



THE VALUE OF DESIGN
Designer Clement Cheng talks about the changes in the general public's perception toward design products

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NAM VAN LAKE IFT CAFÉ TO BECOME PRIVATE

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GUTERRES TO BE NEXT UN CHIEF
The Security Council unanimously agreed that Portugal's former prime minister should be the next UN secretary-general

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days to go

HK democracy activist denied entry in Thailand

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Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, left, shows the letter from Thailand Immigration office yesterday after arriving at the Hong Kong airport from Bangkok. Thailand stopped Wong from entering the country and sent him back to Hong Kong, in a move supporters suspected was triggered by pressure from Beijing.

WORLD BRIEFS



BELGIUM A knife-wielding man stabbed two police officers in Brussels in an attack that may be terror-related, Belgian prosecutors said. It was the latest attack on law enforcement officials in a nation that has been on high alert since 32 people were killed March 22 in suicide bombing attacks.



THAILAND-US About a dozen people are arrested in cities across the U.S. for running what authorities call a sophisticated sex trafficking operation in which hundreds of women were brought from Thailand to America under fraudulent visas and forced to work as prostitutes to pay bondage debts. More on p12



AFGHANISTAN President Ashraf Ghani appeals for sustained international help for his insurgency-wracked country, promising international donors that the government would concentrate its future efforts on tackling rampant poverty. "We are facing social collapse," Ghani says.

More on backpage

Domestic violence prevention law came into force, complaints growing in Macau

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Q&A CLEMENT CHENG
INTERIOR DESIGNER

Public needs to be educated to 'understand the value of design'

Daniel Beittler

INTERIOR designer Clement Cheng, who is also the owner of local design retailer Signum, recently opened his company's second customer-facing store in the city, located near Jardim de Vasco da Gama.

After having left Macau to live in the U.K. for many years, the designer took the decision to move back to the MSAR in 2009. On his return, he was surprised to see the rapid development Macau had undergone. However, he also noticed a gap in the market for design products.

Working as an interior designer in the city he struggled to source items for his profession, so in 2010 he decided to open a shop selling the sort of products he needed for his line of work.

Cheng sat down with the Ti-

If you look into it, you will see that the government never really promotes interior design.

CLEMENT CHENG

mes last month to talk about Signum, changes in the general public's perception toward design products, and what the government is doing about it.

MDT - Signum targets both the retail and commercial customer. How

does your approach to these clients differ?

CC - For hotels and big corporate [entities], it is very easy because they understand the value of design. So we don't have to do a lot of promotion to them. But for the general public it is more difficult because there are not a lot of genuine items in Macau - many [products] are fake. The retail client usually can't tell [what is genuine and what is fake] and so we have to educate them. And that can be difficult because the [fake] items cost so much less and people wonder, 'why does your project cost so much more?'

At the end of the day, we need to keep in mind that the R&D [research and development] is very [costly] in order to create these products. This is something that an international city should realize, because it's not

about replicating [an existing] product, but about the thought behind it - that's what's important. If the general public can't accept that, then it means that they can't really appreciate it.

In a way we want to educate them so that they understand what design is really about. Otherwise, it's just an ornament. I think it's much more than that; these products are meant to change the way that you live your life. That's my belief anyway.

MDT - What criteria do you use to determine which brands you will carry?

CC - Quality is one of the main concerns, as is good value. Design-wise, of course I have to judge it by my own standards. Trend is definitely not something I have in mind [when selecting] brands for my shop, because I think that trend is too

fashionable and I think design products should be timeless.

We are constantly looking for new designers. This year we have agreed to carry some brands from Taiwan, for example. So, we are constantly on the look out but it can be difficult because our shop is not really that big - we can't carry everything. Sometimes, if the market changes, we might swap [out some products] for a season or two.

MDT - What about the other Signum locations? What demographics do they target?

CC - The shop near A-Ma Temple is really focused on tourism. The number of tourists has really dropped this year. Last year we had 80 percent of our customers come from the mainland, which was really surprising. Our Costa unit is a little different. When I moved to Costa, it was simply because the A-Ma unit wasn't big enough. So we moved our interior design office from Barra to Central and then we needed a location to store our design furniture so we [opted] for Costa. But we don't really open that shop to the public, it's more for the contract market.

MDT - What are your thoughts on the government's promotion of art and design?

CC - Well, the government talks about the [creative and cultural] industry, right? I mean that's what they always talk about. I am not so sure about the government's plans, because we don't really get involved with that. They put us on the [Macau Cultural and Creative] Map, but I think they are more interested in self-produced products than our line of business. If you look into it, you will see that the government never really promotes interior design; they promote [other types] like product design or graphic design - that's their main focus. Interior design is rarely mentioned. I don't know why that is exactly.

MDT - What about the local 'incubators' for design start-up companies?

CC - There are a lot already in Macau. I mean, it's a good thing to have these for local designers as they can have space [to work in] and they can communicate with other designers in an interdisciplinary way, and it will help them to grow. It's definitely a healthy environment, [conducive] to the development of a young company.

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Nam Van lake IFT Café to become private



THE IFT Café, located next to the Nam Van lake will be under public tender, the Institute for Tourism Studies confirmed with the Times yesterday.

Sherry Lee, senior director of the Public Relations department at IFT, told the Times that the cultural authorities are preparing for the tender.

In her words, the IFT and the government wants to “activate areas near the Nam Van lake, and it did not want the restaurant to

be permanently run by the government.”

Earlier in August, lawmaker Zheng An-ting delivered a written inquiry to the government regarding activities around Anim'Arte Nam Van, where the IFT Café is located.

On August 29, Fanny Wong, president of the IFT, revealed in a reply to Zheng that the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the Sports Bureau (ID), and the IFT, all as a tender entity, had already called pu-

blic tenders to ask commercial entities to manage the integrated project, Anim'Arte Nam Van.

The café was being run by the IFT as a training center for its students. Costs associated with food and beverages sold at the café represented 33 percent of its total income, which is a reasonable ratio, as written in the reply.

Moreover, IFT used its own staff to instruct its students at the café in order to not recruit more staff. All these employees worked excessive hours during the weekend, which lead to high costs in terms of human resources.

According to the president, the café's first two months of operation did not turn any fiscal surplus because of human resource costs.

Facilities at the café could be handed over to IFT after the school's temporary administration, as said by Wong, adding that such arrangement was already planned when the school purchased the facilities.

Sherry Lee, told the Times that transferring the café to a private owner was part of the strategy since its inception.

Last year, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, announced during the Policy Address that the area lining the Nam Van Lake facing the government headquarters will include cafés with outdoor areas managed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

Tam's announcement follows almost four years of stagnation in the area since the bars there were shut down against the will of their owners. **JZ**

Ruins of St. Paul's façade to be monitored



The Cultural Affairs Bureau announced it would perform monitoring checks of the facade of the Ruins of St. Paul for safety and research purposes. The bureau will use a three-dimensional scanner to conduct a comprehensive scan of the surface of the facade and carry out data recordings. The monitoring works will be carried out every Friday starting tomorrow until October 21 from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the following day. The bureau added that the stone platform in the front part of the Ruins of St. Paul will be partially closed.

Mak Soi Kun says Civic Education should be universal

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun has advocated that the textbook in Civic Education should be used in all schools. The Civic Education textbook has been listed as part of the basic requirements of both primary and middle schools. The book is currently being used in 63 and 56 percent of primary and middle schools respectively. However, Mak pointed out that the number is still not 100 percent, which is what is required by local authorities. He further commented on part-time teachers who are teaching history in the city. He questioned the government on how can it ensure that the national history education is cohesive and coherent under these conditions.

C2 magazine highlights arts administrators

The seventeenth issue of C2 magazine was launched yesterday. The trilingual magazine (in Chinese, Portuguese and English) is published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. In this issue, arts administrators are invited to share their insights and discuss the trends and development of industry in Macau.

Renato Marques

THE Portuguese Consul General for Macau and Hong Kong Vítor Sereno, thinks the relations between Lisbon and the MSAR are currently in a golden age.

“The relations between the Portuguese government and this special region live presently in a privileged moment,” Sereno stated during an award delivery ceremony held at the House of Portugal Association (CPM) held yesterday.

The statement came days ahead of the much anticipated 5th Macau Forum Ministerial Conference, which will be held next week.

According to the diplomat, Lisbon paid a lot of attention to this event. Evidencing that was the number and rank of the Portuguese officials present, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy as well as two Secretaries of State.

Sereno revealed yesterday that the Portuguese education minister, Tiago Brandão, is the latest addition to the list of government representatives that will be in Macau next week. Most of the officials will take

Consul: ‘Bilateral relations living a privileged moment’



Vítor Sereno

part in the Ministerial Conference. During the bilateral visit, Brandão will discuss topics of mutual interest and the Portuguese language teaching in the region.

“[The] Ministerial conference will be attended from Portugal's side by the Prime Minister, who will lead the delegation, but also the Minister of Economy, Secretaries of State for Industry and for Internationalization. They will be joined from Wednesday by the Minister of Education who will visit Macau on a bilateral visit. It is revealing

that we will have the chief of the government plus four high ranked governing persons in Macau on the same week,” the consul said. “It's a sign of the importance that we are giving to Macau,” he added.

The Portuguese diplomat also noted that the consul's official residence, which he calls “the showcase of Portugal as a mo-

dern, competitive and good business partner”, will receive an exhibition from the CPM works showcasing what is being done by the institution in the territory.

The exhibition will be held from next Tuesday, the day that the consulate will hold a reception for the Portuguese delegation.

CPM DELIVERS AWARDS TO BEST PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE STUDENTS

HOUSE OF Portugal Association (CPM) held the award delivery ceremony for the best students in Portuguese language from both first language and non-first language backgrounds yesterday. The accolades, handed out on the day that marks the foundation of the Portuguese Republic, recognized groups of students from the Macau Portuguese School, other schools that teach Portuguese as a second

language, as well as local universities. At the award delivery ceremony, the CPM president Maria Amelia Antonio, highlighted the “vocation” of the “casa” to be a live representative of the Portuguese culture. Antonio also expressed her wish that the several existing Portuguese groups could be “on the same page” in terms of integrating and coordinating their activities to promote the Portuguese culture.

AFA to present oil painting exhibition



The Art For All (AFA) Society is set to present an exhibition "Interposition - Works by Lai Sut Weng" in the Art Garden on October 14. Lai Sut Weng, the winner of the "Orient Foundation Art Award" in

2014, will have her first Macau solo exhibition featuring a total of nine oil paintings from her most recent artworks. According to the association's statement, Lai has been painting with a cubic brush stroke which is a method which degenerates and slices scenes. This irrational division shuffles and restructures the scene which has become a unique feature of her works. The opening of "Interposition - Works by Lai Sut Weng" will take place in AFA Macau at 6:30p.m. next Friday. The exhibition is partly sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and will be opened to public until November 6. Art Garden, situated along Avenida Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues is open from Tuesdays to Sundays.

Number of restaurants grows

Total revenue of restaurants and similar establishments grew by 4.6 percent year-on-year to MOP 10.04 billion in 2015. According to the Statistics and Census Service, the number of restaurants and similar establishments totaled 2,284, up by 172 year-on-year. The persons engaged in the F&B industry increased by 1,897 to 32,257. Employees accounted for 95.4 percent of this figure. Expenditure increased by 8.3 percent to MOP 9.87 billion. Gross Value Added, which measures the sector's contribution to the economy, rose slightly by 0.3 percent year-on-year to MOP 3.62 billion.

Recorded domestic violence cases high in the first half year

Julie Zhu

DURING the first half of the year, there were more complaints related to domestic violence cases than in the whole year of 2015. Celeste Wong, president of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), stated yesterday that 96 complaints were recorded until the end of June. 65 of them were linked to violence between couples and 22 involved child abuse. Last year, a total of 82 domestic violence cases were recorded.

Currently the IAS has two protection centers for victims of domestic violence that are prepared to welcome a total of 50 individuals from those who seek help, Wong stated yesterday, at the launching ceremony of a co-operation mechanism between the government and local associations regarding domestic violence. The centers have been operating only with the cooperation of local associations



Celeste Wong

up to this point. The IAS is planning to open more centers in the near future.

An earlier report by Macao Daily News reported that temporary accommodation support for the abusers would also be arranged, with 36 places prepared for them.

The increasing number of complaints is believed by Wong to be the result of the 24-hour report hotline which started last November. "We notice that it [the hotline] has really encouraged

more people to seek help, or to inquire [on related information]," noted Wong.

Wong informed that family service offices have been included in the IAS's family and community service department in order to specifically handle the corresponding issues.

Currently, more than 200 social workers from several associations are following domestic violence issues. "Our team will be bigger, and we believe we will have enough human resources,"

said Wong.

Eight governmental departments and more than 40 organizations are working together in this field. Regarding the IAS's own role, Wong claims that the department intervenes when the situations are serious. She also confirmed that assistance will be provided to the abusers when needed. "If the abusers are willing to [accept help], we are willing to provide them the help, hoping that they can correct [their behaviors]," said Wong.

New law on domestic violence came into effect yesterday. In order to cooperate within the new law, yesterday the IAS together with the other seven governmental departments including the police force, labour affairs departments and house departments, established a co-operation mechanism with a cross-departmental team to specifically handle domestic violence cases.

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THE total revenue of the construction sector registered an increase of 17.8 percent year-on-year in 2015 amounting to MOP93.35 billion, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

According to DSEC, the growth was related to the ongoing construction of large-scale hotels and entertainment facilities. The Intermediate Consumption and Labor Cost also followed the same tendency, growing by 14.4 and 28.0 percent to a total of MOP69.83 billion and

STATISTICS

Construction sector registered growth of 17.8 percent in 2015

MOP14.52 billion, respectively.

Also growing exponentially was the gross surplus that increased by 31.1 percent year-on-year to a total of MOP9.00 billion. The data, collected and treated by the DSEC, also noted that during the same year

a total of 2,750 establishments in the Construction Sector were operating (117 more than in the previous year). This led to an increase of 5,593 on the number of persons engaged in the sector, which employed a total of 50,961 people.

Companies and workers were involved in 1,377



construction projects; the private construction sector rose by 133 projects while

public constructions dropped by 25. The peninsula continued

to be listed as one of the locations where the majority of construction works are occurring with a total of about 75 percent (1,027) of all construction works in the territory.

The value of construction work done in the peninsula has also increased by 28.8 percent year-on-year, driven mostly by the 118 percent surge in the Parish of Nossa Senhora de Fátima that included private residential construction in Areia Preta, as well as public housing and school construction in Fai Chi Kei and Ilha Verde areas.

SPORTS

Macau lands 3rd in World Junior Wushu Championships

TEAM Macau won five gold medals, five silver medals and five bronze medals in the 6th World Junior Wushu Championships (WJWC) held in Burgas, Bulgaria.

A total of 14 athletes visited Bulgaria for the three days of competition that took place between September 25 and October 3. Twelve of them participated in the Taolu competition.

Team Macau was first in the

PHOTO ARCHIVE



categories of Taiji, Taijijian, Duilian, Nangun, and Nanquan, and was runner-up in

the categories of Nandao, Qiangshu, Gunshu, Changquan, and Nangun. The third place was achieved in Jianshu, Changquan, and Nanquan categories.

Overall, Macau came third in the overall medal tally, after Iran (second place), and China (first place).

Team China accumulated 19 gold and three silver medals in total, while Iran won seven gold, seven silver and five bronze medals.

The event was attended by athletes from 51 countries. The WJWC is the official world championship for junior athletes, and it is held by the Inter-

national Wushu Federation.

The WJWC features the highest competitive level within the junior (people under 18 years old) divisions of the sport. The competition also features both Taolu and Sanda events for both male and female competitors.

FIVE BRONZE MEDALS AT ASIAN BEACH GAMES

THE MACAU team won five bronze medals during the fifth Asian Beach Games, held in Danang, Vietnam. The games closed on Tuesday night. Hong Kong won eight medals in total; four silver medals and four bronze medals. This year, the games were attended by representatives of 41 countries, with a total participation of 2,197 athletes.

Macau Daily Times contest



Oktoberfest 2016

MGM is hosting Oktoberfest from October 13 to 23. We are giving away a total of 10 sets of entry tickets and F&B coupons. Readers will have to correctly answer today's question to be in with a chance of winning. Each prize set includes:

Oktoberfest entry tickets x 2	\$320
F&B coupons	\$100
Oktoberfest necklace x 2	\$80
Oktoberfest pin x 2	\$60
Total value	\$560

MGM will bring back the eighth Oktoberfest between October 13 and 23 this year! In the 11-day funfair of beer, guests can experience Macau's most authentic Oktoberfest held outside of Germany.

History of Oktoberfest
Oktoberfest began in Munich with over 200 years of long history. It was originally launched for the Münchners to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the royal wedding, as well as to promote the good Bavarian harvest. Nowadays, Oktoberfest has transformed into one of the most influential annual beer carnivals in the world.

In cooperation with Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and German Macau Business Association, as well as with Macau Government Tourist Office as the supporting unit, MGM has welcomed nearly 100,000 beer lovers with 96,606 liters of beer, 21,785 kilograms of pork knuckles, 9,696 roasted chickens and 14,379 pieces of homemade pretzels served approximately.

Authentic Entertainment and Dining Experience
The 11-day beer fest at MGM captures the essence of Bavarian festivities through German beers, cuisines, live entertainments and the Bavarian party atmosphere.

MGM will serve Spaten, one of only six genuine Oktoberfest brews and other special drinks and wheat beer while offering the most traditional German gastronomies. Enjoy the rhythmic accordion, oompah music and folk dances along with the Bavarian beer maids in dirndls. The huge beer tent with traditional decorations, including ceiling wreaths, buntings and carnival game booths, will be a guaranteed fun and alive experience that is just like the Munich Oktoberfest. Once again, MGM is flying The Högl Fun Band all the way

from Munich over to Macau to fill the nights with dynamic live performance and fun German essence. The band leader of Högl Fun Band has specially written a theme song "Nei Hou, Macau!" (Hello Macau) for their friends of Macau and MGM's Oktoberfest to add even more exciting elements to the party.

This year, MGM will introduce its first Family Friendly Special Day Time Oktoberfest between 11am and 3pm on October 22 only. Guests are welcome to party up with friends and family with live entertainment and to enjoy the authentic German brunch in the festive tent. Non-alcoholic beers and a range of beverage are also available as alternatives.

Tickets and reservations
Oktoberfest Macau at MGM will be held in The Vista II between October 13 and 23. Admission tickets and food and beverage coupons will be available for sale from September 12. The number of tickets and tables are very limited, so get them soon before they are out!



Question for readers:

Name one of the genuine Oktoberfest brews served at MGM.

Please email the answer to: oktoberfest2016@macaudailytimes.com along with your name and contact details.

Lynzy Valles

THE Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM) executive director, Augusto Nogueira, said drug rehabilitation services and facilities in the region have been improving, adding that the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) have significantly contributed to reducing new HIV/AIDS infections among currently injecting drug users.

Last month, ARTM inaugurated its latest facility in Ka Ho; the facility became operational on July 22 and aims to assist illegal substance abuse addicts.

The center currently offers various treatment services from 3 to 12 months treatment, 30 days detox treatment and a 15-day detox relapse treatment.

However, in the case of alcohol addictions, the center does not provide any alcohol detoxification services as this service can be appropriately catered to by local hospitals.

According to Nogueira, ARTM's latest center in Ka Ho offers treatment services for people with alcohol and gambling addiction, adding that the center is also considering its capability to accommodate victims of domestic violence.

The center also offers an outpatient follow up treatment for those who are unwilling to undergo a full rehabilitation, but would like to have follow up appointments.

ARTM's Ka Ho facilities can accommodate 50 men, 20 women and ten special care; predominately people with HIV/AIDS, and more broadly health issues related to drug consumption.

Although the director declined to state how much was invested in establishing its second rehabilitation center, he mentioned ARTM is "thankful for the help and support of IAS."

Meanwhile, Nogueira told the Times that there has been a gradual increase in the number of people the center is housing, adding that ARTM has implemented the 'Needle Syringe Program' which helped in lowering the number of people at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Region's drug rehabilitation centers improving, says ARTM head



Augusto Nogueira

“Together [with] Social Welfare Bureau, we are responsible for zero new infections of HIV/AIDS among the IDUs (Inject Drug Users). Macau has a high quality of services to help those in need to recover from drug addiction”, he wrote.

“What's important [is that the MSAR should] have adequate laws that allow people in need to use our services for treatment,” he added.

Nogueira also noted that the public should trust the treatment services available in the region and argued that placing individuals in a prison is not the solution as many would relapse. “It will be interesting to analyze all

ARTM inaugurated its latest facility in Ka Ho

those who were sentenced to prison for drug consumption and petty crimes associated with drug use and abuse [and see] how many have relapsed,” he explained.

Despite several examples coming from developed countries where anti-drug policies advocate the decriminalization of drug consumption in order to control the problem, Macau recently introduced a law with heavier penalties for drug trafficking and consumption.



CCM's auditions for local theatre practitioners now open



THE Macao Cultural Centre (CCM) is calling for local playwrights, directors and actors to join a programme under the guidance of the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre (SDAC).

The exchange project “Twin Ci-

ties” is set to fine-tune participants' skills in all areas related to drama; involving local practitioners in auditions, workshops and the creation of an inspiring theatre play.

Taking place until the end of October, the recruiting and auditi-

oning phase will be followed by a script-writing period, before moving to Shanghai.

According to the bureau's statement, the selected group of participants will join SDAC's professionals to unpack and rehearse a play based on stories nurtured in both cities.

Back in Macau, the performance in April 2017 will be presented in two parts. The first will be a performance of a script written in Shanghai, staged by a local director leading a Shanghainese cast, whereas the second half will feature a story written by a local writer directed by a Shanghainese director and performed by local thespians.

Founded in 1995, the SDAC is one of China's most prestigious dramatic institutions, producing and promoting over 600 performances every year, tackling a wide range of styles and themes.

Candidates may submit their applications until October 18, 2016. Application forms and further information can be downloaded at www.ccm.gov.mo.

CRIME

Mainland fugitive arrested in Macau

EARLIER this week, one of China's 10 “A-class” wanted cyber criminals was detained in Macau. The suspect, Chen Fu Jin, was transferred to the Zhuhai police force after his arrest, and was then taken to Jinjiang, Fujian, to face charges.

In January this year, Chen and his partners illegally took more than RMB8.8 million from a mainland resident. The victim, surnamed Luo, was carrying her bankcard when she received messages from the bank informing her of transactions that amounted to RMB8.8 million in less than ten minutes.

Since she was not the one making the transactions, the victim reported the situation to the Jinjiang police. The police later found that the money had been transferred to more than 120 different bank cards. Following this crime the Ministry of Public Security of China included Chen's name on the national A-class wanted list.

On September 27, Chen was in Zhangzhou, Fujian, and two days later he escaped from Zhuhai to Macau.

Including Chen's detention, eight criminals on the aforementioned wanted list have now been arrested.

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The currency of China has been attracting African countries, especially after its inclusion among the benchmark currencies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with Angola considered one of the countries that will most benefit from its use.

Analyst Yi Ren Thng, of the Centre for Chinese Studies of South Africa's Stellenbosch University, says that African businesses can take advantage of the increased use of the renminbi (RMB) in trade with Chinese counterparts, at a time when trade between China and Africa has reached USD180 billion.

Chinese exporters, he said quoting a 2013 study by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), can offer up to 5 percent discount if African buyers issue receipts in RMB, and that the use of the Chinese currency decreases foreign exchange risks related to the conversion of local currencies into RMB via the dollar.

Triangular transactions, said the analyst, have been "harmful" to countries like Angola, where oil exports are the foundation of the economy and that "constantly face shortages of dollar liquidity, given the outflow of dollars because of lower oil prices," as is currently the case.

Exchanges directly in RMB "also reduce currency hedging costs in the case of futures contracts,

Angola among the countries that can benefit most from the internationalization of the renminbi



where an agreement between a Chinese company and an African company on products at a predetermined price at a specific future time do not incur extra costs of having to anticipate USD/RMB fluctuations," he says.

In South Africa, the largest economy in Africa, the use of RMB increased by 65 percent between 2014 and 2015, benefiting from the opening by the Bank of China in Johannesburg in July 2015, the first RMB clearing platform on the continent.

At a conference in Lisbon in

September, Anselmo Teng, chairman of the Monetary Authority of Macau, who stressed that the MSAR plans to establish a RMB clearing platform between China and Portugal, "which may support the internationalization procedures" of the Chinese currency and "provide facilities to clear economic and trade transactions in RMB between China and Portuguese-speaking countries."

Potential development in the cross-border use of RMB between China and Portuguese-s-

peaking countries is very broad, given the current level of trade of more than US\$98 billion in 2015, said Teng.

It is hoped that the inclusion of the renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket of the IMF, which happened on 30 September at a ceremony with the presence of the Director General of the Fund, Christine Lagarde, will lead to an increase in forms of financial cooperation between China and Africa.

Siddharth Tiwari, director of the Department of Strategy,

IMF Policy and Monitoring, said the inclusion of the RMB, alongside the euro, dollar and yen, reflects the "growing role of China in global trade, a substantial increase in the use and marketing of the RMB," while reflecting China's reforms in monetary systems, foreign exchange and finance.

"We hope that the inclusion of the RMB in the SDR basket will further support the ever increasing use and marketing of RMB internationally," Tiwari said.

Several African countries have included the RMB in their foreign currency reserves, while showing interest in the issue of bonds denominated in China's currency, sold on Asian markets, with lower issue costs than sovereign eurobonds, which in Angola's case have coupons of close to two digits.

The use of bonds in RMB may facilitate settlement of Chinese loans to countries like Angola, but also help finance the development of infrastructure. MDT/Macauhub

Several African countries have included the RMB in their foreign currency reserves

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Da Tang Group's new Miami property

REAL ESTATE

Sun, sand and stir-fry? Miami woos Chinese for property

Blake Schmidt, Bill Faries

MIAMI has a Little Havana and Little Haiti, a neighborhood known as Westonzuela and even the Venetian Islands. What it doesn't have is a Chinatown.

Shan-Jie Li wants to do something about it. The developer from the city of Linyi in China's wintry northeast aims to make Florida's most-populous metropolitan area, with its clean beaches and tropical climate, a destination for Chinese property investors.

"We are focused on bringing to Miami the new wave of Chinese who are wealthy and educated," Li said in a phone interview via a translator. "The environment in Miami makes for a very suitable lifestyle. Playing golf and going to the beach are huge attractions."

While Miami's rebound from the financial crisis was driven by South Americans snapping up vacant condos, the city now is looking as far as Beijing to sustain the growth. Chinese have become one of the fastest-growing segments of foreign buyers, according to the Miami Association of Realtors, as the weakening Argentine peso, Brazilian real and Russian ruble discouraged investment from those countries.

"Property values have gone up,

and the currencies shifted in the other direction," Daniel de la Vega, president of luxury real-estate broker One Sotheby's, said in an interview in Miami. "So South American investors may look at us and say it's not as good of an opportunity."

NEW MUSEUMS

Since the depths of the crisis, when downtown vacancy rates climbed to 60 percent, cranes have returned to the skyline and property values have surged. A \$131 million modern-art museum backed by Jorge Perez, billionaire owner of Related Group, opened in 2013; a science museum is under construction next door along the Biscayne Bay waterfront.

Latin American buyers made up 62 percent of purchases

“We are focused on bringing to Miami the new wave of Chinese who are wealthy and educated.”

SHAN-JIE LI
DEVELOPER

in Miami last year, led by Venezuelans, Argentines, Brazilians and Colombians, according to the realtors' association. They helped drive the median home price to \$276,000 in December, up 54 percent from \$179,000 at the end of 2011, according to Zillow.com, a real-estate website.

"We have quite a number of Chinese buyers; it's not even 5 percent of the total but it's growing," Perez said. After he gave a recent speech to University of Miami students, Chinese parents of one pupil bought \$20 million in real estate, he recalled.

"Russia had been a good source of buyers, particularly in beach locations, and we're seeing it decline," he added. "I have no idea if South Americans will continue to buy as before."

BEIJING SALES

Armando Codina, executive chairman of developer Codina Partners, isn't taking chances. He sent a representative to Beijing to shore up sales at his \$1 billion Downtown Doral project, which comprises a master plan for a new downtown, including a city hall and school in an area of northwest Miami-Dade County.

"We are seeing some Chinese-buyer activity that we never expected," said the Cuba-born Codina, whose project is adja-

cent to Blue Monster golf course at Trump National Doral hotel. "Chinese get this project in two seconds, because they've seen cities emerge out of nowhere."

NR Investments produced a promotional video in Mandarin to lure Chinese buyers to its Canvas condominium development in an area better known for parking lots and low-rise buildings between downtown and the design district.

"Everybody wants a piece of Miami now," said Ron Gottesmann, a principal at the company. "This is the beginning of the change."

NOODLE SHORTAGE

If only there were more noodle shops. "There are not enough Chinese restaurants, supermarkets and spas in Miami's supply chain," said Li, head of American Da Tang Group, a partner of state-run China City Construction. "These are challenges that must be overcome. We want to put in new restaurants and services that can cater to Chinese as well as everyone else."

On a visit last year, Li donned a Panama hat and white blazer as he slung his arm around local executives and ex-Florida governor Charlie Crist. His company then scooped a downtown lot out of bankruptcy with \$75 million.

SKEPTICS REMAIN

While Chinese media have been hyping Miami as a real-estate destination -- one outlet said that Chinese investors are "flocking" to the city -- the realtors' association numbers show that they still account for a fraction of purchases: 3 percent. Expansion in the world's second-largest economy is the slowest in 25 years as President Xi Jinping wages the broadest corruption crackdown in decades.

LOCAL SKEPTICS

"It's not such a significant number of Chinese folks that are buying retail," said Francisco Cerezo, a partner at the law firm Foley & Lardner, who advises wealthy Latin American families. "It's nothing like the number of Brazilians who had been establishing second homes."

Besides culinary shortcomings, the biggest challenge to attracting Chinese buyers is the absence of a nonstop flight, Li said. And while the U.S. and China will start granting 10-year visas to each other's citizens, the nearest Chinese consulate remains Washington, he said.

Even so, Miami's Chinese population is reaching critical mass, says Mikki Canton, a Cuba-born corporate lawyer. She's so sure the city is ripe for its own Chinatown that she has trademarked the names Chinatown Miami and El Barrio Chino de Miami.

CHINATOWN DREAM

Asians Americans were the fastest-growing racial group in the Miami metropolitan area between 2000 and 2010, expanding 47 percent to 158,400 residents - out of 5.6 million - according to U.S. Census Bureau data analyzed by the nonprofit Asian Americans Advancing Justice. The Chinese population, spread through Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties, grew 32 percent to 35,700, trailing only Indians among Asian ethnic groups. Foreign-born Chinese grew 67 percent between 2006 and 2010.

"I have always had the dream of having a Chinatown," said Canton. "Not just for tourist purposes, but a true, organic Chinatown."

Developer Li, for his part, says he's not only appealing to Chinese buyers in an increasingly cosmopolitan city. Indian and Japanese restaurants are cropping up. Miami jumped to No. 7 in the Knight Frank ranking of top homes for the wealthy.

"I'm well aware that this is the first entry of Chinese investors to downtown Miami," said Li, whose company's lot is in the Brickell neighborhood near a \$1 billion project by Hong Kong-based Swire Properties Ltd. "I'm keen to make a signature building that is a landmark."
Bloomberg

Natnicha Chuwiruch, Kelvin Chan,
Hong Kong

JOSHUA WONG

Teen activist back in Hong Kong a

THAILAND stopped Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong from entering the country to give a talk and sent him home, raising questions about whether it acted at China's behest. An activist and a Thai immigration official said Bangkok responded to a request from Beijing, though a Thai government spokesman denied that.

Wong, a 19-year-old activist who rose to global prominence spearheading huge 2014 street protests against Beijing's plan to restrict elections, arrived late Tuesday at Bangkok's main airport. He said he was immediately taken into custody by 20 police and immigration officers and then put on a flight back to Hong Kong about 12 hours later.

He was due to give a talk at Chulalongkorn University about lessons from Hong Kong's "Umbrella Movement" protests as part of Oct. 6 commemorations of a Thai government crackdown on student demonstrators 40 years ago.

Netiwit Chotipatpaisal, a Thai activist who had planned to greet him at the airport, said police informed him that Wong was detained after Thailand received a notice from the Chinese government.

The deputy commander of Suvarnabhumi Airport's immigration office, Pruthipong Prayoonsiri, said at a news conference that Wong was blacklisted after China asked the Thai government to deny him entry, according to a report in The Nation newspaper. The report was confirmed by an

Wong was due to give a talk at Chulalongkorn University as part of Oct. 6 commemorations of a Thai gov't crackdown on student demonstrators 40 years ago

officer at the airport department who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Wong, who turns 20 next week, was one of the high-profile student leaders behind pro-democracy protests two years ago that marked the former British colony's most turbulent period since China took control in 1997. In August, a Hong Kong court sentenced him to community service for his role in the protests, which brought parts of the city to a standstill for months.

Wong told reporters that he was held in a windowless holding cell at the Bangkok airport. He said he was not given a clear explanation for his detention and was not allowed to contact his family or a lawyer.

"I actually had a lot of discussion with a Thai official, but because he didn't speak English very well, I couldn't hear him very well. But there was one word I heard very clearly: blacklist," he told reporters after arriving back in Hong Kong.

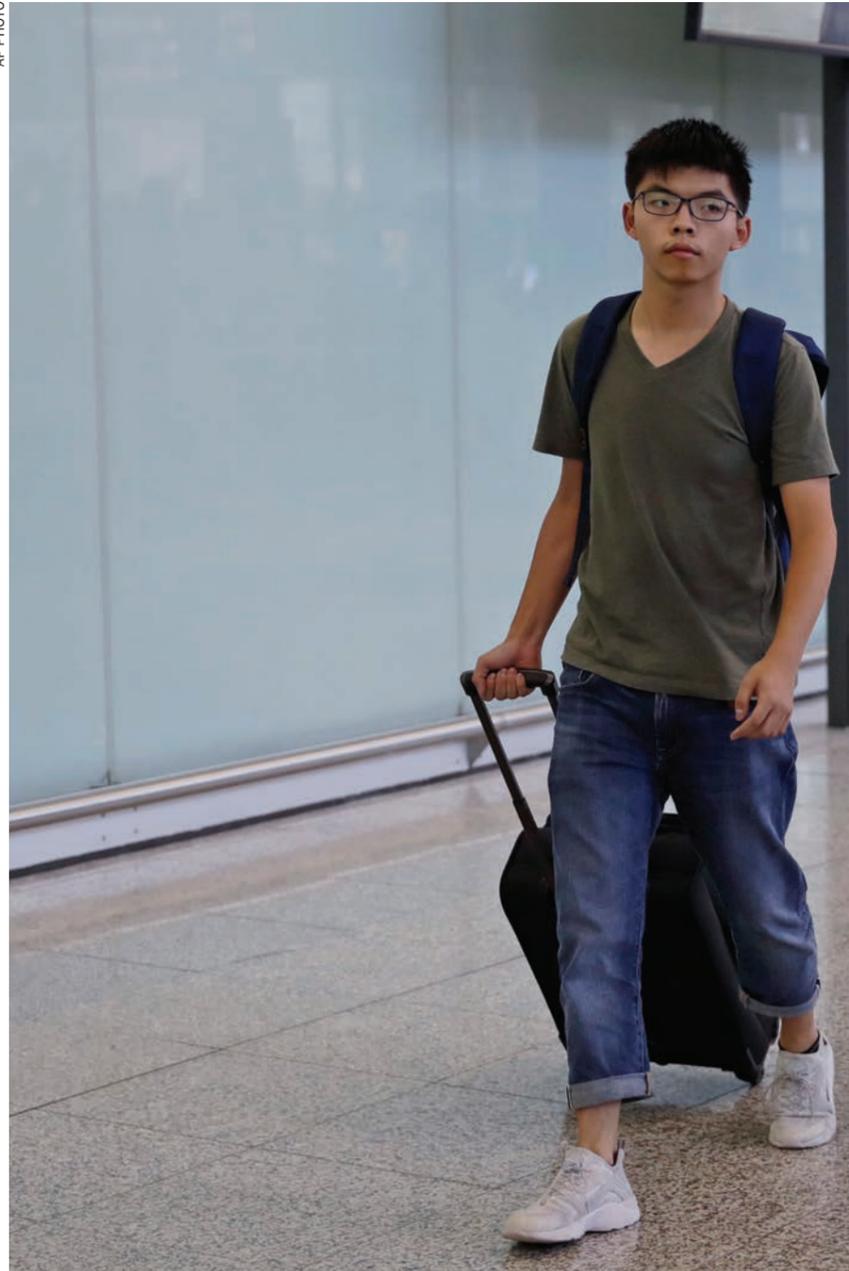
Wong, who last year was prevented from entering Malaysia, said he was relieved he did not end up like five Hong Kong booksellers who disappeared and later turned up in custody in mainland China. One of them, Chinese-born Gui Minhai, who is a naturalized Swedish citizen, vanished from his holiday home in Thailand.

"If I hadn't returned to Hong Kong, I can't imagine what kind of situation I'd be in," Wong said. "Fortunately, I did not become another missing person."

The bookseller case and other incidents have intensified fears in Hong Kong that Beijing is overstepping its boundaries and undermining a "one-country, two systems" formula that governs the territory's relationship with the mainland.

If it's true Beijing leaned on Thailand, "it will seriously damage the reputation of the Chinese government and it will show a very bad example of how the Chinese government deals with human rights defenders in Hong Kong," said Nathan Law, who co-founded the

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, center, arrives at Hong Kong airport from Bangkok.

A CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

Joshua glad he didn't disappear

AP PHOTO



Joshua Wong, center, shows the letter from Thailand Immigration office

3:20 p.m.

Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong says he's glad he didn't go missing after being stopped and turned back at Bangkok's airport, in a reference to the recent case of five Hong Kong booksellers who disappeared and later turned up in custody in mainland China.

Wong spoke briefly to reporters after arriving back at Hong Kong's airport yesterday. He said that after his plane touched down in Bangkok, 20 Thai police and immigration officers were waiting for him. He said they didn't allow him to contact his family or a lawyer, or give a clear reason why he was being turned away.

1 p.m.

A spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok said that they were monitoring developments surrounding Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong and that they were urging Thai authorities to clarify his status. Steve Castonguay said, "We support individuals exercising their universally recognized fundamental freedoms of opinion expression peaceful assembly and associa-

AP PHOTO



Thai student activist Netiwit Chotipatpaisal

tion throughout the world." Thai authorities prevented Wong from entering the country late Tuesday, in a move supporters suspected was triggered by pressure from Beijing.

After Thailand denies entry



political party Demosisto with Wong earlier this year. Law, 23, was elected Hong Kong's youngest legislator last month. Their party wants a referendum on "self-determination" on the future status of Hong Kong, which is in the middle of a 50-year transition period to Chinese rule.

Amnesty International said the decision to block Wong, who inspired student activists in Thailand, "underscores the government's willingness to suppress the right to freedom of expression and raises serious concerns about how China is using its influence over Thai authorities."

China's Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement that it was aware of reports of Wong's detention, but did not say whether

China had asked Thailand to detain him — only that it respected Thailand's ability to manage the entrance of people into the country "in accordance with law."

"Thailand's arrest of Joshua Wong, a well-known pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong, sadly suggests that Bangkok is willing to do Beijing's bidding. Wong should be freed immediately and allowed to travel and exercise his right to free expression," said Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch.

Refusing entry to Wong would also be in line with recent moves by Thailand's military rulers, who seized power in a 2014 coup.

The government has shown zero tolerance for dissent and has cracked down hard on its own student activists who have protested the military rule. It has detained students and stopped speeches from taking place. Last month, Thai authorities threatened to arrest Amnesty International speakers who planned to hold a news conference to release a report detailing allegations of torture at the hands of the military and police, causing the rights group to cancel the event.

Wong was also turned back in May 2015 when trying to enter Malaysia to speak at seminars in four cities. Malaysian officials said Wong was banned from entering the country but did not explain why. **AP**

Thailand's arrest of Joshua Wong ... sadly suggests that Bangkok is willing to do Beijing's bidding.

SOPHIE RICHARDSON
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, CHINA

scheduled to land at 3:45 p.m. Hong Kong time.

Thai authorities prevented Wong from entering the country late Tuesday, in a move supporters suspected was triggered by pressure from Beijing.

11:20 a.m.

Laurent Meillan, the acting Southeast Asia representative for the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, called Thailand's refusal to allow Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong to enter the country an unnecessary move, saying he was coming to Thailand to attend a peaceful event. "We call for the immediate release of Mr. Joshua Wong," Meillan said.

11 a.m.

A Thai security report obtained by The Associated Press says that more than 10 police officials from the Royal Thai Police Special Branch and Immigration Police were waiting for Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong when he arrived at Bangkok's main airport.

Thai authorities prevented Wong from entering the country late Tuesday, in a move supporters suspected was triggered by pressure from Beijing.

The security report said that Wong was questioned and was not allowed to use his cellphone or computer. It said he was expected to be sent back to Hong Kong on an Emirates Airline flight later Wednesday as that was the airline he flew to Thailand on.

10:45 a.m.

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee said in response to questions about Hong Kong teen pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong that permission for foreigners to enter Thailand "involves various factors and has to be in line with the relevant immigration laws and regulations."

He added that the ministry is reviewing the facts with the Immigration Bureau and other authorities.

Thai authorities prevented Wong from entering the country late Tuesday, in a move supporters suspected was triggered by pressure from Beijing. **AP**



SOUTH CHINA BALLET

'Raise the Red Lantern' goes to Manila

THE National Ballet of China is bringing its acclaimed "Raise the Red Lantern" ballet to the Philippines this month under a cultural exchange program that officials said yesterday has remained strong despite the two countries' territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

The ballet version of acclaimed film director Zhang Yimou's Oscar-nominated movie will be performed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 27-28 — three years after talks began to bring it to the country.

The cultural center's artistic director, Chris B. Millado, said they consider the 100-member ballet troupe's show in Manila and a reciprocal performance in China next year by Ballet Philippines as a "handshake not only between partners, it's a handshake between audiences, it's a handshake between cultures."

Chinese Embassy cultural counsellor Pan Feng said cultural relations have stayed strong despite the territorial disputes. He said he has worked for the last four years to bring Chinese artists to the Philippines and Filipino artists to China, and China's Ministry of Culture invites Filipino artists every year.

"So even with the disputed China Sea problems, the culture relations never stopped," he said.

Asked if there will be more cultural exchanges with China as a result of President Rodrigo Duterte's vow to forge closer ties with Beijing, Felipe de Leon Jr., chairman of the National Commission for Culture and Arts, said the largest number of cultural exchanges handled by his office has always been with China.

"It has nothing to do with political conditions in this country," he said, adding that the commission has a policy of continuing cooperation with other nations regardless of changes in the Philippine administration.

The ballet Raise the Red Lantern premiered in 2001 and was also directed by Zhang. Set in the 1920s, it tells the story of a young woman who becomes one of the concubines of a wealthy man during the Warlord Era. **AP**

kok



12:45 p.m.

A report from Thai security officials says Joshua Wong was sent back to Hong Kong on a Hong Kong Airlines flight that departed Bangkok at 11:40 a.m. The flight is

Amy Forliti, Minneapolis

AP NEWSBREAK

Dozen arrests in Thailand-US sex trafficking ring

ABOUT a dozen people were arrested in cities across the U.S. yesterday [Macau time] for running what authorities called a sophisticated sex trafficking operation in which hundreds of women were brought from Thailand to America under fraudulent visas and forced to work as prostitutes to pay off tens of thousands of dollars in bondage debts.

The women — including one who was forced to have sex with strangers for 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week — were not allowed to move about freely and were “effectively modern day sex slaves,” according to a redacted indictment unsealed yesterday.

The arrests, along with the recent arrest of the organization’s boss in Belgium, will effectively dismantle the operation, said Alex Khu, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Minneapolis.

“We feel pretty confident that based on the number of important-position folks we are taking down, we’ll really hurt this organization,” he said in an interview with The Associated Press in advance of an official announcement about the arrests. “It will take down this ring.”

The indictment charges 17 people with various counts, including conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit forced labor, conspiracy to engage in money laundering and conspiracy to commit visa fraud. About a dozen people were arrested in the Minneapolis area, Chicago, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

Khu said his office began investigating a sex trafficking case in the Twin Cities in January 2014 and discovered it was part of an international ring and “a very sophisticated, complex network operating throughout the United States ... where women



are really placed on a circuit, traveling from one city to the next.”

According to the indictment, since 2009, hundreds of women were brought from Bangkok, Thailand, to several U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Washington and Dallas. The women were from poor backgrounds, spoke little English and were lured with promises of a better life.

The operation’s bosses or traffickers in Thailand entered the women into a bondage debt “contract” in exchange for a visa and travel to the U.S. As part of the contract, the women would owe a debt ranging from USD40,000 to \$60,000 and would be “owned” by the organization until that debt was repaid.

The women were often encouraged to have breast implants to make them more appealing to potential clients. The cost of the surgery was added to their debt.

Once they arrived in the U.S., the women were forced to have sex in various “houses of prostitution” including hotels, massage parlors and apartments. They were not allowed to leave without escorts — who would have sex with the victims as part of their payment.

The women were forced to turn over most of the money they earned, as well as pay for rent, food and personal items, making it virtually impossible to repay their debt, the indictment said.

The organization controlled the women by isolating them and threatening to harm their

families in Thailand if they escaped. In one case, Khu said, a woman tried to get out of a situation and the organization sent “muscle” to assault a family member in Thailand, breaking his bones.

The indictment says one victim recruited in 2010 agreed to

a \$40,000 bondage debt. When she arrived in the U.S., she was sent to work at two prostitution houses for 12 hour days, six to seven days a week, and was not allowed to leave by herself. The terms of her contract changed and she was then forced to work at a “spa” in Houston that was open 24 hours a day.

There, she lived on a mattress on the floor with another victim, and was required to have sex at all hours. She ran away one night, and began receiving emails that suggested her family in Thailand would be harmed and her visa would be cancelled.

“They don’t control the money. They don’t control the customers or the johns. They can’t refuse a john. They don’t have freedom of movement. ... The female victims are literally helpless,” Khu said. “They can’t get out.”

The indictment describes a highly organized operation, with many tiers of employment. In addition to the traffickers, the organization also employed house bosses who ran the prostitution houses, advertised the women on websites and scheduled customers. Other “facilitators” helped with money laundering or booking travel for the victims, while “runners” would escort the women from place to place.

Khu said the head of the organization, who was based in Thailand, was recently arrested in Belgium for separate trafficking offenses there. He said the U.S. plans to seek her extradition.

■ The indictment describes a highly organized operation, with many tiers of employment

BANGLADESH

Court clears Canadian of restaurant attack charges

Acourt in Bangladesh cleared a Canadian university student yesterday of all allegations related to a restaurant siege three months ago in which 20 hostages were killed.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nur Nabi handed down the order after investigators said there was no evidence connecting Tahmid Hasib Khan, a 22-year-old undergraduate at the University of Toronto, to the July 1 attack in Dhaka, Bangladesh’s capital.

Prosecutor Abdullah Abu said Khan was cleared of all suspicion that he was involved in the bloody attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in the city’s posh diplomatic zone.

Khan, freed on bail Sunday, was never charged by police but was held as he was being interrogated.

His family could not be contacted immediately for comment.

Abu, however, said that Khan would face charges for not cooperating with authorities in the

aftermath of the attack. If convicted, he could face a month of jail time and a cash fine, according to Bangladeshi law.

Khan was interrogated for more than two weeks by police and denied bail since his arrest in late August.

Khan, who is of Bangladeshi origin, had traveled to Dhaka a day before the attacks with plans to travel to Nepal on an internship.

British citizen Hasnat Karim continues to be a

key suspect in the attack and is still under arrest. He was also arrested in late August and has not been formally charged.

At least five Islamist militants were part of the bloody siege, which lasted nearly 12 hours.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, but authorities have blamed the local militant group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh. All five attackers were killed by commandos.

The attackers, all young



Tahmid Hasib Khan (center), an undergraduate at the University of Toronto who has Canadian residency, comes out after a court appearance, in Dhaka

men, stormed the upscale restaurant when diners, including many foreigners, were inside. The attackers used grenades,

firearms and sharp weapons to kill the hostages, who included nine Italians, seven Japanese and one Indian. **AP**



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USA ELECTIONS | RUNNING MATES

Pence calm and steady, but dodges in defending Trump

REPUBLICAN Mike Pence was calm and steady in the face of Democrat Tim Kaine's fiery and frequent challenges. But when it came to defending Donald Trump, Pence dodged, sidestepped or was silent about some of his running mate's most provocative words.

Kaine aggressively pressured Pence to vouch for Trump throughout the 90-minute debate, often citing the brash businessman's own words. Pence defended Trump's tax history, but maneuvered around criticism of Trump's demeaning comments about women, his public doubting of President Barack Obama's citizenship and broader questions about temperament.

"I can't imagine how Governor Pence can defend the insult-driven, me-first style of Donald Trump," said Kaine, the Virginia senator and Hillary Clinton's No. 2.

The usually easygoing Kaine went on the attack from the start and seemed determined to make the debate a referendum on whether Trump has the disposition for the Oval Office. He slammed Trump for having called women pigs and slobs, and condemned the GOP nominee's praise of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Pence frequently avoided taking the bait — a shrewd move for a conservative darling who could have eyes on the Oval Office himself if Trump loses in November. But for voters seeking assurances from Pence about Trump's temperament, there was little to cling to.

"Gov. Pence was smooth, he seemed sort of likeable, but he didn't get the job done," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said Wednesday morning on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." "The VP's job is to go in and try

The weak and feckless foreign policy of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama has awaked an aggression in Russia.

MIKE PENCE (R)

to defend the top of the ticket."

Five weeks from Election Day, the White House race appears to be tipping in Clinton's favor. She was widely viewed as the winner of last week's first presidential debate, rattling the real estate mogul with jabs about his business record, responding to his attacks with calm rejoinders, and sending him into a multi-day tailspin over comments he made about a beauty queen's weight 20 years ago. New public opinion polls have shown her improving her standing in nearly all battleground states.

Pence was markedly more prepared and more detailed in his answers than Trump was on the debate stage. He was also more consistent in painting the Democratic ticket as career politicians unwilling to shake up Washington.

"Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine want more of the same,"



Republican vice-presidential nominee Gov. Mike Pence shakes hands with Democratic vice-presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine

Pence said. He repeatedly accused the Democrats of running an insult-filled campaign — an ironic attack line given that Trump has leveled repeated insults against Clinton and his former rivals in the Republican primaries.

Republicans hope Pence's performance will help steady Trump's campaign. But that boost could be short-lived if Trump has another weak performance when he and Clinton meet Sunday in their second of three debates.

Trump is sure to be peppered with questions in the next debate about his tax records, as Pence was yesterday. Asked about reports that the businessman might not have paid any federal taxes for years, Pence

said his running mate "used the tax code just the way it's supposed to be used, and he did it brilliantly."

Records obtained by The New York Times showed Trump suffered more than USD900

I can't imagine how Governor Pence can defend the insult-driven, me-first style of Donald Trump.

TIM KAINE (D)

million in losses in 1995 that could have allowed him to avoid paying federal income taxes for as many as 18 years.

Kaine, too, defended his running mate's weaknesses, chiefly the public's questions about her honesty and trustworthiness. He said that while Trump was "selfish," Clinton had devoted her career to helping children and families.

Social issues were a bigger part of the conversation than in the first presidential showdown, reflecting both candidates' religious faith.

Kaine, a Catholic who personally opposes abortion but has consistently voted in favor of abortion rights, said of the Republican nominee, "Why doesn't Donald Trump trust women to make this choice for themselves?" He also pointed to Trump's assertion that women should face some kind of "punishment" for abortion, a comment Trump later walked back.

Pence stressed his opposition to abortion and said he was "proud to be standing with Donald Trump" on the issue.

On national security, Kaine revived Trump's frequently flattering comments about Putin, the Russian president.

"The weak and feckless foreign policy of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama has awaked an aggression in Russia that first appeared in Russia a few years ago," Pence retorted. "All the while, all we do is fold our arms and say we're not having talks anymore." **AP**

COLOMBIA

President Santos meeting rival Uribe in bid to save peace

PRESIDENT Juan Manuel Santos is moving quickly on two fronts to save a peace deal narrowly rejected by Colombian voters, holding talks in Cuba with leftist rebels while inviting his chief opponent for a rare face-to-face meeting.

Government officials led by chief negotiator Humberto de la Calle met with their counterparts from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia yesterday [Macau time] in Cuba's capital to check on the rebels' willingness to reopen negotiations.

Santos, after a day of consultations with busi-



A supporter of the peace deal signed between the Colombian government and rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, waves a flag during a rally in front of Congress, in Bogota

ness leaders and evangelical Christians, who campaigned hard against the accord, said he was extending until Oct. 31 the cease-fire with the FARC to give peace a chance.

"Time is very important.

We can't prolong this process and this dialogue for a long time because we're in a gray zone, a sort of limbo, that is risky and can wash away the entire process," Santos said.

Any renegotiation wou-

ld likely lead to tougher terms for the rebels than the ones in the accord reached in August, and it's not clear the rebels are ready to return to the drawing board.

Shortly after Santos announced he was extending the cease-fire, rebel leader Timochenko tweeted: "And after that the war continues?"

Showing what's at stake if Santos' gamble fails, another commander, known by his alias Pastor Alape, said on Twitter that all FARC troops "should move to secure positions, to avoid provocations."

Ever since the deal was narrowly rejected Sunday in a referendum, FARC leaders have made clear they have no intention of resuming warfare but also insisted the vote has no legal implications and the deal signed last month in front of several heads of state is final.

If Santos needs the FARC's support to prevent the peace deal from collapsing, both parties need the help of the man who led the campaign against the accord: former President Alvaro Uribe.

Santos was defense minister under Uribe, when

they joined forces with the U.S. to beat back the rebels, and Uribe helped elect him president. But the two angrily split shortly after Santos took office.

Yesterday, however, the two men spoke by phone and set up a meeting today [Macau time] at the presidential palace in what is believed to be their first encounter in years. Neither the government nor Uribe said what would be on the agenda.

Both men, at least publicly, have tried to project a conciliatory tone since voters rejected the accord, unlike the public feuding and trading of insults to which Colombians have grown accustomed in recent times. **AP**

what's ON



STOMP

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)
2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)
1pm & 6pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: October 9, 2016

VENUE: The Venetian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP380, MOP580, MOP780

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

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 "INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION – PAINTING OF MAK KUONG WENG"

TIME: 9am-7pm

UNTIL: October 16, 2016

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, located at No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100

Offbeat

SPANISH COMPANY CATCHES CLINTON, TRUMP WITH PANTS DOWN



A curious Christmas tradition in the Catalonia region of Spain has caught Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump with their pants down.

A Catalan company that makes ceramic "Caganer" figurines for nativity scenes has created specialty versions of the two candidates for the White House. Caganers traditionally depict a squatting peasant with his trousers dropped to reveal a bare backside.

At Christmas in Catalonia, the miniature figures are placed alongside Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. The cheeky tradition isn't meant to be blasphemous, but rather a source of luck and prosperity in the new year.

The origin of the Caganer is uncertain, but it is believed to date from the 18th century. More recently the figurines have come in the image of all manner of famous characters living and dead, fictional and real.

Pope Francis, Barack Obama, Britain's royal family, Fidel Castro, Russian President Vladimir Putin, tennis star Rafael Nadal and Sesame Street's Elmo and Ernie all have been rendered in the same compromising position.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:45	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:30	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News (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	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Variety
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema

CINETEATRO

06 Oct - 12 Oct



MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Tim Burton

Starring: Eva Green, Asa Butterfield, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

SADAKO VS KAYAKO

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Koji Shiraishi

Starring: Mizuki Yamamoto, Tina Tamashiro, Masanobu Ando

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

DEEP WATER HORIZON

ROOM 2

4.30 pm

Director: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

DEEP WATER HORIZON

ROOM 3

2.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Peter Berg

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Kate Hudson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 107min

STORKS

ROOM 3

(2D) 4.05, 5.45, 7.30 pm

Director: Nicholas Stoller, Doug Sweetland

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 87min

MACAU TOWER

06 Oct - 19 Oct

SNOWDEN

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Oliver Stone

Starring: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley, Melissa Leo

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 134min



this day in history



1986 NUCLEAR TECHNICIAN MISSING AFTER SECRETS LEAK

Fears are growing for the missing nuclear technician who disappeared in London after revealing details of Israel's nuclear weapons programme.

The American magazine, Newsweek, claimed earlier this week that Mordechai Vanunu had been abducted from a yacht in the Mediterranean by agents of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad.

But these reports have been rejected by a close friend of Mr Vanunu. The Rev John McKnight, who is an Australian priest, says he believes the nuclear technician was kidnapped in London and is now being held for trial in Israel for treason.

So far Israeli officials have refused to confirm reports Mr Vanunu is being held on remand at Gadera military prison near Jerusalem, a jail normally used to house Palestinian rebels.

Scotland Yard confirmed Mr Vanunu left a London hotel on 30 September in unexplained circumstances.

On 5 October an article appeared in The Sunday Times newspaper based on an interview with Mr Vanunu in which he gave details of Israel's nuclear weapons stockpile, with photographs of the research plant at Dimona in the Negev desert.

Mr Vanunu, who was born in Morocco, moved to Israel with his family in 1963 and spent almost 10 years working at the Dimona plant.

He came to the attention of the Israeli authorities for his affiliation to a group called Movement for the Advancement of Peace and his alleged sympathies for the Palestinians.

He was sacked from Dimona and set off round the world, arriving in Sydney, Australia, where he was befriended by Rev McKnight and converted to Christianity.

Mr McKnight said his friend had spoken to him of his fears he would be captured and returned to Israel after his newspaper interview.

He said: "My sources in the media in Israel tell me that he is being held probably for trial for treason for disclosing nuclear arms' secrets."

Mr McKnight also rejected suggestions Mr Vanunu was a Palestinian sympathiser, saying: "He was at the crossroads of his life and started becoming involved with peace groups and was concerned about nuclear weapons and Israeli policies."

"He did what he did for his own reasons, because he felt he had to give details about Israel's nuclear arsenal."

The vicar said he would remain in Britain until he had discovered the whereabouts of his friend.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It was later confirmed Mordechai Vanunu had been befriended in London by an American Mossad agent, Cheryl Bentov, who was masquerading as an American tourist.

She lured him to Rome with her on holiday on 30 September. Once there he was kidnapped and drugged and returned to Israel on a freighter.

The details were revealed by Mr Vanunu himself, who wrote them on the palm of his hand which he held up against the window of a van while being transported from prison so waiting journalists could get the information.

The Sunday Times article based on an interview with Mr Vanunu contained the most substantive evidence at the time of Israel's nuclear weapons programme. It led the international community to revise sharply upwards the number of weapons it believed Israel held in its stockpile.

Mr Vanunu was subsequently put on trial in March 1987 on charges of treason and espionage and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Eleven of those were spent in solitary confinement.

He was freed on 21 April 2004 and has since been refused permission to leave Israel.

Vanunu has been characterized internationally as a whistleblower and by Israel as a traitor. Daniel Ellsberg has referred to him as "the preminent hero of the nuclear era".

YOUR STARS

♈ Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Avoid the temptation to dive too deeply into the details of today's big mess — you can handle it by looking at the big picture instead. If someone throws data at you, just toss it aside.

♊ Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You are at the center of the whirlwind today — what's not to love? Your energy is just right for multitasking and delegating, so you ought to be able to fix up everyone in need of attention.

♌ Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You impress someone with your wit, charm or some other refined quality — and it could get you far on a day like today! It's a good time for you to check in with those who matter most to see if you can help out.

♎ Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You know perfectly well that there's more than one of you tucked away in there — but on a day like today, it's a mixed blessing! While your varied perspectives are great, it's hard to make up your mind.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You can't just stand still while everyone around you blathers on without taking action. It's time to step up and demand an answer — otherwise, you may find that you're still here an hour later.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You need to step up your romantic game — things are just getting interesting! Make sure that you're paying close attention to the people around you, especially the ones who are possible mates.

♉ Taurus April 20-May 20
Try to talk things over with your sweetie or family today — you are more in touch with your emotions, and it's easier than usual to initiate such difficult discussions. It should work out great!

♋ Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You can't cope with all the distractions that surround you — it may be time for you to get out and just work on your own for a while. Your mood is sure to improve, and things should get back to normal soon.

♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your mental energy is incredibly powerful right now — so much so that you might actually find a quick answer to a really difficult question posed by a boss or teacher. Impress them!

♏ Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You need to take a little extra care today — things may not go your way if you're not paying attention! That is doubly true at work or if you're searching for a new job, so keep those eyes open!

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You've got to settle down and decide on what has to go — there's too much stuff, too many people or maybe even too many thoughts crowding your mental space. Trim the fat and move on.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Don't let anyone pin you down on any specific plans today — you need more time to make up your mind and get all the info. Sweetly let them know that it will just be another day or two.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	19	cloudy/drizzle
Harbin	0	11	clear
Tianjin	15	21	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	2	12	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	14	18	drizzle
Lhasa	8	21	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	18	23	drizzle
Chongqing	20	30	clear/cloudy
Kunming	13	24	cloudy
Nanjing	20	24	cloudy
Shanghai	22	26	cloudy/drizzle
Wuhan	19	28	clear/cloudy
Hangzhou	22	26	overcast/shower
Taipei	25	29	drizzle/moderate rain
Guangzhou	25	33	clear
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	7	10	drizzle
Frankfurt	7	14	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	8	17	clear/cloudy
London	10	15	clear/cloudy
New York	11	19	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Flawless; 6- Teases; 11- I get it!; 14- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 15- Eye-related; 16- Kan. neighbor; 17- Early computer; 18- Imitative; 19- Type of shirt; 20- Chuck; 22- Elude; 24- Strategic withdrawal; 28- Most strange; 30- Like a small garage; 31- Air pollution; 32- Let's Make ___; 33- Not yet crowned; 37- Sky light; 38- Staggering; 39- Not 'neath; 40- Capable of being instructed; 43- Inventor Nikola; 45- Every sixty minutes; 46- Critique; 47- Enlarge; 50- Entrails; 51- 71% is under water; 52- Recipe amt.; 53- East ender?; 54- Hawk's nest: var.; 57- Lazybones; 62- Cinque follower; 63- State Farm rival; 64- Boisterous; 65- A really big shoe?; 66- Fantasy; 67- Stiff bristles;

DOWN: 1- Ox tail?; 2- Bear lair; 3- Quarterback Manning; 4- ___ loss for words; 5- Milky; 6- Brag; 7- Computer programs, for short; 8- Lord, is ___?; 9- ___ the season...; 10- Playful musical movement; 11- Architectural piers; 12- Pays attention to; 13- Red as ___; 21- Paddle; 23- Scene; 24- Way to cook; 25- Provide; 26- "Lovegirl" singer ___ Marie; 27- Color TV pioneer; 28- Host; 29- Countess's husband; 31- Fishhook line; 33- Living in a city; 34- Polite turnaround; 35- Caught congers; 36- Sketches; 38- Bern's river; 41- FDR's fireside ___; 42- Short-tempered person; 43- Form of bowling; 44- Sister of Zsa Zsa; 46- "ER" extras; 47- Gaggle members; 48- Street show; 49- Bert's roomie; 50- Steel girder; 52- Ike's ex; 55- ___ darn tootin'; 56- Numbered hwy.; 58- Anonymous John; 59- Illuminated; 60- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 61- Deli bread;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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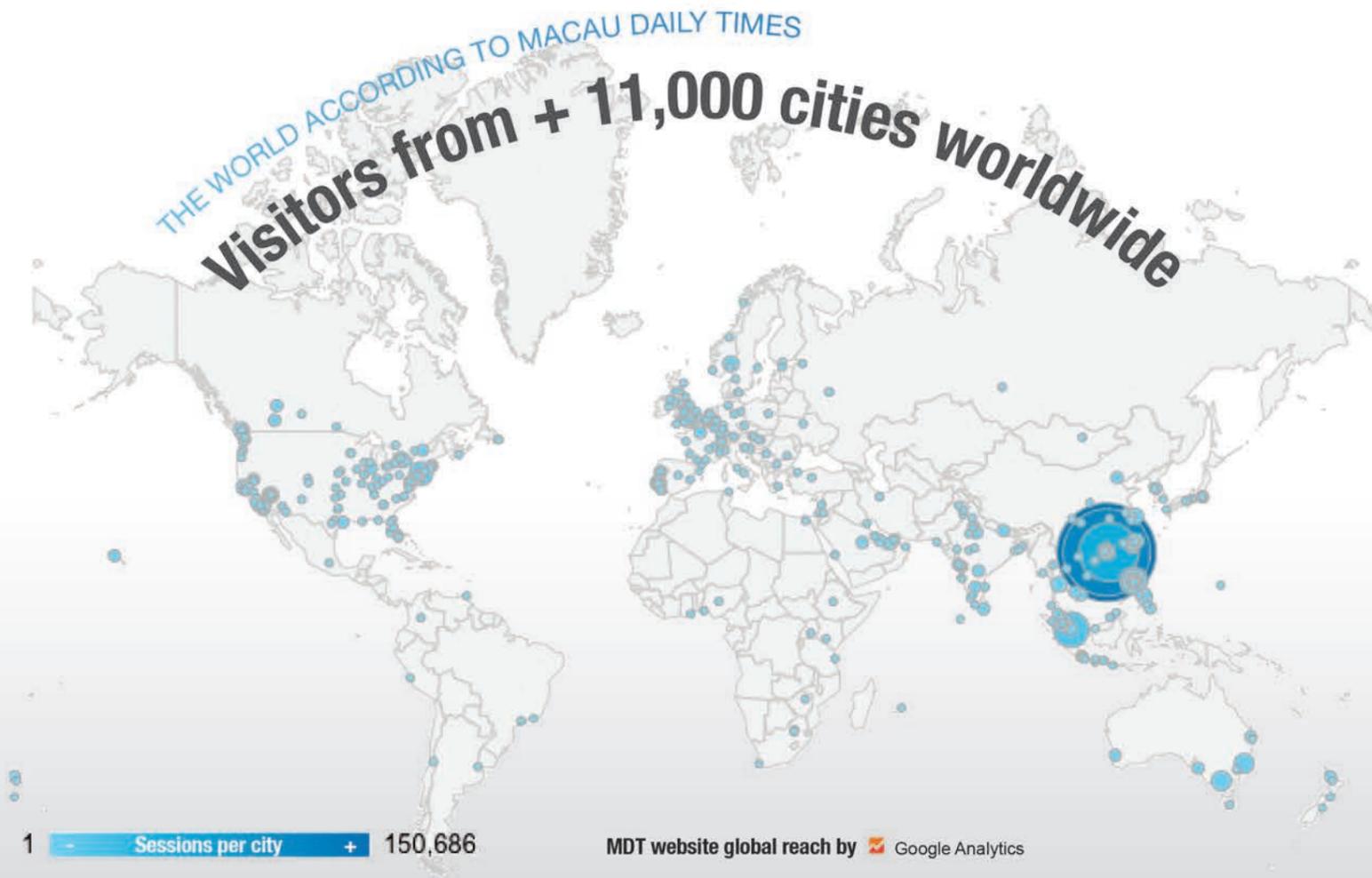
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

THAT SYRIA GROUP

Qatar must stop in-form Son to keep World Cup hopes alive

John Duerden, Seoul

Thursday, 6:35pm
S Korea v Qatar
H 1.36, D 4.95, A 10.5

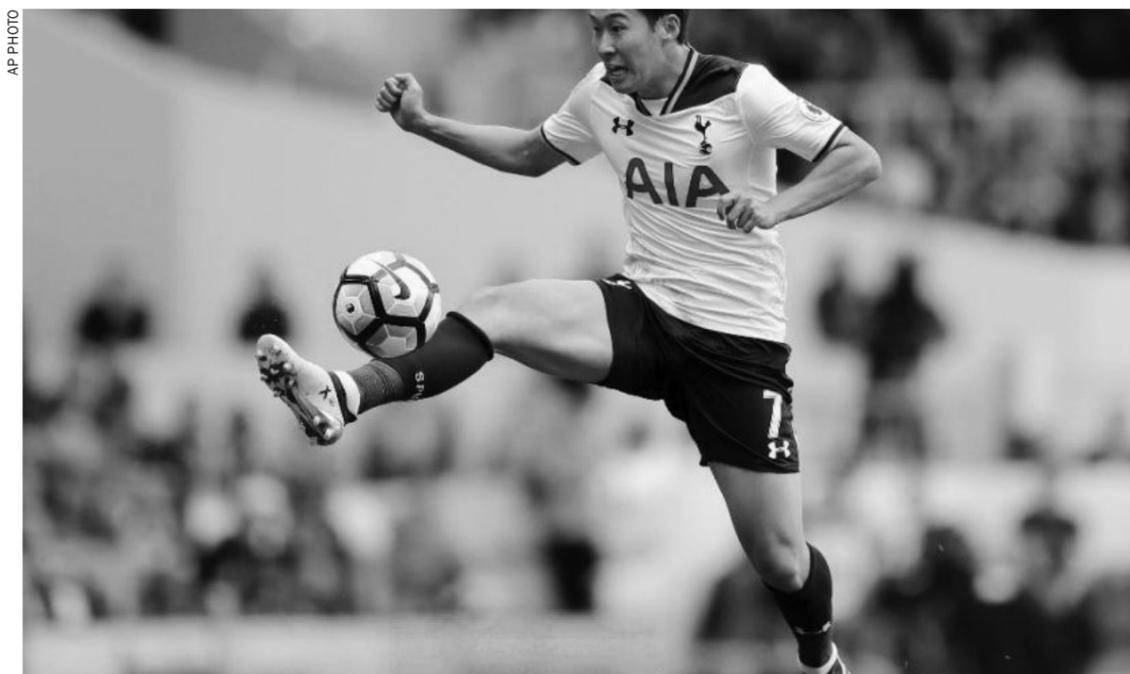
FOR all the focus on the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, there's a much more immediate concern for football supporters in the wealthy gulf nation when it comes to the sport's marquee event.

Having lost its first two games in the final round of the Asian qualification series for the 2018 World Cup, Qatar desperately needs a win over South Korea today to boost its chances of qualifying for Russia. To achieve that, the Qataris must stop Son Heung-min, one of the hottest players in the game at the moment.

Son arrived in Seoul on Monday after scoring five goals so far this season for Tottenham — four in the Premier League and one at CKSA Moscow in the Champions League. The attacker, who has also recorded two assists, has been nominated for the Premier League's official player of the month award for September.

"I feel good," Son said, dismissing local concerns that he may be tired after helping his London team to second spot in the Premier League standings. "I will be fine on the match day. There is no big difference from the last season, but it's true that my fitness is better than the last season."

In Asian qualifying, only the



Tottenham Hotspur's Son Heung-min

countries placing first and second in each of the six-team groups will qualify automatically for Russia 2018. The South Koreans and Qatar are in Group A along with Iran, Uzbekistan, Syria and China.

South Korea, aiming to appear at a ninth successive World Cup, has four points from two games but was disappointed with a 1-1 draw against Syria on Sep. 6. There is pressure to defeat Qatar, particularly with a tough trip to Iran five days later.

"We dropped two points against Syria and we are now thinking only of Qatar," Son said. "People think we should be able to score a lot against the opponents like Qatar at home.

But they are also a good team and it's difficult to win matches like this."

Thursday, 7:35pm
China v Syria
H 1.53, D 4.2, A 7.5

Another defeat would leave Qatar, one of the best performing nations in the previous round of Asian qualification and still aiming for a first World Cup appearance, stranded at the bottom of the group.

After losses to Iran and Uzbekistan, the Qatar federation fired Jose Daniel Carrero and appointed his fellow Uruguayan Jorge Fossati for his se-

cond spell in charge. The pressure is immediately on Fossati.

China is also aiming for a first win in this stage, with just one point from two games ahead of its home match against Syria in Xi'an. Group leader Uzbekistan has a perfect record with six points and hosts Iran in Tashkent.

Iran coach Carlos Queiroz wants his team to set a new benchmark in this campaign.

"History shows that despite boasting great players, coaches and presidents, Iran has never qualified for the World Cup finals twice in a row," said Queiroz, a well-traveled coach who guided Iran to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. "My job, my goal, my mission and my dream is to

make this happen."

The top two teams from Group B meet when Saudi Arabia hosts Australia in Jeddah. Both teams have six points from the opening two games. The Socceros are back in west Asia after an impressive 1-0 win in United Arab Emirates in the previous round of games and determined to qualify for a fourth consecutive World Cup.

"We won't take a backward step," Australia coach Ange Postecoglou said. "It's another game that if we can perform well and win, two wins from two away games — we know how hard that is to do in qualifying — it'll put us a long way toward qualifying."

The Saudis appeared in four consecutive World Cups from 1994 to 2006 and turned to former Netherlands boss Bert Van Marwijk to help them qualify for 2018. The team has struggled to two wins, defeating Thailand 1-0 and Iraq 2-1, courtesy of late penalties.

"I think they're going to be pretty desperate," Postecoglou predicted. "I expect them to defend and try to at least get a point out of it because if they do they're in great shape for the games ahead."

Japan hosts Iraq and is aiming to close the gap on the top two in the group. The Samurai Blue recovered from an opening game defeat at home to the UAE by beating Thailand 2-0 in Bangkok. Thailand now travels to Abu Dhabi to meet the UAE.

Japan's biggest stars such as Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa have spent much of the season so far on the bench with respective teams AC Milan and Borussia Dortmund.

"We have two games coming up and I want to show what I can do," Kagawa said. "There is a strong perception that not playing regularly is negative, so we have to prove ourselves in the game." AP / Oddschecker.com

TENNIS

Murray sets up China Open quarterfinal vs British teammate

TOP-SEEDED Andy Murray dispatched Andrey Kuznetsov 6-2, 6-1 yesterday to set up China Open quarterfinal against his British Davis Cup teammate Kyle Edmund.

Both are playing their first tournaments since Britain's loss to Argentina in the Davis Cup semifinals last month.

Murray is hoping with a strong run in China to close the gap on No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic, who withdrew from the tournament.

He struggled initially against Kuznetsov, dropping two early service games as the players tra-

ded breaks, but went on a dominant run after the fifth game.

Edmund, a qualifier, upset seventh-seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Fifth-seeded David Ferrer advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Fabio Fognini and will next play Alexander Zverev, who beat Jack Sock 6-4, 6-2. Ferrer is still chasing his first title of the season. The Spaniard has won at least one ATP title in all but one year since 2006.

Grigor Dimitrov held off Steve Johnson 7-5, 6-7 (9), 6-4 and No. 8-seeded Richard Gasquet

beat Sam Querrey 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in first-round matches.

In the women's second round, top-ranked Angelique Kerber had a 6-3, 7-6 (4) win over Barbora Strycova, U.S. Open runner-up Karolina Pliskova rallied for a tough 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7) win over 19-year-old Daria Kasatkina, Johanna Konta wrapped up a rain-delayed 7-5, 6-2 win over Tímea Babos, and Daria Gavrilova ousted 12th-seeded Tímea Bacsinszky 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Kerber, who twice failed to serve out the match in a tight finish against Strycova, will next play Elina Svitolina for a place in the



Andy Murray

quarterfinals.

Svitolina beat Sabine Lisicki 6-4, 6-4, and Caroline Garcia fended off Peng Shuai 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (4), ending a tournament for the Chinese wild card that started with an upset first-round win over Venus Williams. AP

RUGBY

Argentina bids to host World Cup in 2027

Argentina, the only Latin American country that can compete with the top rugby nations, has launched a bid to host the Rugby World Cup in 2027. The office of Argentine President Mauricio Macri issued a statement yesterday saying he had announced the bid to World Rugby executives, who were in Buenos Aires for the Pumas' Rugby Championship match against New Zealand on Saturday. Argentina lost to the All Blacks, 36-17. Argentina is the first country to launch a bid to host the 11th edition of the tournament. Japan will stage the event in 2019, while the 2023 edition has yet to be assigned.

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



CLIMB HIGH ON DOUBLE YANG

Two things that usually come to mind when it comes to Chung Yeung Festival 重陽節 are ancestor-worship and mountain climbing. However, Chung Yeung Festival was not started as a day for ancestor-worship like Ching Meng Festival. In the past, it was mainly mountain climbing; the visiting to ancestors' grave was added because most graves were built on the mountain. So, paying respect to ancestors without climbing up the mountain is not the Chung Yeung way.

Then how did the mountain climbing practice begin? Like any other festival, there is always a story behind it. During the time of the East Han dynasty, a man named Huan Jing was learning the way of Taoism with an immortal, or some said it was a soothsayer, or a Taoist monk. Anyway, the teacher warned Huan Jing that there would be a catastrophic plague in his village and he should escape into the mountain carrying with him "zhuyu" (cornelian cherry) and drink chrysanthemum wine; both were believed to have a cleansing effect against diseases.

Huan Jing did what he was told and took his whole family up a mountain. When they came back the next day, all their animals were dead. He knew that they avoided the plague because they had gone high up, and also the "zhuyu" they were carrying and chrysanthemum wine they drank repelled pestilence. Since then, every year on the ninth day of the ninth lunar month, people carried a small arm bag of "zhuyu", drank chrysanthemum wine and climbed the mountain to commemorate that day.

The practice has been carried on for centuries, even though many of us have forgotten how it began. As a result, other practices were added to make the tradition of mountain climbing more meaningful.

Chung Yeung 重陽 literally means Double Yang. The Chinese believe in the idea of Ying and Yang, and they believe that the number nine is Yang. So the ninth day of the ninth month, being a Double Yang day, is auspicious. Since the Tang Dynasty, the Double Yang Festival has comprised of more than mountain climbing and drinking chrysanthemum wine to commemorate a near death experience.

The number nine is also used to refer to longevity in the Chinese culture. So, being a double nine day, the drinking of chrysanthemum wine has become a ritual, not just for its disease repelling qualities, but for encouraging long lives. In the royal houses from the Tang Dynasty, they appreciated chrysanthemum and cornelian cherry on the Double Nine day for their symbolism of longevity.

In modern days, even the mountain climbing has been replaced. The words in Chinese to refer to the mountain climbing practice 登高 (deng gao) means to ascend to a high place. So, instead of climbing mountains, we have taken the words literally, which means we go somewhere high. So if you live in a high rise building, climbing the stairs home should do. Being where we are, Macao Tower should be the best spot to climb up. But why do we need to climb to a high place nowadays?

One belief that is closer to the original is that we climb high on that day to avoid plagues or any other forms of bad luck. Another belief comes from the saying 步步高升 (getting higher with each step) implying career advancement. For the latter, you also need to eat Chung Yeung cakes, as 'cake' has the same pronunciation as 'high' in Chinese. By climbing high and eating 'high' you will be promoted.

So, this coming Monday, be sure to take yourself somewhere high, drink chrysanthemum wine for longevity and eat cake for career advancement, while avoiding diseases and enjoying good luck.

THE GOOGLE SCRAPES 100,00-EURO BILL RUN UP BY SPANISH KID

Google has written off a 100,000-euro (USD112,000) bill run up by a 12-year-old Spanish boy who mistakenly believed he was earning money through an advertising account he opened with the internet giant to promote videos of his municipal band.

News reports said the boy from the eastern city of Torrevieja ran up the Google AdWords bill over two months. His mother, Inma Que-

sada, told the El Pais newspaper that her son, Jose Javier, said he wanted to become a "rich youtuber" but did not realize what he was doing.

The story came to light when the bank notified his parents that Google was looking to charge the amount to the boy's account.

Google confirmed yesterday that it studied the case and had canceled the bill.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Moderate
Ambient	75-105 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

SECURITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUS VOTE

Portugal's António Guterres next United Nations chief



Edith M. Lederer, United Nations

THE Security Council unanimously agreed early today that Portugal's former prime minister Antonio Guterres should be the next secretary-general of the United Nations.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin made the announcement to reporters surrounded by the 14 other council ambassadors after they held a sixth informal poll of the 10 candidates behind closed doors.

Churkin announced that the council would hold a formal vote to recommend Guterres to the 193-member

General Assembly, which must approve a successor to Ban Ki-moon whose second five-year term ends on Dec. 31.

By tradition, the job of secretary-general has rotated among regions. Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe have all held the post. East European nations, including Russia, argue that they have never had a secretary-general and it was their turn. There has also never been a woman secretary-general and more than 50 nations and many others campaigned to elect the first female U.N. chief.

But Guterres, who served as the U.N.'s high commis-

sioner for refugees until December, topped all six polls despite being a man from Western Europe.

For the first time this year, the General Assembly's members held two-hour question-and-answer sessions with all 13 candidates who entered the race, and in the eyes of many diplomats Guterres performed best.

In the fifth "straw" poll, however, he still received two "discourage" votes and there was a lot of speculation about whether Russia, which is a member of the East European group, would vote for him.

The sixth informal poll was the first to use colored ballots to distinguish the votes of the five veto-wielding Security Council members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. Diplomats said in the vote that Guterres received 13 "encourage" votes, no "discourage" votes, and two "no opinion."

Churkin paid tribute to all 13 candidates who entered the race before announcing the Security Council's support for Guterres. Three dropped out before yesterday's vote, leaving five men and five women in the race. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

UNITED NATIONS The United Nations' highest court rules that it does not have jurisdiction to take on cases brought by the tiny South Pacific nation of the Marshall Islands that sought to urge Britain, India and Pakistan to resume negotiations to eradicate the world's stockpile of nuclear weapons.



JAPAN Authorities investigate the poisoning deaths of two elderly patients at a Yokohama hospital specializing in terminal-stage care.

BANGLADESH A court in Bangladesh clears a Canadian university student of all allegations related to a restaurant siege three months ago in which 20 hostages were killed. More on p12

CAMBODIA Acting opposition leader briefly leaves the party headquarters where he took refuge from arrest four months ago and is able to register to vote in next year's elections without incident.

CHINA The death toll from two landslides last week in southeastern China following a major typhoon rises to 16, with another 17 still considered missing, even though it's been more than a week since strong rapids carrying rocks and debris swept through the village and destroyed 20 homes.

AUSTRALIA An Australian bank chief executive tells a parliamentary committee that traders implicated in market manipulation allegations had been suspended then reinstated without those accusations being judged by a court.

FRANCE The hackers who knocked a French television station offline last year are still regularly trying to break in to French government computers. The latest attack briefly interrupted 11 channels belonging to TV5 Monde and packed its social media sites with propaganda for the Islamic State group.

USA A federal government contractor has been accused of stealing highly classified information. The Justice Department announced a criminal complaint against Harold Thomas Martin III of Glen Burnie, Maryland. The Justice Department said in Boston that the arrest pointed to the threat posed by insiders.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia



50 years' chat. Pope Francis, left, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, arrive for vespers prayers in the church of San Gregorio al Celio, in Rome, celebrating 50 years of Catholic dialogue with the Anglican Church.