children.

"Renewing our relationship with China is extremely important to Canada," Trudeau said at a joint news conference after his meeting with Li. "Until now, the China-Canada relationship has somewhat lacked in stability and regularity."

Separately, Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau announced that Canada will apply for membership in the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The institution, launched last year, aims to boost China's influence in global finance, although the U.S. has yet to join and has questioned whether it will

DIPLOMACY

Trudeau hails new era of China-Canada ties on Beijing visit

erode global lending standards.

Trudeau and Li also announced an agreement to extend a Sept. 1 deadline that China had imposed on Canada to tighten its screening of canola exports, which had threatened to lead to major losses for Canadian farmers.

China is the biggest foreign consumer of Canadian canola, which is usually refined into an edible oil, but Li said Chinese canola producers and consumers were worried about imported canola carrying disease. Trudeau said Canada and China were working "very closely toward a long-term solution in the coming days and weeks ahead."

Trudeau benefits from the association with his father, former Canadian Prime Mi-

nister Pierre Trudeau, who in 1970 became one of the first Western leaders to establish diplomatic relations with Communist China.

Trudeau's predecessor, Stephen Harper, had a chillier reception on his first visit to Beijing in 2009, three years into his term, when then-Premier Wen Jiabao publicly berated him for not visiting sooner. Justin Trudeau took office in November.

Li also commented on the case of Kevin Garratt, a Canadian citizen who conducted Christian aid work in China for North Koreans and has been detained in China for two years over accusations of spying.

"China is a country under the rule of law, and judicial authorities in China will handle judicial cases in

Trudeau will also visit Shanghai and Hong Kong and attend the G-20 summit in Hangzhou

strict accordance with the law," Li said, adding that Garratt would be treated "in a humanitarian way" and allowed consular visits from Canadian diplomats.

In response, the Garratt family said in a statement through their lawyer that they were "extremely frus-

trated" by a lack of progress in securing his release and enabling him to obtain "critically-needed medical treatment."

"Kevin should be released to allow the two countries to move forward to develop stronger ties and cooperation on many levels," the statement said.

Trudeau said the two leaders wanted to expand trade and investment in areas including energy, clean technology and agriculture, and to increase tourism and cultural cooperation.

The pair oversaw the signing of deals, including a film co-production agreement.

During his trip to China, Trudeau will also visit Shanghai and Hong Kong and attend the G-20 summit in Hangzhou on Sept. 4-5. **AP**

HAWAII

Hurricane churns toward the Big Island; people stock up, board up

Cathy Bussewitz & Audrey Mcavoy, Hilo

NBCNEWS

PREPARING for what could be the first hurricane to make landfall in Hawaii in years, residents on the Big Island are stocking up on food and water and seeking shelter for their animals.

The National Weather Service issued a hurricane warning as the storm dubbed Madeline churned west a day ago toward the island, urging residents to rush through preparations to protect themselves and their property and expect hurricane conditions within the next 36 hours.

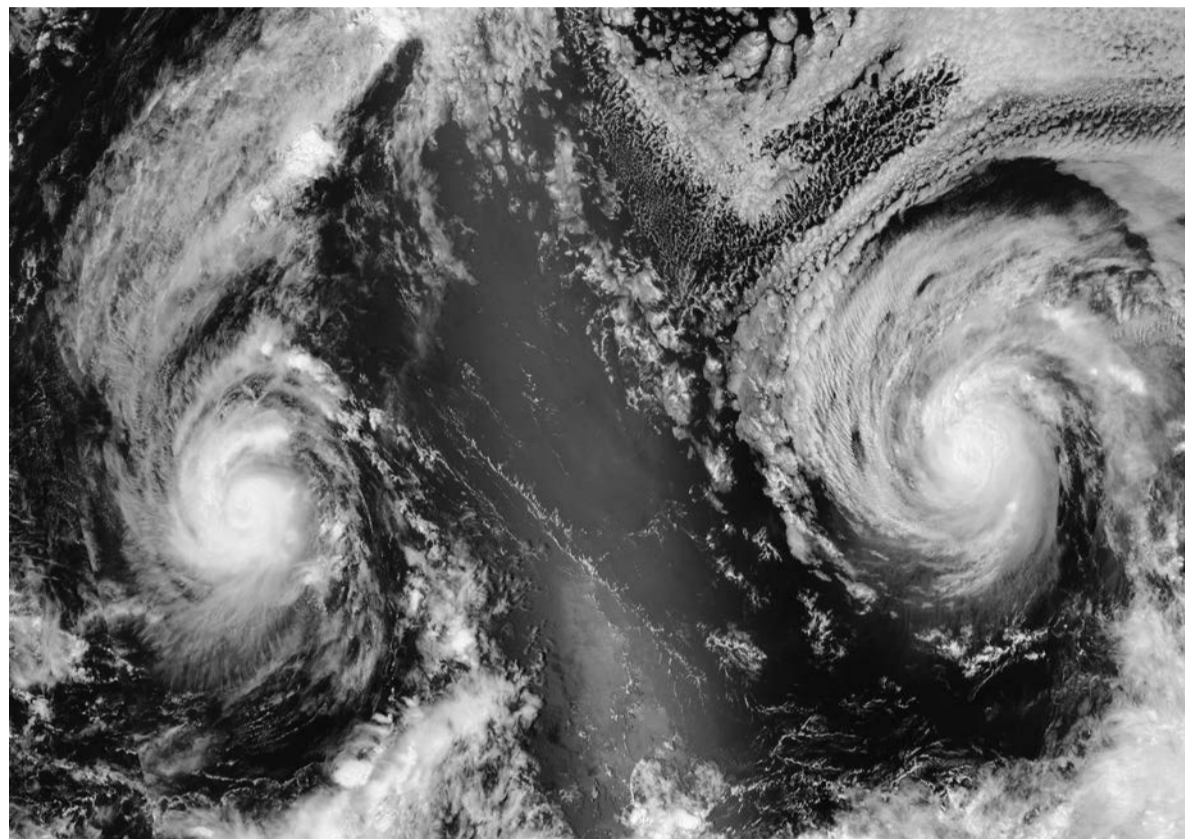
Peggy Beckett, a retiree and beekeeper, stopped at a Hilo supermarket to pick up some onions bagels, cheese, cold cuts and salad to add to her canned food at home. She has a cooler with ice in it plus a portable burner and batteries to get her through the storm.

"There's always a lot of disbelief on the island that the storms will really be as big and bad as forecast," Beckett said.

The Keaau resident and her partner made sure to put extra rocks on their beehives to protect them from the storm.

Noting the lines of people inside the supermarket, Beckett said she thought people were getting prepared but weren't panicking.

Hurricane Madeline, which was downgraded from Category 3 to 2 yesterday [Macau time], was weakening as it approached the



islands. But it's expected to remain a hurricane as it passes the state, Chevalier said.

Forecasters are expecting Madeline to pass just south of the Big Island around 8 p.m. today [Macau time]. But if the storm track shifts slightly to the north, the eye of the storm could pass over land.

"Hopefully our roofs stay on, and our houses don't float way or get blown away," said Big Island resident Mitzi Bettencourt, who boarded up walls of glass win-

dows at her brother's oceanfront home. "It's like, 'Oh my God, are we going to get flattened or what?'"

Bettencourt, who lives in a subdivision called Kapoho Vacationland, manages several vacation rental properties and has her own home to worry about, which sits a few blocks from the ocean. She and her neighbors were stocking their pantries, stowing away lawn furniture and preparing for power outages.

"If they're not prepared now,

they should get prepared fast," said Chevy Chevalier, a meteorologist with the weather service.

The last hurricane to make landfall in Hawaii was Hurricane Iniki in 1992, which hit Kauai, Chevalier said.

A second Pacific hurricane, called Lester, is still far from Hawaii, and it is expected to weaken to a tropical storm as it passes the state, Chevalier said.

Gov. David Ige issued an emergency proclamation for both storms, which will allow the

state to quickly spend money to alleviate disasters. "I urge you to take immediate steps to protect your families, loved ones, employees and property," Ige said in a statement.

The state Department of Education announced public schools would be closed Wednesday and Thursday (Hawaii local time) in anticipation of severe weather, and about a dozen schools were turned into emergency shelters.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to visit Oahu this week. The White House is tracking the weather developments closely, but it doesn't anticipate changing Obama's schedule.

The islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai were under a tropical storm watch, but there were no alerts for Oahu or Kauai.

On the Big Island, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park was closing some areas, and park officials planned for the coastal lava viewing area to close by yesterday. Some camping areas were closing, but guests staying at Kilauea Military Camp and Volcano House were allowed to shelter in place.

The U.S. Coast Guard asked crews of barges and ships to prepare to leave Hilo Harbor and told ocean-going vessels to seek sheltered waters until storm conditions subside. Captain Mike Long said he expected to close Hilo Harbor to all traffic by yesterday.

Hawaii County, which covers the Big Island, urged residents to restock their emergency kits with a flashlight, fresh batteries, cash and first-aid supplies. It recommended that residents create evacuation plans and secure outdoor furniture.

Hawaiian Airlines said customers holding tickets to or from Hawaii's Big Island from Aug. 31 to Sept. 1 would be allowed a one-time reservation change without a fee. **AP**



The clarity of Lake Tahoe

PRESIDENT Barack Obama is opening a two-day environmental tour aimed at showcasing conservation efforts before traveling to Asia, where climate change is high on the agenda for his final trip to the region.

In Nevada yesterday,

Obama plans to visit Lake Tahoe and speak at a summit dedicated to the iconic lake's preservation. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, who like Obama is in his final year in office, has hosted the summit for 20 years and asked Obama to attend.

ENVIRONMENT

Obama to open conservation tour in Lake Tahoe and Hawaii

The president planned to hail federal and local collaboration on environmental protection while announcing modest new steps on clean energy and climate resilience.

After his brief stop in the desert, the president will head to lush terrain in Honolulu, where he plans a speech to a gathering of leaders of island nations in the Pacific Ocean. The setting provides Obama a chance to emphasize a theme he's returned to frequently in his climate campaign: that remote areas like small islands

are the most vulnerable to rising sea levels and should help lead the fight to slow global warming.

To that end, Obama today planned an unusual presidential visit to Midway Atoll, a speck of land halfway between Asia and North America. Part of the U.S. Minor Outlying Islands, Midway played a key role for the U.S. military in World War II and was the site of a pivotal battle with Japan. Midway sits inside the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which President

George W. Bush created and Obama expanded ahead of his trip to make it the world's largest protected stretch of ocean.

During an afternoon on the island, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Obama planned to get briefed on the environmental characteristics on the island. The White House said he also would "interact directly with the wildlife." More than 7,000 species can be found there, including many that exist only in that region.

Obama's conservation

tour comes at the start of a busy trip to Asia, Obama's final as president and one of his last opportunities to lock in his administration's seven-year effort to expand U.S. engagement with Asia, including trade ties and cooperation on climate.

In China to attend the Group of 20 major economies summit, Obama planned to hold a formal meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who has become Obama's unlikely partner in pushing for global action on climate. **AP**

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

South Korea says top North Korean official executed

NORTH Korea has executed a vice premier and banished two other top officials to rural areas for re-education, South Korean officials said yesterday.

If confirmed, they would be the latest in a series of killings, purges and dismissals carried out since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un took power in late 2011.

North Korea is a closed, authoritarian country with a state-controlled press that often makes it difficult for outsiders, and even North Korean citizens, to know what's happening in the government.

Rival South Korea, which runs several intelligence organizations mainly tasked with spying on North Korea, has a mixed record on reporting developments across the border. In May, a former North Korean military chief, who Seoul said had been executed, was found to be alive and holding several new senior-level posts.

Jeong Joon Hee, a spokesman for Seoul's Unification Ministry, told reporters that Kim Yong Jin, a vice premier on education affairs in North Korea's cabinet, had been executed. Jeong gave no further details,

including why and when his ministry believes he was executed and how it obtained the information.

But a South Korean official, speaking on condition of anonymity citing office rules, said Kim was executed by firing squad in July for unspecified anti-revolutionary and factional acts. The official said Kim first faced an investigation because of the way he was seated during a June meeting attended by Kim Jong Un.

Little is known about Kim Yong Jin, who was last mentioned by North Korea's state news agency on June 15, when it reported he attended an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of North Korea's taekwondo federation.

Kim Jong Un, believed to be his early 30s, is revered at the center of an intense cult of personality, with state TV occasionally showing aging senior officials kowtowing and kneeling down before him. Last year, South Korea's spy agency said Kim had his defense chief



A TV screen showing a file image of Kim Yong Jin (second from left), a vice premier on education affairs in North Korea's cabinet, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (second from right)

executed with an anti-aircraft gun for complaining about him and sleeping during a meeting he had presided over.

Jeong said Kim Yong Chol, a top ruling Workers' Party official in

charge of anti-Seoul spy operations, had also been ordered to undertake "revolutionary re-education," in a reference to the banishment at a rural collective farm or a coal mine. Jeong said ano-

ther senior party official dealing with propaganda affairs, Choe Hwi, was still on a similar "revolutionary re-education" program.

Seoul officials believe Kim Yong Chol, direc-

tor of the party's United Front Department, orchestrated two attacks that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010, when he headed the North Korean army's intelligence agency. Kim disappeared from the public eye for about 50 days before the North's state media on Sunday mentioned his name in a list of officials who attended ceremonies marking the Youth Day.

Kim Yong Chol was banished at a rural farm for about one month between mid-July and mid-August because of alleged high-handed attitudes and attempts to expand his United Front Department's authority too much, according to the South Korean official who spoke about Kim Yong Jin's execution. The official said Kim Yong Chol was recently reinstated.

The rival Koreas have shared the world's most heavily fortified border since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, and they bar ordinary citizens from exchanging phone calls, letters and emails without special permission. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Duterte ready to defend drug killings with Obama

Bullit Marquez, Manila

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he was ready to defend his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, which has sparked U.S. and international concerns, when he meets with President Barack Obama on the sidelines of an Asian summit next week.

Duterte said he would demand that he be allowed to first explain the context of his crackdown before engaging Obama in a discussion of the widespread deaths. The two will meet for the first time on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Western leaders in Laos.

Nearly 1,800 suspected drug dealers and users have been killed since July 1, and U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said in Washington this week that Obama plans to raise U.S. concerns over the killings with Duterte.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte poses with Customs officers

"They must understand the problem first before we talk about human rights," Duterte told a news conference. "I would insist, 'Listen to me. This is what the problem is.' Then we can talk. No problem."

Speaking at Manila's international airport, Duterte warned more than 120 Filipino workers who returned after they were laid off in Saudi Arabia to stay away from illegal drugs.

"Avoid drugs at all costs because it could cost your life

too," Duterte said, adding that more than 3 million Filipinos are drug addicts.

Criticism by the U.S. government, U.N. rights experts and human rights groups over the drugs killings have provoked angry outbursts from Duterte, who, at one point, threatened to withdraw the Philippines from the U.N.

Duterte said that the world body and the U.S. have failed to prevent genocidal killings in Africa and the Middle East but

criticize his crackdown, which targets hardcore criminals who destroy Philippine society.

The U.S. has expressed concern over the extrajudicial killings and urged Duterte's government to ensure law enforcement efforts comply with human rights obligations.

"We are concerned by these detentions, as well as the extrajudicial killings of individuals suspected to be involved in drug activity in the Philippines," U.S. State Department spokeswo-

man Elizabeth Trudeau said. "We strongly urge the Philippines to ensure its law enforcement efforts comply with its human rights obligations."

She added: "We believe in rule of law. We believe in due process. We believe in respect for universal human rights. We believe, fundamentally, that those aspects ensure and promote long-term security."

Duterte has had an uneasy relationship with America and has said he will chart a foreign policy that is not dependent on the U.S., his country's longtime treaty ally. Duterte has also tried to repair relations with China that have been strained over escalating territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

When asked by reporters about the prospects of meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Laos, Duterte said he wanted that.

"I like Putin better," Duterte said, adding "we're alike." **AP**

They must understand the problem first before we talk about human rights.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

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USA

In political gamble, Trump to make surprising trip to Mexico

DONALD Trump will make a quick visit to Mexico yesterday, meeting with the president of a nation he derided as the home of rapists and criminals. The trip is a politically risky move for the Republican presidential nominee less than 10 weeks before the election.

It is not clear how Trump will be received in a country where he is widely despised. Beyond his disparaging comments about Mexicans, Trump has promised, if elected, to deport millions of immigrants who are in the United States illegally, force Mexico to build a huge wall to secure the nearly 2,000-mile border, and renegotiate the NAFTA trade agreement to make it more favorable to the United States. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has compared Trump to Adolf Hitler.

But it also offers Trump an opportunity to appear more presidential as he makes his first foreign visit since winning the nomination. Polls show him trailing Democrat Hillary Clinton in most of the key states that will determine the U.S. election. He is struggling to win over moderate voters, including Republicans, who are turned off by his brash rhetoric and controversial proposals on immigration and other matters. Some former Republican foreign policy officials have warned that Trump is unprepared to lead on the world stage.

The trip will come hours before Trump delivers a highly anticipated immigration speech. It's a defining issue for Trump, but one on which he has appeared to waiver. After saying during his primary campaign he would use a "deportation force" to expel all of the estimated 11 million people living



AP PHOTO
Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

in the United States illegally," Trump has suggested recently he might be open to "softening" his stance.

Last week, Pena Nieto extended invitations to visit Mexico to both Trump and Clinton, who met with him in Mexico in 2014. The Washington Post first reported Tuesday that Trump was considering making the trip to Mexico.

Trump took to Twitter to say he looks "very much forward" to meeting with Pena Nieto. The Mexican leader's office confirmed the meeting with its own tweet, saying the two men would meet privately.

Pena Nieto has been sharply critical of Trump's immigration policies, particularly the Repu-

blican's plans to build a wall and have Mexico pay for it. In a March interview, Pena Nieto said that "there is no scenario" under which Mexico would do so and compared Trump's language to that of dictators Hitler and Benito Mussolini. Former Mexican Presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderon have also alluded to Hitler in describing the Republican nominee.

Pena Nieto cast a different tone late Tuesday, tweeting, "I believe in dialogue to promote Mexico's interests in the world and, principally, to protect Mexicans wherever they are."

Clinton's campaign has urged voters to not "be fooled" by what it calls Trump's attempts to disguise his immigration po-

licies. "What ultimately matters is what Donald Trump says to voters in Arizona, not Mexico, and whether he remains committed to the splitting up of families and deportation of millions," said campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri.

While Trump's visit came as a surprise, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a close Trump adviser, has been among those pushing Trump to make the trip, according to a person familiar with their conversations who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss them publicly. Christie made his own successful trip to Mexico City in September 2014 and has a warm relationship with the Mexican president.

On NBC's "Today," Trump's campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, was asked if Trump would change his rhetoric in his meeting with Pena Nieto. She said, "I think you'll see a very presidential Donald Trump."

Asked if Trump planned to stand by his campaign position

of forcing out people living in the U.S. illegally, she said, "He's made very clear that he hasn't changed his position at all when it comes to enforcing the law." She declined to say what Trump might offer in his speech, except to say he'll repeat his opposition to amnesty, his commitment to building a wall along the U.S. Southern border and his plan to revoke President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration.

In meetings recently with Hispanic supporters, Trump had suggested he could be open to allowing some people living in the country illegally to stay. After one such roundtable this month, Conway, said Trump's stance on using a deportation force to expel people was "to be determined."

In the days since, Trump and his staff have broadcast varied and conflicting messages — though yesterday Conway, appeared to make clear that Trump had decided against allowing immigrants in the U.S. illegally to stay.

Trump has spent much of his campaign railing against the U.S.'s trade imbalance with Mexico and other countries and promising that, if he's elected president, he will punish companies that try to move jobs overseas. During his announcement speech, Trump accused Mexico of sending its rapists and criminals across the border, and vowed to build a giant wall to stop them, along with the flow of illegal drugs. **AP**

I think you'll see a very presidential Donald Trump [in Mexico].

KELLYANNE CONWAY
TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER

UK

May vows she won't try to keep Britain in EU by 'back door'

PRIME Minister Theresa May vowed she won't try to keep Britain in the European Union against the wishes of the electorate as her government resumed work on Brexit after a summer break.

"We must continue to be very clear that Brexit means Brexit; that we're going to make a success of it," May told ministers yesterday, according to remarks e-mailed by her office. "That means there's no second referen-

dum; no attempts to sort of stay in the EU by the back door; that we're actually going to deliver on this."

May faces the thorny task of devising a strategy for pulling the U.K. out of the 28-nation bloc while minimizing the damage to the economy, protecting key industries such as finance and negotiating new trade deals with both the EU and countries further afield, including the U.S., India and China. At the same time,

she's made it clear her government won't become consumed by Brexit, focusing also on social reforms.

"We want to be a government and a country that works for everyone, and we'll be talking about some of the steps that we need to take in order to build that society that works for everyone," May told ministers at her country residence, Chequers, northwest of London. She said the government will look at how

to increase productivity and "get tough on irresponsible behavior in big business — again making sure that actually everyone is able to share in the country's prosperity."

The prime minister has repeatedly said she won't formally begin Brexit talks by triggering Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty before the end of this year. When she does so, Britain will have two years to negotiate its departure and new terms for



BLOOMBERG
Theresa May, UK prime minister

its relationship with the remaining member states.

"This really is a very significant moment for the country, as we look ahead

to the next steps that we need to take. We have the opportunity to forge a new positive role for the U.K. in the world," May said. **Bloomberg**

what's ON



THE VOICE – THE EXHIBITION THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 16, 2106

VENUE: Communications Museums of Macau, No.7, Estrada de D. Maria II, Macao

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

EDGAR DEGAS: FIGURES IN MOTION - A COLLECTION OF 74 BRONZE SCULPTURES

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, except public holidays)

UNTIL: November 20, 2106

VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

THE COLLECTION EXHIBITION OF TAI FUNG TONG ART HOUSE

TIME: 2pm-6pm daily (Except Mondays)

VENUE: Tai Fung Tong Art House, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro 7

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3537 / 2834 6626

EXHIBITION "PLIS & REPLIS 3 - WORKS BY NOËL DOLLA"

TIME: 10am-7pm

UNTIL: October 9, 2015

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, 95

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

"MEMORIES OF MOMENTS - MACAU AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Archives of Macau

No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

VLADIMIR PUTIN - NOT THAT PUTIN - NABBED IN FLORIDA



Vladimir Putin has been arrested at a Florida supermarket. No, not THAT Vladimir Putin.

Police in West Palm Beach say a 48-year-old man who shares the name of the Russian president was arrested at a Publix supermarket in the city's downtown on Aug. 21. Police say Putin was screaming at employees and refused to leave the store.

Records with the Palm Beach County sheriff's office show he's charged with trespassing

and resisting an officer without violence.

Putin appeared in court Monday morning and was released on his own recognizance.

Court records do not list an address for him. Sheriff's Deputy Eric Davis says he didn't know if Putin had a lawyer.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:15	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:59	Advisor
19:00	The Hunter (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:40	The Toque 12 S2 - Premier
22:10	The Hunter
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Variety

cinema



CINETEATRO

01 SEP - 07 SEP

TRAIN TO BUSAN

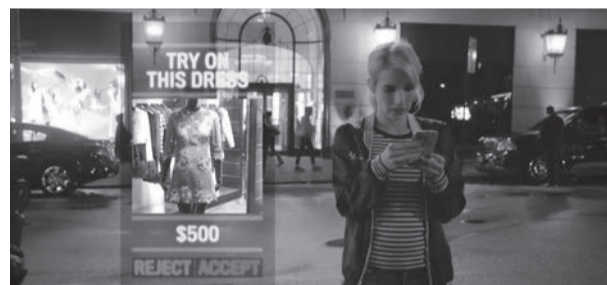
ROOM 1
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm
(4 Sep) 2.15, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Yeon Sang-ho

Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, ma Domng-Seok

Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min



NERVE

ROOM 2
2.30, 6.00, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Henry Joost, Ariel Schulman

Starring: Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Emily Meade, Miles Heizer

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY

ROOM 2

4.15 pm

Director: Jun Takagi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 120min



THE LETTERS

ROOM 3

7.15 pm

Director: William Riead

Starring: Juliet Stevenson, Max Von Sydow, Rutger Hauer

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 97min

SHIN GODZILLA

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Hideaki Anno

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

01 SEP - 14 SEP

WAR DOGS

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Todd Phillips

Starring: Jonah Hill, Miles Teller, Steve Lantz

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 106min

this day in history



1939 GERMANY INVADES POLAND

German forces have invaded Poland and its planes have bombed Polish cities, including the capital, Warsaw.

The attack comes without any warning or declaration of war.

Britain and France have mobilised their forces and are preparing to wage war on Germany for the second time this century.

Just before dawn today, German tanks, infantry and cavalry penetrated Polish territory on several fronts with five armies, a total of 1.5 million troops.

Soon afterwards German planes bombarded the cities. They have been making swift progress in penetrating Polish defences which are heavily outnumbered in artillery, infantry and air power.

The cities of Katowice, Krakow, Tczew and Tulej were attacked with incendiary bombs. Air raids on Warsaw began at 0900 local time.

Communications to Katowice have been broken but earlier reports said German planes were coming over in squadrons of 50, every half-hour, and there have been many casualties.

The German Army struck from Slovakia, East Prussia and from Pomerania into the Polish Corridor and the port Danzig, which has declared itself part of the Reich.

The 4th Army came in from East Prussia at Deutsch-Eylau supported by air raids on cities north of Warsaw. There is heavy fighting reported along the whole of the East Prussian border.

Poznan was attacked from the main body of the German Reich and border towns occupied.

The 8th and 10th armies are moving north-east from Silesia towards Warsaw; and the 14th Army struck from Slovakia towards Krakow.

The Times newspaper reports that when the air raid sirens in the capital first sounded at 0600 inhabitants reacted calmly and some even ran out onto the streets to look up at the sky and had to be driven back inside by air raid wardens.

The unprovoked attack follows yesterday's report on German radio that the border town of Gliwice had been raided by a group of Polish soldiers, who had all been shot dead.

German radio broadcast a list of "demands" never submitted to the Polish Government.

The Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, held a meeting with King George today in Downing Street.

Later this evening Mr Chamberlain told a packed House of Commons that British and French Ambassadors in Berlin had given German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop an ultimatum.

He was to tell Berlin that unless the Nazis withdraw, Britain and France would fulfil its promise of support to Poland.

Von Ribbentrop said he would refer the message to Adolf Hitler.

US President Roosevelt of the United States has sent an appeal to the governments of Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Poland urging them to announce publicly their determination not to launch air attacks on civilians.

In reply the British and French governments say they intend to confine their bombing to military objectives, so long as their opponents do the same.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Britain and France were forced to declare war after Germany ignored their separate ultimatums, delivered on 3 September 1939, demanding the withdrawal of German troops from Poland.

In the mid-1930s, Britain's response to the acceleration of Germany's rearmament and the threat of war was to appease rather than confront Hitler and his generals.

By late 1938, Hitler was making speeches that furiously proclaimed Germany's right to annex the Sudetenland, a Czechoslovak territory with a significant German population.

Chamberlain flew to Germany to calm the situation, eventually signing the Munich Agreement with Hitler, giving control of the Sudetenland to Nazi Germany.

With the invasion of the rest of Czechoslovakia in March 1939, Britain was no longer acquiescent and Chamberlain warned that any further attacks would meet resistance. It took the defeat of Poland six months later to induce the British and French governments to declare war.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your financial condition needs a tweak or two — so get busy! Your sense of the situation is clearer than it has been in ages, and that means you can make practical changes with confidence.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're feeling better than you have in quite a while — and not just because you pulled the perfect prank! Your energy is just in sync with the universe, so it's easier to get things done right.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to see today's big obstacle as a time-out — you can get past it, but it is sure to take a few days at the least. If others are worried, lend them some of your confidence and keep working.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try to get out there and mix it up socially — your spirit needs company! It may be time for you to ask out that new coworker or to throw a party of your own. Make something great happen!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your career is taking off in a new way — though it may not be what you were hoping for. That's okay! In fact, events that seem to run counter to your plans are probably better in the long run.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You have deep sympathy for someone you may not have gotten along well with in the past. Your great energy helps you forge new bonds, and you should be able to get past a problem more easily as a result.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You are at the peak of your powers when it comes to romance or attracting other kinds of attention. It's one of those days when you're sure to find that the right people are looking your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 One of your primary relationships needs some love — so focus on it to the exclusion of almost everything else! You may find that your energy is dissipating a bit by the end of the day.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 This is a great day for communication with your peers and/or friends. Your energy is great for pitches, mash notes or just plain old boring correspondence.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Creative power is flowing through you like electricity — so make the most of it! You can find new ways to clear off your work list, show your sweetie you care or just have fun with friends.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 An older relative is causing some interesting problems today — but none so terrible that you can't handle them. It may just be a tricky negotiation, but that's not the sort of thing that daunts you.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have got to step up your game when it comes to communication. Things are getting weird for you, but the good news is that if you make yourself heard as clearly as you can, all will be well.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for Easy+ level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for Medium level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for Hard level with some numbers pre-filled.

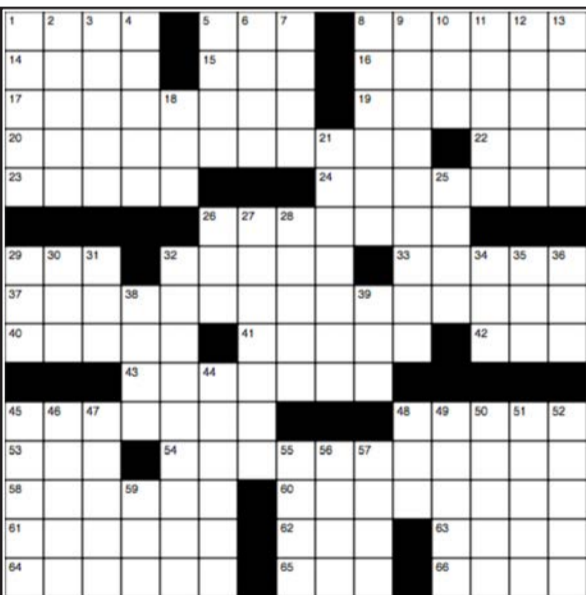
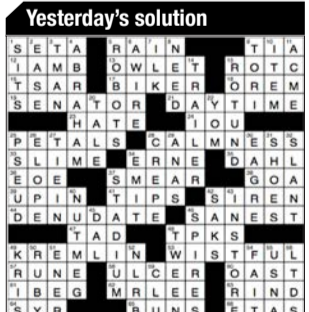
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actress Thompson; 5- Airline to Oslo; 8- What Richard III offered "my kingdom" for; 14- Arch type; 15- Author Deighton; 16- Matador's red cloth; 17- Excess; 19- Beaten egg dish; 20- Hoodwink; 22- Wide shoe width; 23- Perspire; 24- Desk with slanted top; 26- Fine sheer fabric; 29- Travel on snow; 32- Elects; 33- The end of ___; 37- In spite of; 40- Broadcasting; 41- Vote into office; 42- ___ Paulo, Brazil; 43- Trustful; 45- Partial motor paralysis; 48- Very, to Verdi; 53- U of U athlete; 54- Constitution; 58- Yeast; 60- Lacking power; 61- Salty; 62- Overly; 63- Breakfast brand; 64- Clown Kelly; 65- Drunkard; 66- Gather, harvest;

DOWN: 1- Second-year students, for short; 2- Beaming; 3- Caterpillar competitor; 4- Big name in insurance; 5- Gradual; 6- Dynamic start; 7- Hitch or glitch; 8- Soap plants; 9- Diluting; 10- Bullfight cheer; 11- Noted Civil War biography; 12- Guide; 13- Consumed; 18- DDE's predecessor; 21- Sparkle; 25- Look after; 26- 'Droid; 27- Belief that there is no God; 28- Inventor Nikola; 29- ___-Cat; 30- Heyerdahl's "___-Tiki"; 31- Give ___ rest!; 32- Turning green; 34- Frozen Wasser; 35- Genetic material; 36- Gone by; 38- Metal filament; 39- Pretend; 44- Young roarer; 45- Sign of life; 46- First-stringers; 47- Kingdom; 48- O Sole ___; 49- Web-footed mammal; 50- Belgian city; 51- Pacific kingdom; 52- Dominant; 55- Mines; 56- Melville novel; 57- Dick and Jane's dog; 59- Contend;



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- Emergency calls 999
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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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Steve Douglas, Manchester

CRICKET

Transformed: England goes from ODI flops to record-breakers

AS England's batsmen broke record after record in their obliteration of Pakistan at Trent Bridge on Tuesday, it was hard to imagine the country's one-day team hit its lowest-ever ebb just 18 months ago.

Back then, England exited the 2015 Cricket World Cup at the pool stage following a loss to Bangladesh, the most embarrassing of a sorry run of failures on the sport's biggest one-day international (ODI) stage.

The team was accused of failing to move with the times in one-day cricket, of focusing too much on test matches to the detriment of the shorter format, and of a short-sighted, conservative selection policy.

Fast-forward to yesterday.

A side brimming with power and self-belief plundered a world-record total of 444-3 on the way to a series-clinching victory over Pakistan in Nottingham. The five-match series continues today in Leeds.

Other records broken included: Most boundaries hit in a ODI innings (59), most sixes in an ODI innings by England (16), the highest individual ODI score by an Englishman (a superb 171 by opening batsman Alex Hales) and the fastest ODI 50 by England (Jos Buttler in 22 balls). Pakistan paceman Wahab Riaz conceded 110 runs in his 10 overs, the second most by a bowler in ODIs.

"We haven't reached our peak yet," Hales said in a warning to England's rivals. "That's the most exciting thing for us."

The transformation can be explained by a number of factors, notably a new coach, a more positive mentality and clearer strategic thinking by England's cricket chiefs.

Having a talented generation of players helps, too — even though they were there all

along.

Hales, for example, either wasn't selected or played at No. 3 at the 2015 World Cup, despite being one of the most destructive openers in England in the shorter format. Jason Roy, the opening partner for Hales, was already a consistent match winner for Surrey by 2015 but wasn't picked for the World Cup. Gary Ballance was in the squad, even though he was a test specialist batsman and wasn't suited to ODI cricket.

Two months after the World Cup, England hired Trevor Bayliss as a new coach as part of an overhaul of the national team. This was a major step toward improving the country's ODI fortunes, as Bayliss had a proven track record in the white-ball format, having led Sri Lanka to the 2011 World Cup final and won the Indian Premier League twice with Kolkata Knight Riders.

Andrew Strauss, England's director of cricket, cited Bayliss' success in limited-overs cricket as a distinguishing factor in his appointment. Suddenly, ODIs and Twenty20s weren't just afterthoughts in English cricket.

Two weeks earlier, Strauss himself was appointed in a newly created role that made him responsible for the long-term strategy of the England team in all formats. He has also put more focus on the shorter formats, ensuring a separation of the test and ODI teams, and welcoming the opportunities for English players to experien-

ce the IPL and Big Bash.

Calling for a rebalancing of priorities to prevent England from "sleepwalking" into the 2019 World Cup, Strauss said: "Our country is generally quite red-ball focused, but that doesn't mean it has to be at the expense of white-ball cricket."

As part of the shake-up, Strauss has arranged for a three-match North vs. South series to be played in the UAE in March in a bid to identify more up-and-coming players for future global ODI tournaments.

The change in approach of the England's current limited-overs teams is striking. Playing with freedom and without fear, England has set six of its best eight ODI scores since the 2015 World Cup. They have won four of their six ODI series since the World Cup — losing the other two 3-2 to South Africa and world champion Australia.

If the World Cup was next month, England might even be the favorite.

"They have the ability to bully the opposition, just like the great Australian sides of the past," former England captain Michael Vaughn wrote yesterday in his column for British newspaper The Daily Telegraph.

"The problem with this kind of performance is that expectations go up. I have said for a while that this is England's greatest group of one-day players. But they have to back that up by winning tournaments and key moments in big games."

AP PHOTO



England's Moeen Ali celebrates as he reaches his 50 against Pakistan during day one of the fourth cricket Test Match at The Oval, London on August 11

England lost the World T20 final to West Indies in April, when Carlos Brathwaite struck four straight sixes in the final over from which 19 was needed. England's next tilt at a global title will come on home soil in

the Champions Trophy next year.

But the trophy Strauss, Bayliss and the team really have their eyes on is the World Cup in 2019, also hosted in England. **AP**

TENNIS

Djokovic gets rematch vs Vesely in US Open 2nd round

THE victory came on clay, and it came four-and-a-half months ago.

It also came at a time when Novak Djokovic seemed virtually unbeatable — something that doesn't seem so certain now.

When Jiri Vesely upset the world's No. 1 player in Monte Carlo in April, Djokovic hadn't lost a completed match since November.

Vesely had never beaten a top-10 foe before defeating Djokovic 6-4,



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, receives medical attention during his first round match against Jerzy Janowicz on Monday

2-6, 6-4. Afterward, Vesely said he didn't believe he could win — until he saw how Djokovic was playing.

"Novak wasn't at his best level, that's for sure, and he made a lot of mistakes from the beginning," Vesely said that day. "That's what gave me a little bit more confidence."

Coming into the players' rematch in the second round at the U.S. Open yesterday, Djokovic hasn't been at his best recently. He lost in the third round at Wimbledon, then after a title in Toronto, fell in the first round at the Olympics, bothered by a left wrist injury.

In the first round at Flushing Meadows on Monday, Djokovic received treatment on his

right arm early in a four-set victory over Jerzy Janowicz. He repeatedly winced and shook out the arm, his serves far slower than usual.

After dropping a set in his opening match at a major for the first time since 2010, Djokovic didn't want to talk about what was going on with his arm.

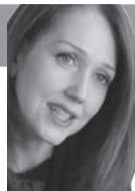
Asked about playing an opponent who defeated him in their only meeting, he ticked off all the reasons that might not be relevant: "Different surface, different circumstances, best-of-five."

"Obviously he hasn't played many times on the Arthur Ashe Stadium," Djokovic added. "If you get to play there, it's quite different." **MDT/AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



GLAM BALM, THANK YOU MA'AM.

If Estee Lauder were Asian, we would have fragranced insect repellent by now. It might be called 'Banish' and packaged in a shimmering 'atomiseur'. It would have a heady perfume which had been tested for hours on lab insects to attain the precise woody note which repelled them. (Lab insects = ok, right? Surely no insects' rights groups exist.)

I hereby say forget Chanel 'Number 5', we need Chanel 'Number's Up'. A fragranced threat to insects.

Alas, no cosmetics' doyenne has had to face such daily concerns, so the feminine repellent market has not yet developed. But I yearn for bug spray with a charming bouquet. And while you're at it, perfumed sting crème. Glam balm, thank you ma'am.

I speak these heartfelt words as the victim of a fly this week. I would like to stop to collect your sympathy, but that's an additional sore point. I started telling this tale to a friend, who merely looked up from Whatsapping to say 'the victim of a FLY?'

Yes.
 In retelling to another friend, I amended the account to suggest I was the target of a sting operation which, when Macau and its casinos are in your environment, gets a lot more attention.

'A sting operation? What did he looked like?'

'Small, dark, moved quickly. I didn't realize what was happening.'

'How much did he take you for?'

'A lot of big red ones.'

'Hundred dollar notes?'

Well, kind of. I was collecting my washing from the hot, humid laundry room in the basement of my building. The operative of the sting operation wasn't even a mosquito – it was a tiny fly, which just seemed to land for a moment on my legs, but left in its wake four scarlet hillocks, scattered on the front and back thigh. It wasn't just the itching. Didn't this fly realize the fashion problems it had caused? No shorts or dresses for a week.

Here one might think women like Coco Chanel had actually been thinking ahead. Always make an effort, French dames say - because you never know who you will meet. I hadn't put on any bug spray because a) I hate the stench and b) I was just going to get my laundry. Who was I going to bump into? Something that set me aflame, it turned out. Well, my skin at any rate.

There should also be citrus or floral bug spray for one's apartment, though I am switching companies to task now with sorting this issue. Jo Malone, why not Anti-Invader Ylang-Ylang Room Spray? Or the same in a scented candle? Because, you see, the fly was not the only leggy assailant of recent days. Just last week, when there was torrential rain in Hong Kong, I woke in the middle of the night, went to the loo, and found a roach on the bathroom sink. Sleepiness vanished and I chased the roach around the apartment with my wellie boot. Dammit, it had been watching the Olympics. It was the Usain Bolt of the bug world. I didn't catch it.

Anyway, a feminine touch is urgently needed for repelling. So, as South Korean cosmetics companies rise, could they please think more widely than snail masks and whitening cosmetics to other Asian female concerns? A killer eau de toilette, jasmine antihistamine and, also, bite concealer. And I don't wish to trade aroma for power, so let's also have an effectiveness rating for insect spray. Factor 50 Legs – guaranteed to protect you from bugs with that many limbs and under.

If anyone wants to crowd-fund development cash, Asia's women are waiting.

THE NEW TOKYO LEADER POSTPONES PLAN TO MOVE FAMOUS FISH MARKET

The newly elected governor of Tokyo has postponed a plan to relocate the world's biggest fish market, one of the city's most famous landmarks.

Gov. Yuriko Koike announced that she will decide on a date only after an environmental assessment of the new site is completed in January. The move had been scheduled for early November.

The current Tsukiji fish market is to be moved to the site of a former gas plant in Toyosu, a reclaimed area in Tokyo Bay, raising concerns about soil contamination.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

There they are: 52 Miss America contestants in Atlantic City



Wayne Parry

THERE they are: the 52 Miss America contestants, on the Atlantic City Boardwalk — and not a moment too soon for a city that could use a happy diversion.

The hopefuls were welcomed to the seaside resort Tuesday afternoon to kick off two weeks that will culminate in the crowning of the 2017 Miss America on Sept. 11.

They arrived as Atlantic City faces yet another imminent casino closing — the Trump Taj Mahal is due to shut down on Oct. 10 — as well as a threatened state takeover of its finances and decision-making power.

The city also is bracing for the possibility that voters will choose to authorize two

new casinos in the northern part of the state in a November referendum that Atlantic City officials fear will cause even more of the city's eight casinos to go out of business.

"Miss America is just what this city needs right now," said Mayor Don Guardian. "We may be struggling financially, but we know where we want to go. You certainly want to put your best foot forward, and this brings people to Atlantic City to have fun and enjoy what we have to offer."

The contestants from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico met the public in front of Boardwalk Hall on Tuesday.

This year's competition is the 96th in the history of the pageant, which originated as

a way to extend the summer tourist season in Atlantic City for an extra week beyond Labor Day.

The current Miss America, Betty Cantrell, recalled sitting on the same stage a year ago as one of more than 50 hopefuls.

"It seems like you're so small," she said. "You're one of 52 girls: how are you going to be noticed? The best thing you can do is just be yourself."

Cantrell, who was Miss Georgia, says she is headed to Nashville after the pageant to begin a career in country music.

"I'm thrilled to be passing on the crown to one of these amazing young women," she said. "I think it's in very good hands."

Thailand embarks on program to ensure citizens speak English

WITH just one hour of English classes per week in primary schools, it's no surprise that most Thais have little to no ability to speak the language. The government wants to change that.

The Ministry of Education has embarked on a program to ensure that all primary schoolchildren are able to speak enough English to handle everyday situations within 10 years.

Deputy Education Minister Teerakiat Jareonsettasin unveiled a plan this week that calls for drastic changes to the English language curriculum in schools, including more classes, new textbooks and an intensive training program for top teachers who will become "master trainers" for other teachers.

A ministry official confirmed to The Associated Press the details of the plan, published in Thai media. The official cannot be identified under government rules. Teerakiat was not immediately available for comment.

"We picked 350 teachers who are consid-

ered to be the cream of the crop for English boot camp training," said the official.

From there, the best 28 teachers will be chosen as master trainers and will be spread out around the country to 18 English-teaching facilities where school administrators and educators in the nearby area can receive training from the centers.

The millions of tourists who visit Thailand each year usually face little difficulty in communicating because they mostly interact with hotel staff, salespeople in malls and markets, and other tourism-related staff who would have learned the language on the job. Some Thais who work for foreign companies also pick up English over the years. But the vast majority of Thais, especially in government offices, have virtually no English language skills.

Among 16 Asian countries surveyed, Thailand is ranked 14th in English abilities and 62nd out of 70 countries worldwide, according to the Education First Language Institute's 2015 English Proficiency Index. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

SRI LANKA United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon began a visit to Sri Lanka yesterday during which he is expected to discuss post-civil war reconciliation and human rights accountability with the country's leaders. Ban is to hold talks with the president, the prime minister and Tamil leaders, traveling to both the ethnic Sinhala-majority south as well as the Tamil-dominated north.



INDIA Protests against Indian rule erupted at many places in Kashmir yesterday after authorities lifted a curfew throughout the disputed Himalayan region for the first time in 54 days. A young man was killed and several others were injured in clashes.

CYPRUS-EGYPT The two countries signed an agreement yesterday that paves the way for the supply of gas to the Arab nation via an undersea pipeline that officials hope will create a regional energy hub.



CANADA's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau yesterday hailed a new era in relations with China during his first official visit to a key trading partner, saying he aims to boost "stability and regularity" in their ties. More on p11

CUBA The first commercial flight between the United States and Cuba in more than a half century landed in the central city of Santa Clara yesterday, re-establishing regular air service severed at the height of the Cold War.