



BUS-STRUCK BUILDING REPAIRS

Residents were briefed on the repair work of bus-struck Wa Keong Building. A new pillar will be built to ensure safety

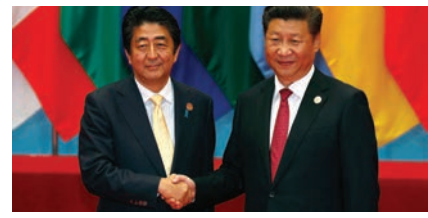
P3



FOOD FESTIVAL PROMOTES SUSTAINABILITY

The 16th Macau Food Festival will take place between November 11 and 24 at the Sai Van Lake Square

P5



HOPES FOR BETTER CHINA-JAPAN RELATIONS

P11 G-20 SUMMIT

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS

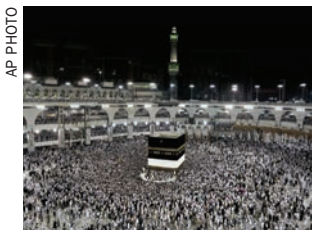


AP PHOTO

ASEAN A summit of Southeast Asian countries issued a mild rebuke of China yesterday over its expansionist activities in the disputed South China Sea, and indirectly urged it to show restraint and not raise tensions.

PHILIPPINES The Philippine government yesterday released what it says are surveillance pictures of Chinese coast guard ships and barges at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, in an apparent diplomatic gambit to publicize its concerns of China's growing territorial ambitions. *More on p10*

RUSSIA The Russian interior ministry says six people have been killed in the restive region of Dagestan in clashes with security forces. The dead militants were suspected of various crimes including an attack on patrol officers and an attempt to blow up a railroad, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee said in a statement.



AP PHOTO

IRAN's president yesterday called on the Muslim world to “punish” Saudi Arabia following last year's hajj crush and stampede that killed over 2,400 people — sharp criticism as multitudes poured into the kingdom for this year's pilgrimage. *More on p14*

More on backpage

CE's visit to Portugal excludes secretaries

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Q&A WILFRED WONG
PRESIDENT AND COO, SANDS CHINA

‘In The Parisian we try to cater for the middle class, the MICE people’

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Q&A WILFRED WONG
PRESIDENT AND COO, SANDS CHINA

'In The Parisian we try to cater for the middle class, the MICE people'

Paulo Barbosa

WILFRED Wong assumed the role of president and chief operating officer (COO) of Sands China at the end of 2015. A week ahead of the opening of the fifth Sands China property in Macau, Mr Wong talks about the new elements that The Parisian will bring to Macau.

Macau Daily Times – The Parisian is about to open. What is your feeling about the new property?

Wilfred Wong (WW) – I think this is a really good addition to the 'family.' We aim to create an integrated resort that would cater to different sectors of the market and create a theme that would attract more tourists to Macau. It is not about just one aspect of our development, it is about the total picture that we have in mind. How do you attract more visitors to Macau? That is why The Parisian is a themed development and we are attentive to the detail in everything we do.

First of all, we have the replica of the Eiffel Tower. That is an attraction in itself and we have got a lot of attention from social media. There are hundreds of million hits for the Eiffel Tower. Inside the building, in all the public places, we copy famous tourist attractions in Paris. Basically, we are capturing Paris and the good thing is that we have all the shopping streets covered. You know, you are not subject to the rain, the sun and the weather; you are very comfortable but you have the feeling [of being in Paris]. We have all kinds of facilities that would justify the size of the 3,000-room hotel. Why do we need such a big hotel? We have MICE facilities, we are adding 56,000 square feet of ballroom, function rooms, meeting rooms to the space. And the space is linked by a footbridge to the Venetian Convention Center. In addition we have 1.6 or 1.7 million square feet of convention space.



Wilfred Wong pictured at his office yesterday

MDT – So MICE will be one of the segments to watch?

WW – Yes, we feel this is an important segment. The second segment would be the families, the middle class – an affordable, luxury type of tourism – so we have kids' facilities (a kids' club that is sized at 20,000 square feet) linked to an "Aquaworld" and for the parents, you have 170 retail shops. These are mid-priced, very good products, with some names that you recognize and others you don't recognize, because they are new in Macau. It is a very good mix, but we don't sell Hermès, we don't sell LV, because that is the Four Seasons shops. So we have a segmentation of our customers and that in itself is an attraction. Then we have a theater that can seat 1,200 [people]. That is a good size, musical, cabaret type of theater.

MDT – The debut show will be "Thriller Live," scheduled to run from September 30 to November 13. Why was a Michael Jackson-inspired show chosen as the first resident show at The Parisian?

WW – We have been thinking what would be a good show to start off. It must be proven [to have] quality. "Thriller Live" has been eight years at the West End [in London], four million people watched it, and have confirmed that this is a good show. Secondly, the Chinese tourists would have to know him [the show's theme]. What is that show? It's Michael Jackson, more than the Beatles, because the younger people probably don't know enough about the Beatles, not to mention Elvis Presley. We had a choice at the beginning: Michael Jackson, Beatles, Carole King, all these names. But the one people said immediately 'I can associate with' is Michael Jackson. [...] We are going to run the show for six weeks. If the response is good, we can prolong it. Otherwise we will move on to another show. The idea is that we will move from one show to another.

MDT – Can you disclose some of those shows?

WW – We are looking at all sorts of possibilities. For example, we are talking about

showcasing a cabaret style show, because this is Paris, we are looking at other shows, but you know, I don't want my competitor to steal the show from me [laughs]. The idea is that right now, Macau lacks resident shows. We do have concerts, we do have one-offs. But there are very few resident shows that hit the market and create awareness among our audience.

MDT – What will differentiate The Parisian from the other Sands China properties?

WW – The Venetian and The Parisian are the two brand names of our company. They are icons – both have 3,000 rooms. But The Venetian's room size is bigger, as every room is a suite. In The Parisian, we try to cater for the middle class, the MICE people. So we would want to cover the traveling public and the MICE people at the right price range. [...] We are hitting a price point where it is the middle class segment that we want to have. That completes the range of segments that we are looking at in our portfolio, because we have St Regis, Four Seasons and Venetian at the five-star level, then we have the four-stars, like Conrad and Sheraton. Then we have the Holiday Inn. Now The Parisian. So basically we are covering the whole spectrum.

“We are moving 310 tables from all of our properties. So The Parisian will open with 410 tables.**”**

WILFRED WONG

MDT – Is The Parisian only targeting tourists?

WW – No. And that is why we are going to offer discounts in many fronts of the property to local Macau people in the first two weeks of our opening. We want the Macau people to own this property, treat this as one of the places they would go over the weekend with their families.

MDT – What are the expectations in terms of visitor numbers to The Parisian?

WW – I would expect it to match The Venetian.

MDT – The resort has been authorized to hold a total of 150 new tables. Of those, only 100 will be available on September 13 opening. Are you satisfied with the table allocation?

WW – I never use the word satisfied. What I always said is that I respect and understand the government's decision, because they are subject to the three-percent annual cap and therefore there are certain limitations. [...] What we are saying is: if in the future there is a chance that the government, together with the central people's government, decides to uplift that three percent, therefore releasing more quota, we hope that consideration will be given to adjusting our table [allocation], because we only get 150 this time.

MDT – How many tables from other properties will be moved to The Parisian?

WW – We are moving 310 tables from all of our properties. So The Parisian will open with 410 tables, overwhelming majority mass market.

MDT – The Chief Executive (CE) will not attend the opening ceremony, since he will be in Portugal. Who will represent the government?

WW – They normally would send the acting CE. These things happen. When we decided on the date, we did consult the CE office and he said he may not be here. Due to the Mid-Autumn festival immediately after, followed by the October Golden Week, it is better for us to open before those holidays.

MDT – So you are expecting a strong start?

WW – I think so. The booking of the hotels looks very solid.

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Residents briefed on repair works of bus-struck building



THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) held a clarification session for the owners of the Wa Keong Building, affected by the August accident involving a tour bus at Rua da Entena,

The crash was instigated by the driver, who left the vehicle to resolve a smaller traffic accident, before the bus, which did not have its brake applied properly, started to roll down the road. It left 32 passengers injured and seriously damaged the building that the bus struck.

According to yesterday's Government Spokesperson Office statement, the session was called to deal with any

concerns from the owners of the building units affected by the accident. DSSOPT representatives guaranteed the 20 owners or representatives who attended the meeting that the new pillar to be built will meet the exact same conditions of resistance and quality as the original one. They also assured those in attendance that the repair work will follow rigorous quality standards.

DSSOPT also stressed that the government will inspect the ongoing works and the Civil Engineering Laboratory of Macau (LECM) will independently continue to monitor the building's structure.

As for those injured in the accident, DSSOPT noted that four of the victims are still under hospital care. The woman who was in the most serious condition has been transferred from the intensive care unit to the ward, registering an improvement in her state.

CE's official visit to Portugal excludes secretaries

CHIEF Executive (CE) Chui Sai On will lead a delegation to Portugal for an official meeting from September 10 to 15. The delegation will include several local entrepreneurs but no government secretaries.

This is the Chief Executive's second visit to Portugal, the former administrator of Macau. The first such meeting occurred in 2010, with a delegation that included the secretaries for Economy and Finance and for Social Affairs and Culture; as well as several other Executive Council and Legislative Assembly members, including its president.

According to a report from Radio Macau, the Legislative Assembly will not be represented in this delegation.

As the Times previously reported, the CE will meet the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, and the Prime Minister, Antonio Costa; as well as co-chair the latest meeting of the Macau-



Portugal Joint Committee with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Augusto Santos Silva. They will address topics such as Portuguese-language teaching, education, culture,

environmental protection and youth affairs

More details about the program and its participants are expected to be released on Friday. **RM**

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GAMING

Lui Che-Woo warns against calling a recovery

Daniela Wei, Fion Li

IT'S still too early to say Macau's USD29 billion casino industry is rebounding, even after August's bump in revenue halted a two-year decline, said the billionaire chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd., the biggest operator there.

Lui Che-Woo wants to see more-sustained growth before deciding the worst is over, and he believes

the best strategy for achieving that is to target mainstream gamblers rather than VIPs, he said in an interview. That would dovetail with government efforts to turn the world's biggest gambling hub into more of a destination for middle-class tourists.

"While Macau's gambling industry has hit the bottom, it's still too early to call it a recovery," Lui, 87, said. "Give me two more years to see. It takes time to gradually

attract more mass-market customers."

Lui is opting to remain cautious even as Sands's Adelson and MGM Resorts International Chief Executive Officer James Murren both said that a Macau gambling recovery is underway. Galaxy's shares have risen 12 percent this year, compared with a 13 percent gain in the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau gaming index.

Macau last month reversed



Galaxy Macau casino resort

a 26-month decline in gaming revenue with a 1.1 percent increase to 18.8 billion patacas (\$2.4 billion), according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. The correction came despite China's economic slowdown and a crackdown on corruption, contributing to a 16 percent drop in revenue from high-end gamblers during the second quarter of the year.

"There have been strong signs that the market has stabilized, especially the mass market," said Richard Huang, an analyst with Nomura International in Hong Kong. "Yet the real question is how strong the growth will be."

Those doubts stem partly from the increasing competition. Wynn Macau Ltd.'s \$4.2 billion Wynn Palace opened last month, and Sands China's Parisian will debut next week. MGM China Holdings Ltd. also plans a new resort in Co-

tai within coming months.

Galaxy wants to boost revenue from recreational gamblers by as much as 20 percent during the next two years, Lui said. The company last month reported profit that beat analysts' estimates after opening the city's first new resorts in three years. It plans to build a theme park and an arena to help lure more families.

"In the past, everyone hoped to have more high-end clients," Lui said. "Now the number of VIP gamblers has dropped. We've provided more new facilities to catch the attention of the mass market."

Lui demurred when asked about the casino operators' prospects for having their licenses renewed when they start expiring in 2020.

"It is the government that judges whether we are doing a good job, and it will decide how to deal with the licenses during the renewal," he said. **Bloomberg**

Table allocations drop

MACAU'S gaming regulator, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau of Macau, approved the additional 25 tables for the Parisian in 2017 and another 25 a year later, as well as 1,614 slot machines. The table allocations are much fewer than the 250 each that Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. received for their new projects last year.

Macau wants to limit growth in the number of new gambling tables to not more than 3 percent per year through 2023, and also plans

to raise the contribution of non-gaming revenue to the casino industry to above 9 percent from 6.6 percent in 2014, according to Lionel Leong, the region's Secretary of Economy and Finance, earlier this year.

"While the government says the number of new tables is determined on an individual basis by each project's offerings, we cannot help but think the table grant might be driven more by the timing of opening and the industry's then operating environment," said DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Hong Kong.

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15:00 - 19:00	● ESPAÇO CRIANÇA (5 aos 13 anos) KIDS CORNER (from 5 to 13 years old)
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IC opens applications for 'Latin Parade'



THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will accept submissions for performance proposals for this year's "Parade through Macao, Latin City" between September 23 and 25. Local and overseas groups have been invited to attend and participate.

The annual parade, which focuses on the Historic Centre of Macau, has run since 2011. According to the IC, the parade is an opportunity for local artists to partake in a cultural exchange with international performers, at a time when the government is focusing on the cultural and creative industries to diversify Macau's economy.

This year's parade will take place on December 4, with the theme, "VIVA's

Adventure." Inspired by the ancient Chinese text, "Classic of Mountains and Seas", the parade will narrate the tale of how VIVA – a character created especially for the event – journeys from Macau to the East, exploring global customs and traditions along the way.

The best performance will win an award, and the winning group will have a chance to represent Macau at the "Asian Ethnic Cultural Performances" in Hong Kong.

Those interested in submitting performance proposals should submit their documents to the IC building, located at Tap Seac Square between September 23 and 25. Details of the application are available on the IC website.

Food Festival's next edition to promote sustainability

THE 16th Macau Food Festival will take place between November 11 and 24 at the Sai Van Lake Square. The event's theme is "Food Wise New Century", a bid to raise public awareness regarding new sustainability measures to reduce food waste.

Six food sections, called "streets", will be available for visitors, with specific streets for Asian and European cuisine as well as one for desserts. For the first time, Malaysian food will have its own section. A number of shows and games will also be available for public enjoyment, including performances by pop singers and bands.

The festival will run on different schedules every day. Food stalls will open from 5 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and from 3 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. from Friday to Sunday.



The organizer, the Association of Macau Restaurant Merchants, has informed the public that a free shuttle route will run from the border gate and from Sai Van Lake Square. Three other shuttles will pick up pas-

sengers at the Taipa Central Park, the Sintra Hotel, and the northern district.

Two competitions will be held during the festival, including food arrangement and photography competitions.

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'Freedom jazz' band to stage Saturday show



Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and in collaboration with the Jazz Promotion Association of Macau, "Lemon Whirl in the Dusk Concert" will be held on Saturday between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the amphitheater of the Taipa-Houses Museum. Hailing from Taiwan, "Lemon Whirl" was established in 2010. Since its inception, the group has participated in fringe festivals throughout the world and is a regular visitor of concert halls. This Saturday, the group will offer a mix of both sweet and melancholy tunes, combining elements of "freedom jazz" and pop music. The evening performance is free of charge and there is no ticket allocation.

Watch distributor sees lower revenue in the SARs

The vice president of Mira Watch International Ltd, Brenda Chow, said the company's revenue has decreased by approximately 20 to 30 percent since the beginning of this year, according to a report by Wen Wei Po. During the ongoing 35th Hong Kong Watch & Clock Fair, Chow said the drop is due to the weakened global economy. In Chow's words, Macau, China and Hong Kong have suffered the most. The company expects to increase its market share in Thailand, Korea, and especially in the Middle East, which currently accounts for 10 percent of its total revenues.

People Daily launches Macau edition

China's official newspaper, People Daily, this week launched an overseas edition in Macau, according to a report by Wen Wei Pou. Wang Shu Cheng, editor in chief of People Daily's overseas editions, expects to expand the world's understanding of Macau through the latest overseas edition. Cheng also claimed that the newspaper will help Macau residents learn more about the mainland government's main policies and provide a channel through which to immediately obtain official information. People Daily currently has seven overseas editions for readers from Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and overseas Chinese people.

Statute of the Security Forces of Macau to drop 'militarized' word



Renato Marques

THE review of the Statute of Militarized Personnel of the Security Forces of Ma-

cau (EMFSM) that has been prepared by the government, with special efforts from the Secretariat for Security, is expected to drop the word

"militarized."

That will be the proposal from the government, said Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, on the sidelines

'Police actions to fight Uber were all done according to the law'

WONG Sio Chak argued yesterday that the police "has been addressing and replying to these questions and all the actions performed were done according to the law".

"Police officers only checked the mobile phones of the drivers when there was strong evidence and after his consent," he said, adding that the actions were in accordance with the law, and that those who felt that they did not receive due process can file a complaint.

"If someone doesn't want their phone to be

checked, they can (file) a complaint to the authorities," he remarked, stating that the procedure is done to protect the police officers and the police work.

"We can [perform] this task of inspecting the mobile phones as the drivers have recorded the police action in order to disclose the information and inform others of the identity of the officers," he continued, adding that "the ride-hailing service is illegal and it's normal that people get inspected".

of yesterday's inaugural ceremony for the new director of the Correctional Services Bureau.

Wong said, "After the handover, the responsibility for the defense came under the central government [...] We are a service of security forces and according to the basic law we don't have any military service, so we suggested this word be removed."

"This doesn't affect our nature. It is just a matter of clarifying the functions," he added.

The revision of the statute aims to make careers in the service more attractive by merging the two different career paths (for the basic and higher positions), benefiting those that are currently in or will embark upon such a career.

"Our goal is to create one single career joining the two [career paths] in a way that all people can access the higher positions," said Wong.

He explained that in the old statute, there were two separate careers and that people included in the basic career could not progress to higher positions.

"In the future this will be possible through exams and training," he said.

According to Wong, people without academic qualifications can now access higher positions. This will "allow the promotion of more frontline people and to attract new talents to our forces."

The proposal will be ready to enter legislative processes during the first semester of 2017. As for the entry into the force of the new regime, "this will depend on the Legislative Assembly and its workload," said Wong.



Cheng Fong Meng

Cheng Fong Meng becomes head of Correctional Service Bureau

CHENG Fong Meng yesterday took office as the new Director of the Correctional Service Bureau in a ceremony presided over by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

The Secretary chose Cheng to occupy the vacant seat left by former director Lee Kam Cheong, who left the office last July due to personal reasons.

Questioned about the work of the former director, Wong said: "We recognize the effort of the former director and we praise

his work. After the handover, nobody wanted this position and now, after more than 10 years, we can recognize the work that he has done."

On the new director, Wong stated: "He has been in this field for a long time and there is a good interconnection between the work he was doing previously [as Director of the Judiciary Police School] and the work he needs to perform now, so he is capable of performing these tasks."



Grace aiming to make first time 'memorable' in Macau



Anirban Lahiri



Branden Grace

RISING South African golfer Branden Grace was recently confirmed to be on the list of players for the upcoming Venetian Macao Open. The 28-year-old has had a solid season with two tournament wins and two top-five finishes at Majors, bringing his world ranking up by over 100 places to the current 13th position.

Excited for his inaugural visit to the region and his upcoming play at the Venetian Macao Open, Grace hopes to make this Macau trip one to remember. "It's my first time in Macau and I hope for it to be a memorable one," he said, adding that he has been following the tournament and its growth over the past years.

"I've watched the tournament

a few times over the years. It has grown tremendously and now it's on the biggest tops on the Asian tour, which is great and I was told that anytime I had a chance to go there I should go and I'm excited to see what it is all about. I've done some research about it and it looks great," Grace said.

The golfer, who has had his best season in his career so

far, hopes to bring the same form to Macau in order to battle his way to the top. "It's been a great year, it's my first season out on the PGA Tour and it's been phenomenal. I've played some good golf and obviously getting my first victory was very special and it gave me some confidence. I'll be looking to bring my form into Macau. I'm excited to see

where my golf is going, and to see what I can do in the future," Grace added.

Grace said two-times champion Scott Hend will be one of his biggest opponents during the tournament, saying that he will be the "tougher" man to beat.

"I've played with Scott a couple of times and everybody knows he is a great player, and how far he hits the golf ball. Obviously he'll be a tough competitor."

Despite facing the likes of Hend and Darren Clarke, among others, he intends to "make sure I am ready, keep performing well and hopefully continue to climb the rankings."

At the same time, the organizers have confirmed Indian star Anirban Lahiri as the other Asian competitor. Lahiri has been the winner of the Asian Tour's Order of Merit in 2015 and has been Hend's biggest rival over the last three years. Lahiri came in second by a three-stroke margin in 2013, and turned the tables in 2014 by winning the title over Hend by one stroke. Hend won the title back last year, with Lahiri as the runner-up. **RM**

Macau Daily Times is the tournament's official media partner.

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Christopher Palmeri

GAMING ALERT

Caesars woos the Candy Crush generation with new slot machines

CAESARS Entertainment Corp., trying to convince young people that slot machines can be cool, is rolling out a new generation of devices in its casinos that look like the mobile games people play on their phones.

The largest owner of casinos in the U.S. is trying to buck a trend that's seen slot-machine betting fall to USD291 billion in 2014 from a peak of \$355 billion in 2007, according to the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers. While the slow-growing economy is often cited for the drop, casino operators also say millennials don't play the slots like their parents and grandparents.

The new machines pay out based on a customer's skill as well as luck, a change that required tweaks to casino regulations. The games, developed by Gamblit Gaming, challenge players to find words hidden on a board or match flavors of smoothies in a virtual juice bar. In Grab Poker, four people stand around a flat, waist-high screen and press buttons to see who'll snag the card that pops up in the middle. The player with the best poker hand at the end wins.

The games are designed to lure younger patrons, who prefer to gamble interactively and tend to spend more on booze and food. Caesars plans to put six new devices, enough for 25 players, in its Harrah's resort near San Diego this year and as many as 36, with room for 125 players, in its Las Vegas properties in 2017.

"Typically slot machines are a very solitary experience," said Eric Meyerhofer, chief executive officer of by Glendale, California-based Gamblit. "Our games are designed to be played in groups with friends."

Yet unlike typical slots, which are based solely on chance,



casinos are challenged to make sure that the new skill-based machines aren't so easily conquered, leading pinball wizards to break the bank.

Gamblit's games are designed to create a series of small wins rather than one big jackpot, and over time the payouts should average that of traditional slot machines, Meyerhofer said. A.G. Burnett, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, said he expects some manufacturers to make their games progressively harder as

the players score higher, a big change from the static play of a game like blackjack.

Casino regulators in Nevada and New Jersey have been reworking their regulations over the past two years to allow for skill-based games. Major slot machines manufacturers such as Scientific Games Corp. and International Game Technology Plc have been developing their own versions of interactive devices. IGT has a machine based on the Atari video game Centipede in use at

■ Casino operators say millennials don't play the slots like their parents and grandparents

MGM Resorts International's Bellagio casino in Las Vegas.

Other casinos are looking for

ways to attract millennials. Wynn Resorts Ltd. redesigned the Player's Club at its Encore resort in Las Vegas last year to add a DJ booth, lounge seating with flat-screen video slot machines and a white-lacquered billiards table from Steve Wynn's Manhattan penthouse to create a more party-like atmosphere. Las Vegas Sands Corp. in July installed "stadium-style" seats at its casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. There, players bet based on cards dealt by live dealers at the center of a circular floor, an arrangement some people find less intimidating than joining a table of strangers.

"It gives them a bit of time to learn these games without feeling they're making a mistake and doing something wrong," said Mark Juliano, president of the Sands Bethlehem.

For Las Vegas-based Caesars, which has been struggling under the debt load taken on during a 2008 leveraged buyout, the app-like games represent a way to compete against simple, addictive games like Candy Crush that have proliferated on mobile phones.

The rollout is part of a larger strategy by Chief Executive Officer Mark Frissora to introduce more technology to the business.

"Our world has shifted," said Melissa Price, Caesars' senior vice president of gaming. "There are a lot of entertainment opportunities that don't always exist at the casino." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CONRAD MACAO TO LAUNCH "PINK" BREAST CANCER CAMPAIGN



Conrad Macao, Cotai Central will launch its "PINK Inspired 2016" campaign, in support of breast cancer research, from

October 1 to 31. The event, which is run in support of the Hong Kong Cancer Fund's Pink Revolution, is now in its fourth

year, according to a statement from the resort.

"Breast cancer is the most prevalent form of the disease among women around the world, regardless of age," said Bede Barry, vice president of hotel operations. "With this in mind [...] we will be hosting a series of PINK experiences for guests and staff starting October 1," added Barry.

Throughout October, the campaign will turn the hotel, along with all of its floral arrangements and decorations, into a "passionate pink".

Moreover, "Pink Fridays" will see staff and management adding the color to their uniforms as well as emails and handwritten guest cards.

YOGALOFT TO HOST SEPTEMBER MEDITATION EVENTS



During September, Yogaloft will host several events around meditation and relaxation. According to the downtown studio, it will welcome the first ever "ambient/chill out event" held in

Macau on Saturday at 5 p.m. Organizers Rita Gonçalves and Ryoma Ochiai have invited Japanese colleague DJ Yumii to come to Macau to share her music, which is known for being

able to take its listeners to very deep states of relaxation.

Yumiko Watanabe has played in alternative music festivals like "Boom Festival" (Portugal), "Universo Paralelo" (Brazil), "Transahara" (Morocco), "Psy-Fi" (Netherlands) or "The Experience Festival" (Thailand), but also works with yoga teachers in smaller events, creating soundtracks for yoga classes.

Meanwhile, in four sessions across September's Fridays, interested parties can learn how to meditate at Yogaloft. Several meditation and breath and relaxation techniques will be shared and participants will be able to take home a small booklet with a description of what they have learned.

Jim Gomez, Vientiane

Philippines shows photos of Chinese ships in disputed sea

The Philippine government yesterday released what it says are surveillance pictures of Chinese coast guard ships and barges at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, in an apparent diplomatic gambit to publicize its concerns at a regional summit being attended by China's premier and Southeast Asian leaders.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte plans to ask Premier Li Keqiang at the summit in the Lao-tian capital whether the vessels were on another island-making mission on the Scarborough Shoal. China has built seven such islands in the disputed, resource-rich sea, alarming neighbors and rival claimants.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China hadn't done anything to alter the circumstances in the waters surrounding the shoal.

"What I can tell you is that the situation in waters near Huangyan Island remains unchanged and China hasn't made any new moves," Hua said in Beijing, using the shoal's Chinese name. "We should be highly alert against the mischief-making intentions of people who spread such groundless information in such situations."

Asked how disturbed the Philippines was by the presence of the

AP PHOTO



Photographs released by the Philippine government are displayed on a computer screen in Bangkok yesterday

Chinese ships, Duterte's spokesman Ernesto Abella told a news conference: "Enough to announce it."

He said that China and the Philippines were discussing the issue, but gave no details.

"There are talks at this stage," Abella said. He refused to comment if the Philippine policy was to prevent any country from constructing at or transforming

Scarborough, a coral reef, into an island.

If the Chinese government confirms the photos, the Philippines will lodge an official protest, said Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana.

Duterte has taken a more conciliatory track to rebuild relations with China and has said he would not raise the long-simmering territorial disputes in an adversarial

manner that might upset Beijing.

Relations were severely strained under Duterte's predecessor because of the conflict.

However, Duterte expressed alarm after a Philippine surveillance plane recently spotted four Chinese coast guard ships, four suspected barges, including one equipped with what appeared to be a crane. The government released the photos with a dia-

gram showing the vessels' exact locations at the shoal, which the Chinese coast guard seized after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels in 2012.

Hours after the Philippines released the pictures, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations met with Li and his aides. The South China Sea dispute was tackled at the closed-door meeting with some of the leaders, including Duterte, who reiterated calls for the conflicts to be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law, Communications Secretary Martin Andanan said.

He quoted the Chinese premier as saying that there was now a "positive direction" in Beijing's relations with ASEAN and that the disputes should not affect overall relations.

The U.S. military has also expressed concerns over the possibility that China might turn Scarborough into another island, something that would give Beijing's forces control over a swath of the South China Sea used as a passageway to the Taiwan Strait. **AP**

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Chinese President Xi Jinping (second left) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (opposite) talk, during meetings, at the end of the G-20 summit in Hangzhou

G-20 summit yields hopes for better China-Japan relations

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

FOUR years after they went into a nose dive, tense relations between China and Japan may finally be headed for a return to some semblance of normalcy.

Those hopes rest largely on a meeting on Monday between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, with Xi telling Abe that it was time to “put aside disruptions” and bring ties “back on the normal track,” according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency. By all accounts, Abe responded positively at their closed-door session, held on the sidelines of the summit of Group of 20 industrialized nations in the Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Following up, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida welcomed an agreement made

at the meeting to speed up talks on an early implementation of a sea and air communication system aimed at avoiding mishaps. The two countries have also agreed to hold preparatory talks next week in Hiroshima on resuming discussions on the joint development of gas deposits beneath the East China Sea.

While acknowledging movement on those issues, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said yesterday that China’s approach remained unchanged.

“Japan should meet China halfway and strive to create the conditions and atmosphere for the resumption of negotiations,” Hua told reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Optimism about relations comes despite ongoing rancor on the Chinese side, met by alarm and worsening public senti-

ment in Japan.

Much of that revolves around a dispute over a chain of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that are controlled by Japan but claimed by China. The dispute has elevated the islands to the status of sacred territory that must be recovered by China to erase a national shame.

Tensions spiked in 2012 after Tokyo nationalized the islands — known in Japan as the Senkaku and in China as the Diaoyu — leading to violent anti-Japanese riots in China and a freeze in most official contacts. As Beijing fumed, Japanese businesses began reconsidering their massive investments in China, upping the ante for all concerned.

Relations improved slightly in 2014, when the sides announced a four-point agreement on getting ties back on track, but

exchanges have proceeded at a glacial pace since then.

To a degree, Xi’s comments to Abe at the G-20 summit may also have been aimed at preventing tensions from overshadowing a prestigious gathering, said Shi Yinhong of Beijing’s Renmin University, one of China’s best-known international relations scholars.

“China wanted to ease relations with Japan, while Japan wants to ease the pressure. As for how it will develop in the future, I can’t draw any conclusions as yet,” Shi said, emphasizing that there have been no shifts in their fundamental stances on the issues that divide them.

Monday’s remarks by Xi grew out of the momentum toward better ties that began in 2014, which, while offering much potential, remains “very fragile,” said Da Zhigang, director of the

Center of East Asian Studies of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences in northern China.

“I think we’re seeing a ‘new normal’ in China-Japan relations, wherein we’ll see a long-term trend of co-existence, competition and communication,” Da said. “Both China and Japan admit the existence of differences, but hope to put them under control in a rational way.”

Managing, rather than resolving, tensions may be the only way forward. Much of China’s displeasure with Japan is rooted in a sense that the country has never properly atoned for its brutal invasion and occupation of much of China during the World War II era.

China has long fulminated over the portrayal of that history in school textbooks in Japan, and has lately expanded its list of complaints to the Japanese navy’s routine presence in the South China Sea, saying Tokyo was involving itself in a dispute between China and its neighbors over ownership of the strategic water body. Having broadened the mandate of the Japanese self-defense forces, Beijing sees the conservative Abe as pushing ahead with a militarist agenda.

Japanese public opinion, meanwhile, remains highly critical of China, partly due to fears of China’s economic rise, as well as its increasingly assertive military and diplomatic posture.

Ultimately, the two nations and their current leaders will have to accommodate each other for years to come. Xi is expected to remain as China’s president at least through 2023, while Abe will remain head of Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party at least through 2018.

The next major opportunity to test the state of relations will come in November at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Peru, when Abe and Xi will likely meet again. **MDT/AP**



Kyrgyz police officers speak outside gates to the Chinese Embassy in Bishkek

CHINA said yesterday that it would assist Kyrgyzstan in apprehending those behind a suicide car bombing on the Chinese Embassy in Bishkek last week that has been blamed

on members of a group seeking independence for China’s far western region of Xinjiang.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Beijing has

China to assist Kyrgyzstan with embassy attack investigation

been providing help to its Central Asian neighbor throughout the investigation into the Aug. 30 incident, which killed the bomber and injured three embassy employees.

“China will continue to support Kyrgyzstan with utmost effort to thoroughly investigate the incident and bring the assailant to justice,” Hua said.

Kyrgyz authorities identified the attacker as a

member of the Turkic Muslim Uighur (pronounced WEE-gur) minority group native to Xinjiang. It said he was a member of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, acting on the orders of Uighur militants in Syria linked to the al-Nusra Front, which has ties to al-Qaida.

Hua said China would further boost anti-terror cooperation with the international community,

including Kyrgyzstan, “in a bid to maintain the peace and tranquility of every nation in the world, including China.”

Kyrgyzstan, a landlocked former Soviet republic, has a predominantly Muslim population that is considered moderate in outlook, along with a large exile Uighur population.

The Chinese regularly have blamed separatists

and religious extremists for attacks in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China. Al-Qaida and the Islamic State group also have threatened to attack Chinese targets in retaliation for alleged repression of Uighurs and other Chinese Muslims.

Hundreds of Uighurs have been reported as fighting in the conflict in Syria, some alongside extremist groups. **AP**



Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte (right) toasts a drink with Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith during Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit welcome dinner in Vientiane

AUTHORITARIAN STREAK

Asian club replete with strongmen welcomes 'Duterte Harry'

Jim Gomez, Vientiane

As bodies continue to pile up in his war on illegal drugs, the Philippine president is making waves at his first summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations where he joins a diverse cast of leaders, including some who have found themselves in the crosshairs of human rights watchdogs.

Rodrigo Duterte would fit right in, critics say, and even steal the show.

As president, Duterte brings a long-blemished rights record into the 10-nation ASEAN bloc, which has struggled with internal strife due to its unwieldy collective of dictatorships, authoritarian states, a monarchy and fledgling democracies since its founding nearly half a century ago as an Asian bulwark against communism.

"For most ASEAN leaders, Duterte represents a throwback to an uglier and more brutal form of Asian state, which taints ASEAN efforts to market itself as an increasingly progressive, modernizing trade block with a focus on trade data, rather than daily police-killing body counts," said Phelim Kine of New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Once a government prosecutor who fought outlaws and insurgents, Duterte was a long-time mayor of southern Davao

city, where he started to build a name for his deadly anti-crime campaign — he was nicknamed "Duterte Harry" after Clint Eastwood's Dirty Harry movie character. Since he took office as president on June 30, his crackdown on suspected drug dealers and users has left more than 2,000 people dead. More than 600,000 others, mostly drug addicts, have surrendered apparently for fear of being gunned down.

"That dynamic means that Duterte can expect his most meaningful face-time in Laos with other ASEAN embarrassments such as Cambodia's dictator Hun Sen, representatives of Thailand's military junta and his authoritarian Laotian hosts," Kine said. He can rely on these leaders to lend him a sympathetic ear for "his grotesque justifications of abuse of rule of law and state-sanctioned extrajudicial violence as the price of a 'secure' society," he said.

In a rare moment of diplomatic tumult ahead of an ASEAN summit, the 71-year-old Duterte cursed on Monday at President Barack Obama, warning the world's most powerful man not to question him about the rising body count in his crackdown or "son of a bitch I will swear at you." This was hours before they were supposed to meet in the Laotian capital.

The next day Duterte expres-

President Duterte is a rock star not only in our country but also in other countries like Laos, Japan.

MARTIN ANDANAR
PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN FOR
DUTERTE

sed regret in a semi-apology aimed at mending fences. But it was too late.

An evidently offended Obama had by then canceled Tuesday's meeting, which was shaping up as the most-awaited, again because of Duterte — he had recently unleashed abuses at the U.S. ambassador to Manila, calling him gay in derogatory terms and railed against America's security policies. Also, Obama was expected to raise the matter of extrajudicial killings, all contributing to growing antagonism between the two long-time allies.

Given what Duterte said, "we felt that it wasn't the right time to have a bilateral meeting with

the U.S. president," Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said. "Certainly the nature of those comments was not constructive."

Obama is only the latest victim of Duterte's foul tongue.

In the few months since the election campaign and more than two months into the presidency, Duterte has cursed the pope, the U.N. secretary-general and gotten into verbal tussles with the revered Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines.

Aside from his deadly record, Duterte's disdain for statecraft, irreverence and bluntly frank and profane language would likely weigh on ASEAN, a conservative group steeped in tradition, protocol and nuanced rhetoric.

But, presidential spokesman Martin Andanar said, Duterte's popularity has spread beyond the shores of the Philippines.

"President Duterte is a rock star not only in our country but also in other countries like Laos, Japan," he said. This was evident in "how the foreign ministers and delegates have scrambled to get a selfie with our president."

Another spokesman, Ernesto Abella, said not one ASEAN leader at the summit raised concern over the drug-related killings, and instead recognized Duterte's resolve, including in

battling illegal drugs.

ASEAN's still in a flux. In an incredible reversal of roles, for example, the Philippines was the democracy champions just years ago and was pushing then military-ruled Myanmar to move toward democratic reforms. Myanmar is now led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who fought her country's military junta while languishing in home detention for decades.

The bloc has long been hamstrung by the stark diversity of its members along with a bedrock rule of noninterference in each other's affairs and a policy of making decision by consensus. That has allowed leaders like Hun Sen, Thailand's coup leader-turned-premier Prayuth Chan-ocha, the faceless one-party communist rulers of Laos and Vietnam, and the general who once ruled Myanmar to occupy regional legitimacy and defy the West's call for democratic governance.

ASEAN says it's best to keep dictators in its midst engaged, because dialogue helps to keep them in check. It takes credit for helping Myanmar's generals give up power. It also says it is necessary to keep the diverse nations together so that they have a stable platform to resolve conflicts and integrate their economies as a counterweight to Asian powerhouses China and India.

Duterte rejects any suggestion that he is a dictator. He sees himself as a leader with an extra tough approach on crime, especially on illegal drugs, because the problem has worsened into a pandemic, corrupting law enforcers and sparking heinous crimes. In ASEAN, he said he would assure the bloc and other countries that there would be no radical shifts in Philippine policies under him.

While critics cringe, Duterte has been adored by a substantial electorate of followers who gave him a convincing election victory on a promise to eradicate crime, drug trafficking and corruption in six months. The tall promise was embraced by crime-weary Filipinos but abhorred by opponents and rights groups as a dangerous expansion of his rights record in Davao, where he was linked to killings with his tacit endorsements of vigilante extermination of alleged drug dealers by motorcycle-riding death squads.

Anna Olarte, an English teacher at an international school in Vientiane, trooped to a convention center with more than 700 other Laos-based Filipinos to see and cheer the president she voted for.

When Duterte walked up the stage and bowed deeply before her and others, Olarte said her heart melted. "It was like, my God, this is my president," she said. **AP**

JAPAN

Ex-leader backs sick US sailors who blame radiation

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

SEVERAL hundred American service personnel who say they became sick from radiation after participating in relief operations for the 2011 tsunami that set off the Fukushima nuclear disaster are now getting high-profile support in Japan.

Junichiro Koizumi, prime minister from 2001 to 2006, told reporters yesterday he has set up a special fund to collect private donations for the former service members, with the goal of collecting USD1 million (100 million yen) by the end of next March, mainly to help with medical bills.

"I felt I had to do something to help those who worked so hard for Japan," he said at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. "Maybe this isn't enough, but it will express our gratitude, that Japan is thankful."

Koizumi, 74, one of Japan's most popular prime ministers in recent decades, was in San Diego in May to meet with 10 of the former service members, who have joined a class-action lawsuit against Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, the utility that operates the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The lawsuit, filed in 2012, is ongoing, and a California judge



Former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi poses for photos as he arrives for a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo yesterday

has ruled it will proceed. More Navy personnel and Marines are joining the suit, now numbering about 400, according to Koizumi. Some 70,000 Americans took part in Operation Tomodachi, or Friend, flying in aid from an aircraft carrier and other warships off the coast of northeastern Japan.

Since then, some servicemen and women have become sick with cancers, leukemia, thyroid ailments, brain tumors and other diseases, and they blame radiation. The ships to which they were assigned were in an area of the ocean in the direction of the radioactive plumes spewed from the Fukushima

plant.

Aircraft carriers routinely use drinking water from the ocean, which the lawsuit says was contaminated with radiation, and service members showered in and ate food cooked in such water. Some Navy personnel also flew on helicopters to the disaster zone.

TEPCO denies any link between the illnesses and radiation, saying the radiation levels are too low. However, the lawsuit alleges that TEPCO withheld key information and caused the Americans to be sent in harm's way. Seven of those who joined the lawsuit have already died.

Koizumi said he had been a proponent of nuclear power while prime minister, but living through the Fukushima disaster taught him that what experts said about atomic power being safe, cheap and clean was "all lies."

Even after the nuclear accidents at Three Mile Island in the United States and Chernobyl in Ukraine, the experts insisted that Japan's nuclear plants were different, he recalled.

"I became ashamed how I had believed such lies," Koizumi said. "They said Japan was safe. And that simply was not true." **MDT/AP**

Authorities say Hanjin to resume work

South Korea's top economic policymaker said yesterday that he expected Hanjin Shipping vessels marooned offshore of Long Beach, California, will be able to offload cargo this week. Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho said at a government meeting that he expects the cargo crisis caused by Hanjin's slide toward bankruptcy will begin to ease this week, according to a ministry statement. Local media reported that a South Korean court has asked Hanjin Shipping's main creditor, the state-owned Korea Development Bank, for emergency funding. Port workers in Busan and Hanjin Shipping labor union officials also held rallies yesterday, urging the government, creditors and Hanjin Group to save the shipping company.

Woman recovering in Thailand after cliff tumble

An American tourist was recovering yesterday in a hospital in Thailand after breaking her spine while tumbling down a cliff trying to escape from a man who allegedly was molesting her. The 23-year-old woman was attacked last week in the southern seaside province of Krabi, a popular tourist destination, police said. The woman told police that a man who offered to help guide her back to her hotel at night took her down a remote path and tried to remove her clothes. She said she fought back, biting his ear before running away, only to plunge down a 45-meter cliff. She was found by rescuers the next morning and is now recovering after surgery.

MYANMAR

Rohingya minority welcomes Kofi Annan mission

MEMBERS of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority expressed hope yesterday that a visiting panel led by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan will help end the discrimination and violence they face at the hands of the country's Buddhist majority.

Annan is a member of an independent commission set up last month by State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi's government to help find solutions to a communal conflict in the western state of Rakhine that has seen widespread abuses and violence by Buddhists against Rohingyas.

Many Buddhists in Rakhine and across Myanmar consider Rohingyas to be Bangladeshis living in the country illegally, though the ethnic group has been in Myanmar for generations. Hundreds of Rohingyas were killed and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes in 2012 unrest in Rakhine state, and many continue to be confined to squalid camps there.

Rohingya residents, including community leaders who met yesterday with Annan,

said they have faith in the nine-member advisory commission headed by the former U.N. chief. Members of the Rakhine community, however, protested Annan's arrival Tuesday, saying they oppose foreign meddling.

Annan on yesterday visited the Rohingya community in the Aung Mingalar quarter of Sittwe, where Muslims are kept in a gated area and not allowed to go outside. Annan later visited Rakhine and Rohingya camps in Thetkabyin village outside of Sittwe.

More than 100,000 people in Rakhine state live in displacement camps, the majority of them Rohingyas who were forced to flee their homes after the 2012 rioting. Outbreaks of violence directed by Buddhists against Muslims later spread to some other areas of Myanmar, but were generally contained.

One community leader, Hla Kyaw, said he believes Annan's panel "will be a fair commission because they have included Buddhists and Muslims in the commis-



Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, center, listens to a Rohingya religious and community leader

sion. What we want is to live together as brothers and sisters in this community. We don't know if the Rakhine community will ever accept living together as before."

In a six-day trip, the commission is supposed to address human rights, ensuring humanitarian assistance, rights and reconciliation, establishing basic infrastructure and promoting long-term development plans. **MDT/AP**

Shark attacks kitesurfing Aussie

An Australian man has died after a large shark attacked him while he was kitesurfing in New Caledonia, a French island territory in the South Pacific, marine authorities said yesterday. The 50-year-old man had fallen from his board Tuesday in a large lagoon near the northwestern town of Koumac when the shark bit deep into his right thigh. The man, from near Perth in Western Australia, had arrived Sunday for a vacation that was due to last about 10 days and had booked a cruise on a sailing boat so he could do some kitesurfing. The boat's crew was not able to identify the species of shark, but said it was very large.

Iran president: 'Punish' Saudi Arabia for 2015 hajj disaster

Nasser Karimi, Tehran

IRAN'S president yesterday called on the Muslim world to "punish" Saudi Arabia following last year's hajj crush and stampede that killed over 2,400 people — sharp criticism as multitudes poured into the kingdom for this year's pilgrimage.

Hassan Rouhani's comments are the latest salvo in a growing dispute between Shiite-dominated Iran and Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims are now arriving in the kingdom to participate in the annual hajj pilgrimage, which starts later this week.

Iranian pilgrims are not taking part in this year's hajj, a ritual required of all able-bodied Muslims at least once in their life.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency yesterday quoted Rouhani lambasting Saudi Arabia's response to the 2015 stampede in Mina by saying pilgrims lost their lives because Saudi authorities acted just as "bystanders rather than rescuing" those caught in the disaster.

He said countries should "punish the government of Saudi Arabia in order to have a real hajj."

"The government of Saudi



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks at a weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran yesterday

Arabia must be held accountable for this incident," Rouhani told a weekly Cabinet meeting. "Unfortunately, this government has even refrained from a verbal apology to Muslims and Muslim countries."

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, meanwhile

met with families of victims and survivors of the Mina stampede and reiterated his demand that Saudi Arabia's ruling Al Saud family properly investigate the disaster, IRNA reported.

"If they are claiming that they are not guilty in the incident, they should let an Islamic-in-

ternational fact-finding delegation review and probe the case closely," Khamenei said, adding that Saudi Arabia "should not shut people's mouth with money."

On social media, Khamenei's accounts used the hashtag #al-SaudHijacksHajj to criticize the kingdom, while reiterating his demand that someone other than the Saudis be in charge of administering the hajj.

The Sept. 24, 2015, stampede and crush of pilgrims killed at least 2,426 people, according to an Associated Press count based on state media reports and officials' comments from 36 of the over 180 countries that sent citizens to the hajj.

The official Saudi toll of 769 people killed and 934 injured has not changed since Sept. 26. The kingdom has never addressed the discrepancy, nor has it released any results of an investigation they promised to conduct over the disaster.

Iran had the highest death toll of any country, with 464 Ira-

nian pilgrims killed.

In January, tensions between longtime rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia soared after the kingdom executed a prominent Saudi Shiite cleric. Angry demonstrators later attacked two Saudi diplomatic posts in Iran and Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties to the Islamic Republic. The two countries also support opposing sides in the civil wars in Syria and Yemen.

On Monday, Khamenei raised the stakes in the dispute over hajj by saying Saudi officials had "murdered" hajj pilgrims who were injured in the stampede. Saudi's grand mufti countered by claiming that Iranians are "not Muslims."

A coalition of Gulf nations yesterday also criticized Khamenei. The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council issued a statement saying that Khamenei's remarks and any such "false and outrageous accusations [...] should not be issued from the heart or the tongue of any Muslim." AP

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GERMANY

Merkel: Migrant situation is 'many times better'

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel yesterday strongly defended her government's handling of the flood of migrants that crossed into Germany last year, but conceded that more still needs to be done and that concerns that have led to increasing support for an anti-immigrant nationalist party need to be taken seriously.

Merkel told lawmakers that since she addressed them at this time last year, Germany has managed to come a long way in dealing with the hundreds of thousands of migrants that flooded in to the country.

"The situation is many times better than a year ago, but there remains a lot to do," she said.

On the weekend, Merkel's Christian Democratic Union suffered an embarrassing election performance in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, where Merkel has her parliamentary constituency, when it was beaten into third place by the nationalist, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, known as AfD.

The state is home to few migrants, but Merkel after the election conceded that the result was more about dissatisfaction with national issues rather than local matters.

She told Parliament, where

AP PHOTO



German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers her speech during the budget 2017 debate at the German parliament Bundestag in Berlin yesterday

AfD is not represented, that the election was a "black eye" inflicted by "those who rely on slogans and seemingly simple answers." She said that voters' concerns "whether founded or unfounded, should be taken seriously" by "all of us in this house," noting that the party

had taken away support from all other main parties.

"I am quite sure that if we resist this and stick to the truth, then we will win," she said. "And that way we will win back the most important thing that we need — the trust of the people."

In the past year, Merkel said, Germany has implemented policies speeding up integration measures for migrants with good prospects of staying, increased school funding to help their educations, and worked with cities and states to find solutions to local problems.

But she said Germany still needs to improve the mechanism for quickly processing and returning home migrants who have little chance of being given asylum.

She said Germany has also beefed up police and security forces to fight terrorism, but emphasized that "terrorism is not a new problem that came here with the refugees."

Crimes committed by migrants have become a central issue in the debate over whether the decision to let in so many newcomers last year was correct, particularly since a string of sexual assaults and robberies in Cologne on New Year's eve.

Germany this year has registered some 238,424 new arrivals from January to July, though many entered early in the year and new arrivals are now running at around 16,000 per month.

Since the weekend election, Merkel has been under renewed pressure by her conservative coalition partner in the national government, Bavaria's CSU, to introduce an upper limit to the number of refugees entering the country, including a new call yesterday from Bavaria's Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann.

Merkel, who has vehemently rejected previous calls for an upper limit, emphasized in Parliament that the numbers this year were drastically reduced.

She said the world is in "critical condition" but added that "we can also tell the people that our country is in good shape."

"Germany will remain Germany with everything that matters to us," added Merkel. **MDT/AP**

EU get bashing as leaders of Poland and Hungary meet



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban listens to a question during a press conference in Belgrade, Serbia, on Monday

Marek Strzelecki

THE leaders of Poland and Hungary praised each others' economic nationalism and Euroscepticism while calling for "revolutionary" changes in the European Union.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who won the Person of the Year award at Poland's biggest an-

nual economic conference at Krynica, said late Tuesday that the two formerly communist nations were "heading down the right path" by questioning the role of Brussels following the U.K.'s vote to leave the bloc and pursuing a patriotic economic agenda in the age of global capital flows.

"Economic patriotism is a valid topic to discuss. People say that mo-

ney doesn't smell, but the owner of the money does," Orban told a gathering in Krynica, seated on stage along with Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the leader of Poland's ruling party and the power behind the government.

The meeting comes less than two weeks before an EU summit where the bloc's 27 leaders - excluding the U.K. - will discuss the way forward following the Brexit referendum. Both Poland and Hungary, two net beneficiaries of the EU's budget, support calls for looser oversight from Brussels and seek to shore up the bloc's external borders to keep out migrants seeking refuge from conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa.

Kaczynski, praising Orban for showing Poland how to pursue national interests in the EU, said Europe was suffering from a leadership crisis amid Brexit, the influx of immigrants as well as almost a decade of economic malaise.

"Is Germany ready to undertake a financial effort similar to one it took after reunification" to revamp the EU economy, asked Kaczynski. "All this means Europe needs deep changes, I'd say it needs a revolution." **Bloomberg**

Brazil scientists: Culex mosquito not transmitting Zika

BRAZILIAN researchers said they have concluded that the common Culex mosquito is not transmitting Zika, the rapidly spreading virus that has been linked to severe birth defects.

Rio de Janeiro's Fiocruz institute said the Culex quinquefasciatus mosquito has not played a role in the Zika epidemic that has hit Brazil over the last year.

Culex is 20 times more common than the Aedes aegypti mosquito, which is the main spreader of Zika. The Aedes also transmits dengue fever and chikungunya.

For the study, researchers gathered several hundred mosquitoes in four areas of Rio and fed them Zika-infected blood. Only two showed an early infection 14 days later, and the virus was not detected on their heads or in their saliva.

The report came a few months after a study published in July by the same institute but by researchers in the northeastern city of Recife concluded that the Culex could transmit the virus. Scientists said then that more studies were necessary to definitively determine whether the Culex could transmit Zika.

One possibility for the discrepancy in the two studies is that Culex mosquitoes in Recife may have a genetic variation that makes them different from those in Rio or elsewhere, the Fiocruz institute said. **AP**

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

PROBATION FOR OHIO MAN ACCUSED OF EGGING HOME 100-PLUS TIMES

A man accused of pelting his former neighbor's Ohio home with eggs more than 100 times over a year has been sentenced to 18 months of probation and fined USD1,000.

A six-month jail sentence was suspended this week for 31-year-old Jason Kozan. He was sentenced less than a week after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of inducing panic. Vandalism and menacing charges were dropped.

Defense attorney Anthony Bondra said there's a great deal of evidence that would lead to a reasonable doubt that Kozan participated in egging the home of Albert Clemens Sr. in the Cleveland suburb of Euclid.

Clemens has said the egg attacks damaged his home and kept his family on edge.

Authorities haven't said what motivated the attacks, which largely stopped after Kozan moved.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:15	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
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
22:10	The Hunter
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Variety
00:05	2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers Highlights
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

08 SEP - 15 SEP

TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

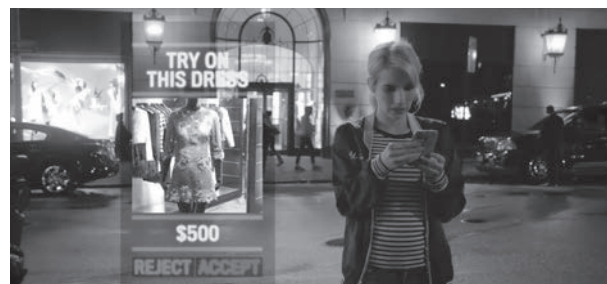
(4 Sep) 2.15, 7.15, 9.30 pm

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

ROOM 3

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



1983 HUNDREDS DIE IN ASSAM POLL VIOLENCE

Hundreds of people have died in Assam as fierce fighting rages in the run-up to the election.

Villages have been set on fire and bridges and offices have been burnt amid reports that up to 600 people have been killed in the north-eastern India state.

Hundreds of villagers are reported to have been hacked and speared to death by tribesmen around the area of Nellie.

Anti-government protesters have clashed with police and paramilitary forces as students campaigned against the state assembly election.

They say they are protesting at the inclusion of large numbers of illegal immigrants on voting lists.

The respected newspaper The Hindu has called for the election to be called off amid reports that some Assamese civil servants have refused to do election duty because of fears for their safety.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said that "no one has the right to stop the election".

Fresh polling has been ordered in some districts after booths were taken over, ballot boxes stolen and voters intimidated. Turnout was said to be low as militants warned local people not to go to the polls.

There are reported to be more than 70,000 police and paramilitary forces trying to keep order amid rioting and looting in several districts.

Groups of Assamese have been fighting immigrants from Bangladesh with machetes, petrol bombs and stones.

Some people died in these communal clashes between Hindus and Muslims while others were killed when security forces opened fire on crowds.

Many women and children are thought to have died in the rice growing area, with bodies found in streams.

Sixteen villages were burnt down and up to 6,000 people have been left homeless, with thousands living in a refugee camp.

Thousands of people are fleeing from Assam to the neighbouring state of West Bengal and to the north-eastern area of Arunachal Pradesh to escape the violence.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Eyewitnesses reported that 1,000 people died in the election violence although communications in many areas were poor and it was difficult to estimate the final number of dead.

According to unofficial figures, nearly 3,000 Muslims died in the riots, massacred by the ethnic Assamese and Lalungs who wanted to evict them as part of protests against so-called foreigners.

The movement ended in 1985, six years after it started, when Delhi signed an agreement with the protest leaders, promising to deport illegal immigrants.

Indira Gandhi, the third Indian Prime Minister, ordered a grant of £330,000, after touring areas where hundreds of people died in attacks by tribesmen.

Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party won the Assembly election with a two-thirds majority.

Indira Gandhi was killed a year later, on 31 October 1984, at her New Delhi residence, by two of her bodyguards in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star, the Indian Army's June 1984 assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar which left the Sikh temple heavily damaged.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Avoid the temptation to do your own thing today — even if it's the hottest thing ever! Your friends or family (or maybe coworkers) need you more than you realize, and that karma is irreplaceable.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your health may need some adjustment — so get to a gym, see a nutritionist or find a way to think positive thoughts even during that dreaded performance review. It all helps in the long run!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Is romance in your future — or your present? If today's energy is any indication, the answer is yes! Just look around if you're single, as someone right for you is tantalizingly close.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today is all about partnership — but that can be hard to deal with. You should find out if you can get your mate or your business associates to see things your way, but the road is long and hard for now.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today is all about activity, and you need to make sure that you're not just sitting around. Your social energy is lively and vibrant, so make the most of it and meet some new people or go on a date.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You are having a hard time figuring out what you want to do next — but you're not the only one! Make sure that your people know your quandary, as you and a friend can help each other in a big way.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your energy levels are super-high today, and you may find that your friends and family are riding your draft and enjoying every second of it. It's a good day to get out there and mix it up with new people!

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's a good day to hang out on your own and try to do things quietly. Loud parties and raucous meetings just aren't your style now, so try solitary activities and see what new ideas you can come up with.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your great social energy guarantees fun almost all day long — or at least a better mood than you think you deserve. It's a great time to reach out to friends who are going through hard times.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Try not to worry too much when your plans are challenged today — that's just nature's way of testing your willpower. If you can meet this stress with good humor, you are sure to do well all year!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Try something different today — routines don't work for you, at least not right now. Your great mental energy makes you more prone to boredom, and that's something you just can't tolerate!

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Are you having cash flow issues? Now is the time to deal with them — before they deal with you! Your great energy is perfect for handling all kinds of financial burdens, so get on it ASAP!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

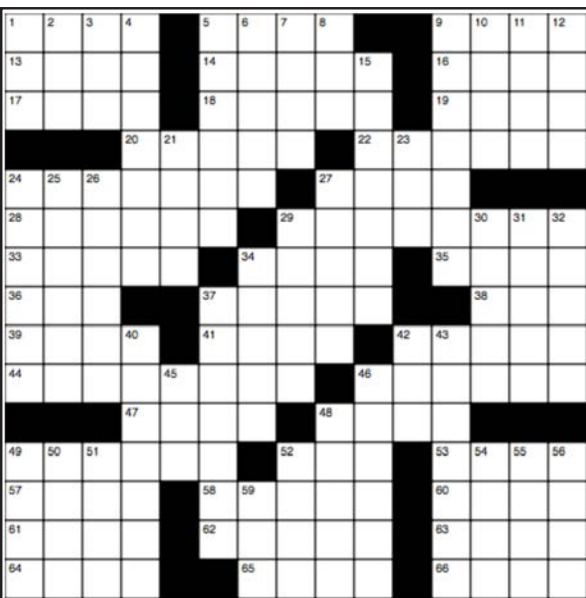
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "Smooth Operator" singer; 5- ___ want for Christmas...; 9- Quantity of paper; 13- Idyllic place; 14- Huge; 16- Bruins' sch.; 17- Hustles; 18- Monetary unit of Zambia; 19- Author Harte; 20- ___ Ark; 22- Kidnap; 24- Run-down theater; 27- The Supremes, e.g.; 28- Posterior; 29- Computer programs; 33- Lucy's landlady; 34- Mentor; 35- Requirement; 36- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 37- Fragile; 38- Children's game; 39- Area; 41- Sitarist Shankar; 42- Style; 44- Electrify; 46- Quagmire; 47- Fencing sword; 48- ___ Arabian Nights; 49- High-kicking dance; 52- East Lansing sch.; 53- Biblical pronoun; 57- I'd hate to break up ___; 58- Clock faces; 60- Beams; 61- Ascend; 62- Loudness units; 63- Goes astray; 64- Cornerstone abbr.; 65- Brief letter, paper money; 66- Fit to ___;

DOWN: 1- Blink of an eye; 2- Fuss; 3- Bear lair; 4- Catch; 5- Corn; 6- Illumination; 7- Rules; 8- Having four sharps; 9- Massage; 10- Beige; 11- A Baldwin brother; 12- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"; 15- Weeping; 21- Fall birthstone; 23- Mouthpiece of a bridle; 24- Change into ice; 25- Pretends; 26- Flammable gas; 27- Shinto temple gateway; 29- Debonair; 30- Big name in insurance; 31- Brings up; 32- Perimeters; 34- Feed on grass; 37- Pals; 40- Put up; 42- Sticky stuff; 43- Asmara is its capital; 45- Student stat; 46- Sweet dessert; 48- Dot in the ocean; 49- Word following child, day, or devil-may; 50- Warts and all; 51- Hotbed; 52- Look ___ hands!; 54- Mature male European red deer; 55- Fictional Jane; 56- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 59- Charged particle;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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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
Customs 28 559 944
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Coloane Village (Investment) Coloane
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HKD 7,602sq ft
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Ref: 16070603

The Buckingham, Mid Floor Unit D, Taipa
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Fully Furnished
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Ref: 16020558

Super Flower City Unit A Taipa
3 Bedroom Apartment
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WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS | BUSINESS AS USUAL

European champion Portugal loses to Switzerland, runner-up France draw in Belarus

EUROPEAN champion Portugal failed to overcome the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo this time, and lost 2-0 to Switzerland in a World Cup qualifying match yesterday.

For Portugal's first competitive match since beating France in the Euro 2016 final, Ronaldo was left out of the squad while he recovers from the knee injury sustained in the opening minutes in Paris.

A Swiss team which mostly lacked spark in France fired into life with two goals midway through the first half at Basel. It also had midfielder Granit Xhaka sent off in stoppage time for a second yellow card.

Breel Embolo headed the opening goal in the 23rd minute, reacting fastest to goalkeeper Rui Patricio's parry of a Ricardo Rodriguez free kick.

A fine fast break in the 30th was finished by Admir Mehmedi with a curling shot into the top-right corner of the Portugal goal. Mehmedi had taken a return pass after finding forward Haris Seferovic running deep beyond the defense.

Portugal struck a post in the 82nd when Nani directed a header to bounce slowly back across goal and safely away.

Earlier, Portugal's defenders went close with shots that deflected



just wide of goal, by left-back Raphael Guerreiro in the 37th and with Jose Fonte's volley in the 75th.

Portugal's loss was its first in 15 competitive matches under coach Fernando Santos, almost two years after he took the job.

Defeat leaves Portugal in a familiar position, after also losing its opening Euro 2016 qualifying match. Two years ago, again without Ronaldo, Portugal lost 1-0 at home to Albania and coach Paulo Bento was fired.

Portugal also failed to win its

past two World Cup qualifying groups and advanced to the final tournament each time through the playoffs.

In other Group B games, Faeroe Islands caused an upset by holding Hungary to a goalless draw and Latvia settled for a narrow win over Andorra.

Defeat leaves Portugal in a familiar position, after also losing its opening Euro 2016 qualifying match

France failed to score in 120 minutes against Portugal in Paris, and two months later got only a 0-0 draw at unheralded Belarus.

Also in France's group, the post-Zlatan Ibrahimovic era began for Sweden with a 1-1 draw at home to the Netherlands.

Heavily favored to win Group H, No. 2-ranked Belgium began with a routine 3-0 win at Cyprus as it seeks to repair a recent reputation as tournament underachievers.

After Iceland's popular run to the Euro 2016 quarterfinals, the search for the next Cinderella story could lead to Luxembourg.

The tiny principality team lost 4-3 at Bulgaria after leading in the second half and levelling in stoppage time. Bulgaria, the 1994 World Cup semifinalist, scored the decisive goal in the second minute of time added on. **MDT/AP**

AD

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opinion

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Jenny Lao-Phillips



DOES SIZE MATTER WHEN OFFERING JOSS STICKS?

In a city where Taoist and Buddhist rituals are part of the culture, we often see people carrying out Chinese religious rituals, whether or not they are religious. One such ritual is Jingxiang 敬香 (offering joss sticks). We see people Jingxiang on wedding days, at the opening ceremony of businesses, during Chinese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, when moving into a new apartment, and especially at funerals, when each guest has to offer three joss sticks.

These rituals have become such an intricate part of our lives that we do not pay much attention to them until we are asked about the meaning of burning joss sticks. I was asked why some people offer super-sized joss sticks, and if one's wishes will be better heard or one's wishes granted faster with a bigger stick. It left me wondering about the obsession of burning joss sticks on different occasions, so I started researching the practice of Jingxiang.

As a kid, I had the understanding that joss sticks were food for the spirits, and were burnt to feed the gods and ancestors. Perhaps I got that idea from Hong Kong ghost movies, where we were shown ghosts inhaling smoke from joss sticks to curb their hunger. But after reading about rituals in Taoism and Buddhism, and their usage of joss sticks, it turns out that they are not food, but exactly what they look like - just incense, lit up for meditation and prayers.

In both Taoism and Buddhism, Jingxiang usually requires three joss sticks. In Taoism, the three sticks remind believers to meditate on the Dao (the way), the Jing (the script), and the Shi (ancestors of Taoism) - the three treasures of Taoism. The smoke rising from the burning incense represents prayers being brought into the sky, not unlike the incense used in Christianity and Judaism.

According to Buddhism, the three joss sticks represent 'precepts', 'concentration' and 'wisdom', respectively. With the first joss stick, we are reminded of our bad habits, thoughts and practices that we need to quit. The second joss stick represents inner calmness and concentration that we can achieve by quitting bad habits. The third joss stick represents wisdom from heaven that we gain in life; only through calm, concentrated meditation can we achieve that.

Therefore, by lighting three joss sticks, we are not trying to feed the spirits.

The joss sticks are not always offerings to the gods for granting our wishes either, although that is the more common reason for people burning joss sticks everyday. They represent the cause and effect in achieving true wisdom, and serve as reminders of the path to wisdom, while the smell of the incense assists in meditation, like aromatherapy.

But why do participants have to offer three joss sticks at funerals? Apparently, they are also lit for meditations on behalf of the deceased, perhaps about life and death; followed by moments of silence, or prayers for the deceased.

So, back to the ultimate question. Does the size of the joss sticks matter? Well, if the lighting of the joss sticks is to be followed by silent meditation, one should say the smaller the joss stick, the better, right? Imagine how long one needs to sit for a meter-long joss stick to burn through. Although a large joss stick will definitely get attention - if not from heaven, at least from the people around.

THE AUSTRALIA: POLICE STEP UP INVESTIGATIONS INTO NRL MATCH-FIXING

Police in Australia have stepped up investigations into alleged match-fixing in the National Rugby League.

New South Wales state police yesterday said players and officials are among dozens of people expected to be interviewed in the coming months, adding that the "strike force" is likely to require "protracted" investi-

gations.

The NRL, which has 15 Australian-based teams and one in New Zealand, said it will support the investigation.

NRL chief executive Todd Greenberg warned that there'd be a "life ban from any involvement in rugby league" for anyone convicted of match-fixing.

VW plans electric car joint venture with Jianghuai



VOLKSWAGEN AG said it's assessing the feasibility of an electric car joint venture with China's Anhui Jianghuai Automobile Co., potentially adding a third partner in its largest market and advancing efforts to meet stricter fuel economy and emissions standards.

Jianghuai and Volkswagen are evaluating a potential venture in which each owns 50 percent, according to a statement yesterday to the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The two companies signed a memorandum of understanding a day earlier in Wolfsburg, Germany, where Volkswagen is based, and aim to sign a formal agreement within five months.

"This a positive development for the China auto industry, as more local automakers gain access to EV technology," said Steve Man, an autos analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence in Hong Kong. A tie-up with Jianghuai also would expand Volkswagen's foot-

print in China, where it already has passenger-vehicle ventures with SAIC Motor Corp. and China FAW Group, he said.

Chief Executive Officer Matthias Mueller hasn't pulled back from spending on Volkswagen's largest market despite the company having set aside 17.8 billion euros (USD20 billion) to cover costs of fixing diesel cars and the legal risks related to its emissions scandal. The automaker has said it'll invest more than 4 billion euros in China this year and introduce 15 new-energy vehicles to the market within five years.

"This cooperation would not only benefit our two organizations, but would also be of great value to our customers, a sound environment and the Chinese society in general," Volkswagen Chief Executive Officer Matthias Mueller said in a statement.

Volkswagen shares rose as much as 1.2 percent in

Frankfurt.

China requires overseas companies to set up businesses with domestic partners as part of an industrial policy to ensure local carmakers gain technology and operational know-how. Volkswagen and Jianghuai said both existing and future model platforms and technologies could be used to bring products to market.

Jianghuai Auto, among the top sellers of EVs in China, is also one of the last major Chinese carmakers without a foreign venture partner. Chairman An Jin had said in an interview in March that the company was in negotiations with Volkswagen.

Boosting the number of electric vehicles it sells in China would help Volkswagen meet stringent emission and fuel-economy standards. The government has mandated the lowering of average fuel consumption to 5 liters per 100 kilometers (62 miles) by 2020, from 6.9 liters per 100 km this year.

A VW-Jianghuai venture would follow Daimler AG's partnership with BYD Co. to develop electric cars for China under the Denza brand. BMW AG and its local partner Brilliance China Automotive Holdings Ltd. also have the joint venture Zinoro nameplate for electric vehicles. **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	25-45 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN A minister with the internationally recognized government on Tuesday accused the country's Shiite rebels of forcing children to fight in Yemen's civil war, saying the rebels have recruited as many as 4,800 boys over the past six months.



TURKEY said yesterday it expelled 73 more personnel from its armed forces as part of an ongoing effort to rid the military of what it says are followers of the alleged mastermind of the failed July 15 coup. The Ministry of Defense said on its official Twitter account that the expelled personnel belonged to the air force.



GREECE Floods caused by heavy overnight rain hit parts of southern and northern Greece yesterday, leaving four people dead in the southern Peloponnese region and a fifth person missing, authorities said.

GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday strongly defended her government's handling of migrants, but conceded that more still needs to be done and that concerns that have led to increasing support for an anti-immigrant nationalist party need to be taken seriously. **More on p15**

BRAZIL Dilma Rousseff moved out of Brazil's presidential palace on Tuesday, six days after senators voted to impeach and remove her from office. A crowd of supporters cheered the country's first female president outside the Alvorada Palace in the capital of Brasilia, some giving her flowers and other gifts.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Renato Marques

An aspect of the Macau International Real Estate Fair held last weekend at Cotai Expo. The event reached its 10th edition this year.