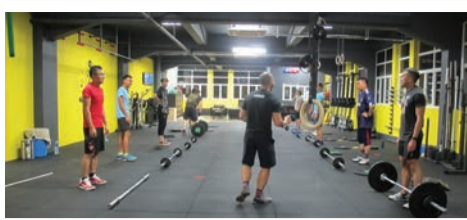




LI KEQIANG CONFIDENT
The Premier of China left to Beijing saying that Macau will play an increasing role in connecting China and the Portuguese-speaking countries

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LOCAL FITNESS INDUSTRY GROWING

P7 MDT REPORT



CASINO LEADERS BACK LAS VEGAS STADIUM PROPOSAL
Steve Wynn and Jim Murren gave speeches to Nevada lawmakers arguing for a proposed NFL stadium and a convention center expansion

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Cooperation Fund to be headquartered in Macau

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WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN Toyota Motor Corp. recalls 340,000 gas-electric hybrid Prius cars around the world, 212,000 of them in Japan and 94,000 in North America, for a defect in their parking brakes. Toyota acknowledged receiving reports of crashes, injuries and deaths. [More on p9](#)

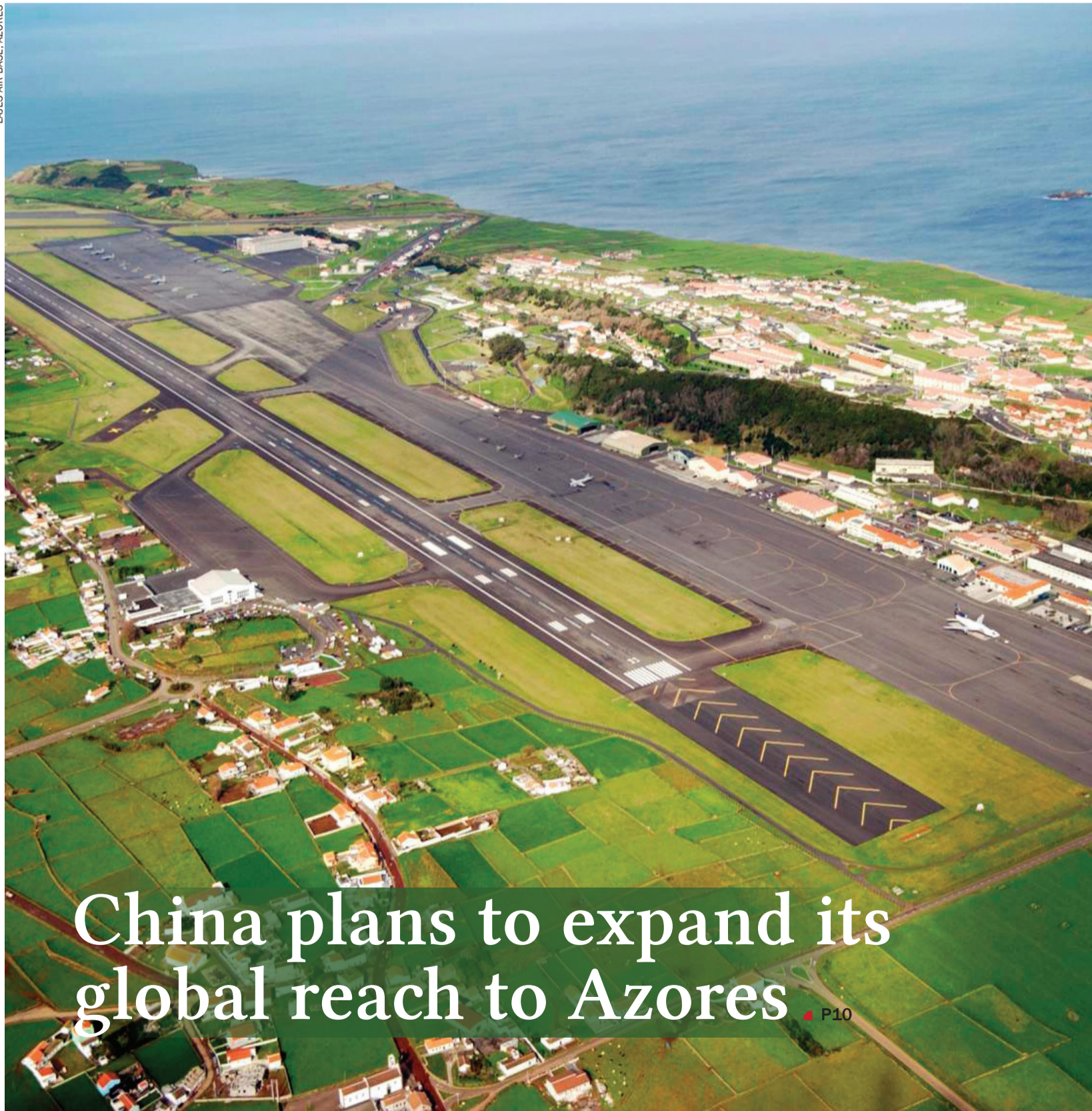


HONG KONG A swearing-in ceremony to kick off the legislative session descends into farce as newly elected pro-democracy lawmakers intentionally mangled their oaths in a show of defiance against Beijing. The new crop of lawmakers, elected last month amid swelling anti-China sentiment, object to the oath's requirement to pledge allegiance to the "Special Administrative Region" and its Basic Law constitution. [More on p11](#)

PHILIPPINES The Philippine president says he has instructed his defense chief not to prepare for joint exercises with the U.S. military next year as he moved to realize his threat to remove the highest-profile symbol of his country's treaty alliance with Washington. [More on p11](#)

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LAJES AIR BASE, AZORES



China plans to expand its global reach to Azores

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Group photo



Jackson Chang

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

New role: A platform for financial cooperation

Renato Marques

THE final event of yesterday's Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for the Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries was an entrepreneur conference focused on financial transactions between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

In the keynote speech during the morning session at the Macau Tower Convention Centre, President of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) Jackson Chang highlighted the new role Macau has to play as a well-known platform.

"In the future, cooperation in financial matters will be an important component of the relationship between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries," Chang said.

The IPIM president also recalled that in the past decade, the territory has developed several services related to transactions in the Chinese Yuan (RMB).

This history led him to remark that "Macau can assume the role of the clearing house for transactions made in RMB be-

Macau can assume the role of the clearing house for transactions made in RMB between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

JACKSON CHANG
IPIM PRESIDENT

tween China and the Portuguese-speaking countries", an idea put forth during the first day of the Forum.

According to Chang, RMB transactions yielded turnover of RMB7.6 billion in 2015, which represented year-on-year growth of 15 percent.

These new financial services enable companies from the Portuguese-speaking countries

to invest in Chinese territory, including Macau, through a Cooperation Fund. In addition, trade is expected to improve due to the creation of the "Three Centers" that will support small- and medium-sized enterprises, food product distribution, and the Exhibition and Convention sector.

Speaking about the agreement that officially launched the China-Portuguese-Speaking Countries' Federation of Entrepreneurs – the signing of which also took place during the morning session – Chang said, "I trust that this initiative will further reinforce the mutual cooperation and exchanges, and bring new business opportunities."

The region's unique status was eloquently expressed in the speech of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Services of Brazil, Marcos Pereira. He highlighted the ease of access to legal consultancy services in both Portuguese and Chinese languages, remarking on the region's capabilities as a "meeting point".

"I have no knowledge of another place in the world where we can petition to the judiciary

authorities in Portuguese or Chinese, like here in Macau," said Pereira adding that "this city represents the intersection between west and east being characterized like a synthesis of values and ideals."

The Brazilian official also remarked that with this new path drawn by the Forum, the previous situation of "misrepresentation [of Brazil] in the international commerce" would be replaced by the current "clear signs that we will actively and decisively search for new markets."

He explained that this change would be accomplished by promoting a significant decrease in regulations and bureaucracy, which are requirements of Brazilian international commerce.

During the session, the Minister of Economy from Portugal, Manuel Caldeira Cabral, recalled the success of several measures implemented by the Portuguese government in the last few years, namely the "gold visas" that grant non-European Union residents a point of access to the country via investment.

He also mentioned the partnerships between the Portuguese electric company (EDP)

and the Chinese company China Three Gorges Corporation, adding that the country will focus on the tourism sector going forward. In June 2017, a new direct air route between Beijing and Lisbon will open, linking Shanghai and Portugal in a development that is expected to influence international commerce.

The Portuguese government reaffirmed its interest in the field of startups and new technologies, with Cabral highlighting the "Web Summit" that will take place at Lisbon this November and in the coming three years.

The minister added that the "global scale event will count approximately 5,000 participants from across the world."

The President of the Portugal's Global Trade Investment Agency (AICEP), Miguel Frasilho, also highlighted Macau's ability to train "quality talent" in its well-known Portuguese universities.

In his speech, Frasilho focused on the need to establish partnerships at different levels, and announced that the new Portuguese Consulate in Guangzhou will have an office from AICEP (like Macau) to provide proximity support to entrepreneurs and potential investors.

Another major moment in the extensive session was the signing of several agreements, specifically the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the official establishment of the China-Portuguese-Speaking Countries Federation of Entrepreneurs.

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MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Development and Cooperation Fund headquarters relocated to Macau

Renato Marques

THE Fund for Development Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries – officially set up in 2013 with USD1 billion in funding – will move its headquarters from Beijing to Macau.

This change was highlighted by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, during yesterday's press conference to evaluate the results of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for the Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries.

Although Leong did not disclose details such as a concrete date for the change of headquarters, he said the new building was "a gift that the central government gave to us."

He added that with the relocation of the headquarters, the central government will expect Ma-

RENATO MARQUES



Lionel Leong

cau to provide improved services to facilitate trade between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

"We are still negotiating, but the talks have been underway for some time now," added Leong, when questioned by the media

on a possible timeline for relocation.

The secretary noted that the relocation means that Macau has been entrusted with a very important role in connecting entrepreneurs with the fund. This contact is currently dependent on a mediator provided by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

"I think this change carries a lot of advantages for Macau and can better reveal the role of Macau as a finance center," said Leong, adding that "this can help us to process all the operations and procedures between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, allowing us to provide better service to the entrepreneurs... [who can learn] about all the formalities and bureaucracies in order to get support from the fund."

Since the establishment of the fund, it has supported only two projects, a situation that Leong thinks will change when the headquarters is brought into

closer proximity with potential users.

The secretary also noted that the Macau platform will have a new role in the financial services sector. The platform will facilitate the conversion and clearance of RMB currency exchanges, and the transactions will be assigned to the Bank of China.

Leong foreshadowed that this might not be the only role in the territory related to the Chinese currency, and that it represented a new path leading to the addition of "other financial services and products in RMB."

According to the MSAR's head of Finance, Macau's new role as a finance center will also open up the possibilities of economic diversification and local employment, promoting the emergence of other sectors.

"With the Finance Center, we can have new emerging sectors of activity like the accounting sector, and finance lease among others connected to the financial

sector," he said.

In response to questions about whether the territory could provide sufficiently qualified labor to face a possible increase in demand within the finance sector, Secretary Leong remarked that the transition would rely on the successful initiation of the next generation.

"We need to have qualified labor, and we must bet on the education and training of youngsters so they have enough knowledge to engage in a career in the finance sector. [This way], we have more qualified labor to work on this financial services platform. That's the way we can reach the final goal and make this sector prosper."

He also stated that training would be implemented in order to accelerate operational processes in the finance sector, which the MSAR government would promote through the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPPTM).

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

THE Premier of China has said that the central government is confident that the outlook for Macau will continue to be bright.

Before leaving Macau, Li Keqiang said yesterday that Macau would play an ever more important role in connecting China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. This would also assist with the diversification of the local economy, he added.

"I am full of hope towards Macau's development and its situation," Li Keqiang told the media before boarding his flight. During his three-day visit to Macau, he felt Macau residents' love of the country and of the SAR itself. He stated that the central government will continue to support Macau in playing a special role in China's reform and in opening up to the world, remarking that Macau has a wider development space.

"The central government will continue its full support of the

LI KEQIANG

'I had meaningful conversations with many Macau residents'



Li pictured before departing to Beijing



Li delivers a speech during a meeting with top officials and members of the Executive Council

Chief Executive and of the SAR government in performing official duties within the law, and

in promoting the cooperation between mainland China and Macau. I believe that Macau's

future, placed in an open environment, will have a wider space. Macau's future will be better."

Li added that he had "visited an average Macau family, and visited Macau's downtown and streets, and visited some enterprises, and the daily life of Macau residents."

"I had meaningful conversations with many Macau residents, businessmen. I deeply felt Macau fellow citizen's attachment to the motherland and to the mainland," he said.

The Premier said that Macau, in the face of the world's slow recovery from the economic crisis, and also from its own industrial structural challenges, still manages to keep fiscal surplus, high employment rates, better livelihood and a peaceful society. He then remarked on

the fact that the "One Country, Two Systems" policy is being successfully implemented in the SAR.

In Li's words, Macau's diversified culture plays an important role as a pillar for the cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

He told the media he has been to Hong Kong twice and hopes to visit again, and that the "One Country, Two Systems" policy will continue to be promoted there.

Li arrived in Macau on Monday for "a three-day inspection tour." While in Macau, the Premier attended the opening ceremony of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and delivered the keynote speech at the event. **JZ**

Lusophone ties to increase with cooperation fund headquarters move

DURING a meeting between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and people from different sectors of the community held at the Macao East Asian Games Dome, Susana Chou – a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference – told Li that there are some difficulties involved in introducing state-owned (PRC-owned) companies to Portuguese-speaking countries. She added that these companies will most likely experience financial difficulties.

Li replied that he had announced that the headquarters of the Fund for Cooperation Between China and the Portuguese-Speaking Countries will be moved from Beijing to Macau.

The fund (with USD1 billion at its disposal) was announced in Macau in 2010 by former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and was established in 2013. Only two projects, with a combined worth of USD125 million, have been approved to date.

Li suggested that Macau could establish blueprints for cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. He added that such plans rely on good conditions and that the Macau government can request support from the central government if necessary.

One of the event's participants pointed out



Susana Chou (center)

that the mainland government should increase its quota for Macau youths entering mainland Chinese universities under the recommendation system. China's current system allows students to enter certain universities without taking exams. The participant also told Li that the central government should give Macau residents access to mainland TV shows.

Another participant asked Li to support all types of mainland enterprises that are considering expansion into Macau, emphasizing that the mainland could leverage Macau's status as an international platform to reach a larger market.

At a meeting with local industry representatives, Li said that cars with Macau registration will be able to enter Hengqin by the end of this year.

REMARKS ON HONG KONG

IN THE last moments before boarding his flight to mainland China, Li Keqiang was asked whether he intended to visit Hong Kong, to which he responded, "I hope to visit Hong Kong again." Li told the media he had visited Hong Kong twice previously, and said that "Hong Kong will continue to push forward the implementation of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy."

IPM launches Joint Machine Translation Laboratory

PORTUGUESE Prime Minister António Costa presided over the opening ceremony of the Joint Machine Translation (MT) Laboratory and the launch of two Portuguese books at Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) Tuesday.

Costa reinforced the message of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's closing speech at the Forum for Economic



and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; emphasizing Macau's status as a bridge between Chinese and Portuguese-speaking regions.

According to an IPM press release, the effectiveness of Portuguese teaching and learning in China is evidenced by the rise in Chinese universities with Portuguese

se programs. Currently, 33 universities offer these programs.

IPM president Lei Heong Iok noted that the establishment of the Joint Laboratory of Chinese/Portuguese/English Machine Translation heralded a new age in translation and that the Polytechnic Institute had set up a benchmark of Sino-Portuguese cooperation in

production, learning and research.

The project is supported by Leiria Polytechnic Institute and University of Coimbra.

Alexis Tam, Secretary of Social and Cultural Affairs, who also presided over the ceremony, stated that the dual launch of the Joint MT Laboratory and the Portuguese textbooks embodied how academic findings and new technology can help facilitate inter-language communication.

IFT Café to organize art exhibitions until it goes private

Julie Zhu

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) Café will organize art exhibitions until the café eventually transitions to private ownership, IFT Public Relations Officer Chu Siu Heng told the Times yesterday.

Chu's statement was made on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the "Believe in Art" exhibition at the Café.

"Every two months before the privatization, there will be a different exhibition featuring different topics," said Chu.

"We are still operating the café. It will take us probably more than six months to prepare for the work," she pointed out, adding that "once the documents are ready, the news will be announced."

Regarding the tender, Chu said that "it's still under discussion." According to her, nothing has been decided in relation to the ongoing tender procedure is still ongoing.



Earlier, the IFT told the Times that the café did not make a profit in its first two months, and added that the IFT did not receive an additional budget from the government for the café, which is part of the recently established Anim'Arte Nam Van facility.

"However, as a training and practicum venue, the IFT needs to station some training staff in the café to coach the students on their performance of the practicum. Therefore, the staffing costs are higher than at other food and beverage outlets."

The exhibition, which opened

yesterday, presents 17 art pieces from seven teachers and ten students from the School of Arts in Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI).

The theme of the exhibition is "Believe in Art". The word "believe" can be interpreted two ways, the first being that the art reflects the beliefs, concepts and ideologies of the artists. The exhibition can also be seen as a showcase of the institute's achievements and its devotion to the development of local art.

The exhibition will be on display at the café until December 5.

ENVIRONMENT

558 trees listed as protected plants

THE government recently added 558 of the region's existing tree species to an old tree and wood protection list. The notice was signed by the Chief Executive and published in the Official Gazette.

The species added to the list are the first to be categorized as old trees of recognized value. According to Leong Kun Fong, a member of the Civic and Municipal Bureau (IACM), almost all trees now protected are more than 100 years old. 300 of the trees are located in the Macau Peninsula region, while the rest are spread all over Taipa and Coloane. 12 trees are located in Ká Hó.

The IACM member said that in future, protected trees may be planted in reclaimed areas so they can grow in optimal environ-



mental conditions.

Leong also stated that 125 out of 170 unlisted trees in the Macau Peninsula are over 100 years old. He said the protection list could be used as a reference point in future urban development projects, and that private real estate projects will pay attention to the trees. The IACM member is proud of the fact that Macau has such a wide range of valuable trees in such a small space. This year, two cases concerning the damage of old trees have been recorded. **JZ**

SURVEY

Residents' confidence in economy improves

THE Macau University of Science and Technology's consumer index indicates that Macau consumers' confidence increased in the third quarter of the year. It also shows that confidence in the local economy and employment has plateaued.

Confidence in Macau's economy registered an increase of 14.23 percent. Up to 1,005 local residents aged over 18 who were surveyed between September 13 and 24 said their confidence in the economy was increasing.

The survey assessed residents' confidence in the economic outlook, based on multiple aspects across eight categories and measured on a scale from 0 to 200.

The index for general confidence stands at 85.67, a 3.11 percent increase from the previous quarter.

The survey concluded that consumers have transitioned from being relatively pessimistic to cautiously optimistic, starting from late 2009 to this quarter.

Only two categories indicated a marked decrease: cost of living and apartment purchases. The former recorded a 0.9-percent decrease quarter-on-quarter, indicating slight apprehension among consumers. The latter, apartment purchases, remains the lowest index and highlights a more negative consumer sentiment, with a decrease of 13.23 percent this quarter.

The survey concluded that potential factors for driving up consumer confidence include economic diversification, strengthened regional cooperation, balanced supply and demand on the property market, and lower inflation. **JZ**

COOPERATION

CE to attend Pan-PRD meeting in Nanchang

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On leaves today for Nanchang Prefecture, Jiangxi Province to attend the 2016 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Chief Executive Joint Conference.

He is accompanied by a government delegation that includes Lionel Leong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

While in Nanchang, the Chief Executive will meet provincial and prefectural leaders from the region. Sonia Chan,

the Secretary for Administration and Justice, will be the Acting Chief Executive in Chui's absence.

The Joint Conference is a platform for regional cooperation between the nine provinces and two special administrative regions (SARs) located in the Greater Pearl River Delta (PPRD): Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR.

corporate bits

CTM ANNOUNCES NOTE 7 EXCHANGE PROCEDURE



CTM yesterday announced its exchange procedure for the Samsung Galaxy Note 7. From now until December 31, consumers who purchased the phone from CTM can approach any

of the telecommunications provider's branches to apply for a handset exchange.

If the replacement handset is more expensive, the customer will need to pay the balance.

For cheaper handsets, the customer will be given a refund of the difference.

CTM said that consumers would only have to present the handset, its original accessories and the receipt upon exchanging.

The operating hours of CTM branches will be temporarily adjusted to facilitate the exchange. Until tomorrow, six CTM outlets will be open until 9 p.m.

For safety reasons, CTM strongly recommends that consumers exchange their handsets as soon as possible.

CTM has sold around a thousand Samsung Galaxy Note 7 handsets. It remains in close communication with Samsung HK to make any appropriate arrangements.

TOYOTA RECALLS 340,000 PRIUS HYBRID CARS FOR FAULTY BRAKES



Toyota Motor Corporation issued a global recall of 340,000 gas-electric hybrid Prius cars

yesterday (212,000 in Japan and 94,000 in North America) due to defective parking brakes.

Toyota acknowledged the fault after receiving reports of crashes, injuries and deaths. The Japanese automaker refused to provide details, saying it was still looking into the reports.

Toyota said the hybrid car's parking brake cable can disengage unexpectedly, causing the brakes to stop functioning. A car left in any gear other than park could roll down a slope, potentially causing a crash.

Toyota said 17,000 Prius vehicles had been recalled in Europe, and the rest in Australia and other regions. The faulty models were manufactured between August 2015 and October 2016.

The company said all the vehicles were manufactured at its Tsutsumi plant in Toyota City, Japan, the company's headquarters and one of a handful of plants worldwide that make the Prius.

Macau fitness industry growing, entrepreneurs say



CrossFit



Macao Fitness

Lynzy Valles

As more Macau residents shift to a healthier lifestyle, specialized fitness studios are increasingly popping up to cater to specific types of exercise.

Although traditional gyms with treadmills and weights are still widely used in the region, some residents opt to train in specialized gyms where trainers coach exercise classes such as CrossFit, spinning and trampoline.

These independent studios tend

to set their memberships at a higher price point compared to traditional gyms.

The new fitness trend offers membership that allows access to the studios' community and healthy living experts.

The Times visited a CrossFit box where loud music was pumping and the coaches and members were engaged in high-energy activities.

Clients can attend CrossFit classes just by booking through online app Wodify. The app also allows clients to input their nutrition in-

take for the coach's supervision.

Despite a clear increase in the number of residents who are keen on a healthy lifestyle, head coach and co-owner of CrossFit XVI and Crossfit Cotai, Antonio Barrias told the Times that the local fitness industry still lacks 'knowledge and quality.'

Barrias said that despite the massive growth in the range of fitness styles on the market, most residents are still trying to find a niche in the industry.

Echoing the same sentiments, Norika Chiu, managing director

“The more the fitness industry grows in Macau, the more educated people will become.”

ANTONIO BARRIAS

of Macao Fitness, also told the Times that the industry is growing, as there is a demand for the Macau residents to "look healthy."

Although Macao Fitness is closer to the 'traditional' gym setting, Chiu mentioned that the firm has added specialized classes such as spinning and body designing workouts, as residents are keener on specific classes.

Barrias noted that there are still differences between local and

Western clients, revealing that Asians tend to be frightened of weights.

According to him, residents are also becoming more health-conscious, which has resulted in several stores that offer healthy food alternatives. He described the expansion of the health-conscious consumer market as a "huge step in the right direction."

He also noted that clients nowadays search for quality training rather than just cardio exercises.

"The more the fitness industry grows in Macau, the more educated people will become [in terms of healthy food intake] and I think the market will self-regulate its quality. And that's the only way we can make sure we can grow in the right path," Barrias said.

A recent South China Morning Post report stated that Macau's fitness scene is "catching up with the West and Hong Kong."

"Macau has a lot of transient residents, and with the weather being so hot in the summer, the demands and popularity [of] training does change over the year," Corinne Mackay, Inception Health and Fitness founder and trainer, told the Hong Kong newspaper.

Chiu takes a similar stance, emphasizing the variety of classes offered at Macao Fitness, which align with the changing needs of individual fitness regimes.

AD



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Michelle Rindels, Carson City

Casino industry leaders back Las Vegas stadium proposal

HEAVY hitters in Nevada's casino industry are going to bat for a project backed by one of their competitors, saying a proposed NFL stadium and a convention center expansion in Las Vegas are game-changing opportunities that Nevada lawmakers shouldn't pass up.

Steve Wynn of Wynn Resorts, MGM Resorts International CEO Jim Murren and Caesars Entertainment Executive Vice President Jan Jones Blackhurst gave speeches this week to Nevada lawmakers who are meeting in a special session to vet public financing for a stadium that's backed by Las Vegas Sands casino mogul Sheldon Adelson. The venue could house the Raiders.

"This is an absolute dead-bang, winning opportunity, and I hope you will find it in your wisdom to approve it shortly," Wynn told lawmakers, saying professional sports would be a cornerstone to the stability of Nevada tourism. "I personally believe that if we lose this opportunity, it will be one of the most heartbreaking mistakes we've ever made."

Blackhurst, the former mayor of Las Vegas, said the projects will take the tourism mecca to the next level.

"We've been offered a gift here," she said. "We've been offered a gift that takes us from 45 million visitors, to 55, to 65 million visitors."

Murren fought back against the idea that his company, the largest employer in the state and a major player in the convention industry, would be threatened by the improvements.

"You might come to the conclusion that MGM would be opposed to both of the projects before you. In fact, the exact opposite is true," he said. "We know the entire community benefits when our convention center is full."

The testimonials are likely

AP PHOTO



A vacant lot that is the site of a proposed football stadium sits near McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas

to add credibility and political cover to the stadium proposal, which has attracted criticism from the powerful Culinary Union and some progressive and faith-based groups who say any tax increases should first go to Nevada's bottom-ranking public school system.

Sheldon Adelson, one of the richest men in the world, wants to put USD650 million of his own money toward a \$1.9 billion venue and is asking for \$750 million in public hotel tax revenue.

Legislative leaders say there's still work to do to round up the votes needed to approve

the deal. Some lawmakers say they're fundamentally opposed to it.

"Regardless of what is said here, my mind is already made up," said Democratic state Sen. Ruben Kihuen, a vocal opponent of the financing plan who is also running in a competitive race for a U.S. House seat. "Regardless of how you put it it's still a \$750 million taxpayer handout."

President George Markantonis of The Venetian casino, which is part of the Sands company, defended the public-private partnership arrangement because it will benefit both pu-

blic and private sectors and be run by a public board.

"Let's keep in mind the Adelson family is making this very significant and immensely generous investment into a stadium they won't own for a team they don't own," he said.

Lawmakers have been vetting the particulars of the arrangement, which some outside economists say is a bad deal based on overly optimistic predictions about how many new events and tourists the proposed domed stadium would attract.

Steve Hill of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development said the projec-

tions passed scrutiny from Las Vegas casino executives, who are more familiar with the city's tourism landscape than outside economists and are some of the business world's brightest minds.

Two-thirds of each Republi-

■ **Steve Wynn and Jim Murren gave speeches this week to Nevada lawmakers who are meeting in a special session to vet public financing for the stadium**

can-controlled chamber of the legislature must approve any tax increase. The proposed deal would increase the hotel tax on the Las Vegas Strip by 0.88 percentage points for the stadium and 0.5 percentage points for the convention center. Tourists pay a 12 percent hotel room tax. They would pay about \$1.50 more per night on the average nightly Strip hotel bill if both proposals pass.

NFL owners would have to vote by a three-fourths majority to allow the Raiders to move from Oakland to Las Vegas. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has said he prefers to keep the team in the Bay Area, while the team's owner, Mark Davis, said he's serious about moving the team. **MDT/AP**

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Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa

Portugal open to China investment in Azores as US sway wanes

PORTUGAL is welcoming non-military Chinese engagement in the Azores to help develop the logistical and research potential of the mid-Atlantic island chain.

The growing Chinese influence on the archipelago is worrying Washington as the U.S. reduces its military presence at the Lajes Field air base on the island of Terceira. A series of senior Chinese officials - including President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang - have used the island

as a stop-over on trips to Latin America, as China seeks to expand its footprint overseas and safeguard economic interests.

In a Bloomberg Television interview in Macau this week, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa said that while his nation - a NATO member - would continue to honor its defense pact with the U.S., he also wants to see better use of the Azores. The islands are "very important both logistically in the Atlantic Ocean but

also in terms of technology and research, in the field of climate change and deep water research," he said.

"The military use of the American base at this moment is not on the table, what is on the table is for EU institutes, American institutes and Chinese institutes to reuse infrastructure for scientific research purposes," said Costa, 55. "It'd be a huge waste not to use that infrastructure. We need to reuse that infrastructure, and if you are not

going to use it for the military purpose, why not scientific research?"

Lajes Field - located 2,290 miles (3,690 kilometers) east of New York and about 1,000 miles west of Lisbon - had served as a key link between the U.S. and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Middle East. During the Cold War, the base played a crucial role in tracking Soviet guided missiles and ballistic missile submarines in the region. It also supported U.S. airlift missions to Israel in the 1970s.

The U.S. planned to cut its military presence at Lajes to under 170 active duty personnel after the global economic crisis, in a move that is hurting the local economy. The down-scaling is also seen by Pentagon hawks as strategically precarious.

In a Sept. 20 letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Devin Nunes, the Republican chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, sounded a warning on China's ambitions in the mid-Atlantic.

"China has spread its influence through similar infrastructure investments in Djibouti, Sri Lanka, and elsewhere around the globe," Nunes wrote. "It is now using the same tactics to establish a foothold in the Azores which, if successful, will be used for a logistics and intelligence hub that could ultimately be expanded for other military purposes, adjacent to critical U.S. military facilities."

China has dramatically expanded its global reach in recent years as it seeks energy supplies and raw materials to fuel economic growth. Chinese

businesses eager to diversify their export markets have also fanned out looking for new customers in places like Africa, Latin American and the Middle East.

Terceira, the island that hosts the Lajes base, appears to be part of that strategy. Premier Li made a two-day "technical stop" there on his return from Cuba two weeks ago, and President Xi stopped there in July 2014 on the way back from a trip to South America. In June, China's top maritime official, State Oceanic Administration chief Wang Hong, visited the Azores.

Neither Beijing nor Lisbon has elaborated on the apparent Chinese interest in the island.

After meeting Barack Obama during a NATO Summit in Warsaw in July, Costa said he handed the U.S. president a summary of work done toward turning the Azores into a research platform. The Portuguese government is also working to establish an international science research center on the island chain.

In the interview, Costa said of the Azores: "We're open to cooperation with all partners, including China, to work in deep-water technology and research," especially in the fields of paleontology and volcanology.

While U.S. influence there dwindles, China has invested heavily in Portugal. The Western European nation has become China's fifth-biggest investment destination in Europe, and, according to official figures, total Chinese investment reached more than \$7 billion by the end of last year.

Costa said that his country feels very comfortable with the "positive" Chinese investment, and would like to strengthen the partnership.

"Portugal has opportunities and China has the investment capacity, together they can do more than they can do separately, both in Europe and in the Portuguese-speaking world," Costa said. "China knows us, and has known us for many centuries, and they know we're a loyal and trustworthy partner." **Bloomberg**

“The military use of the American base at this moment is not on the table.”

ANTONIO COSTA

Beijing protests UN official's attending ceremony for scholar

CHINA is protesting the attendance of the U.N. human rights chief at a ceremony honoring an imprisoned Chinese scholar and rights activist.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday that Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini had "confused right and

wrong" and "blatantly supported terrorists."

That reflects China's contention that Ilham Tohti had been part of a criminal gang that sought to split the western region of Xinjiang from China.

Tohti was sentenced in 2014 to life in prison on separatism charges.

A member of the Turkic

Muslim Uighur ethnic group, he was a critic of the government's ethnic policies in the far western region of Xinjiang.

On Tuesday, he was given the Martin Ennals Award bestowed by 10 rights groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch at a ceremony in Geneva. **AP**



Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Pro-democracy lawmakers defy Beijing in oath taking

A swearing-in ceremony to kick off Hong Kong's legislative session descended into farce yesterday as newly elected pro-democracy lawmakers intentionally mangled their oaths in a show of defiance against Beijing.

The new crop of lawmakers, elected last month amid swelling anti-China sentiment, objected to the oath's requirement to pledge allegiance to the "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China" and its Basic Law constitution.

So they came up with creative ways to get around it.

Sixtus Leung, 30, of the radical Youngspiration party draped a blue flag with the words "Hong Kong is not China" over his shoulders. His colleague Yau Wai-ching laid the same flag out in front of her.

They both vowed to defend the "Hong Kong nation" before reciting the oath in English but mispronouncing China as Shina, an old-fashioned derogatory Japanese term for the country.

Leung clutched a Bible in his right hand but also crossed his fingers. Yau, 25, combined "republic" with a curse word.

They were among three

lawmakers whose oaths were not accepted by the legislative clerk.

The provocative actions foreshadow what's expected to be a chaotic term in the semi-democratic Legislative Council after September's elections added to the opposition's numbers in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

The freshman lawmakers represent a new wave of grassroots groups that emerged from the wake of 2014 massive pro-democracy street protests, which failed to win concessions from Beijing but sparked a rising independence movement and a political awakening among the city's young.

Lau Siu-lai, who founded her own party, Democracy Groundwork, took a slow-motion approach. She took about 10 minutes to repeat the declaration, which has less than 100 words, by pausing for several seconds after each one.

Nathan Law, who helped spearhead the 2014 pro-

AP PHOTO



Newly elected lawmaker Yau Wai-ching of Youngspiration displays a banner with words reading Hong Kong is not China as she takes oath in the new legislature Council

tests and is Hong Kong's youngest ever legislator at age 23, prefaced his oath by quoting Indian independence icon Mahatma Gandhi vowing never to bend to authorities.

"You can chain me. You

can torture me. You can even destroy this body but you will never imprison my mind," said Law, of the Demosisto party.

As he recited the oath, he raised his tone slightly when he mentioned the

People's Republic of China, in what some saw as a subtle way of turning the statement into a question about whether to bear allegiance.

Not everyone rebelled. Ann Chiang, one of 40

pro-Beijing representatives in the 70-seat council, raised eyebrows by making her declaration in Mandarin, the language of mainland China, rather than the Cantonese spoken in Hong Kong. AP

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippine President Duterte to visit China next week

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte will make a state visit to China next week in the latest instance of reaching out to Beijing despite an ongoing territorial dispute, while questioning his country's traditional ties with the United States.

The Oct. 18-21 visit will include talks with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang touching on ways to improve bilateral relations and deepen cooperation, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said yesterday at a regular news briefing.

"China anticipates that President Duterte's visit can help with enhancing political trust ... dealing with disputes properly through dialogue and bringing the bilateral strategic cooperative relationship for peace and development back to the track of sound and steady development," Geng said.

Without mentioning the dispute

AP PHOTO



Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang (left), and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

over waters and islands in the South China Sea, Geng said the Philippines was a "traditionally amicable neighbor of China."

Duterte, who labels himself a socialist, has turned toward China amid a string of anti-U.S. pronouncements and a falling

out with President Barack Obama, whom he has lambasted for criticizing his deadly anti-drug crackdown.

On Tuesday, he said he wouldn't abrogate a defense treaty with the United States but questioned its importance and

that of joint combat exercises, which China opposes. He also wants U.S. counterterrorism forces to leave his country's south, saying their presence was inflaming restiveness among minority Muslims.

On Monday, he said that when

visiting China he wouldn't discuss sovereignty over Scarborough Shoal, a fishing ground China seized in 2012 that is the crux of the China-Philippines territorial dispute.

That action prompted the government of Duterte's predecessor to file a case against Beijing with an arbitration panel in The Hague, which in July ruled overwhelmingly in Manila's favor. That enraged China, which had refused to take part in the proceedings or honor the outcome.

However, Duterte said he would ask China to allow Filipino fishermen to again operate in the area.

"I will just say, 'Just let my brother Filipino fishermen go back there to fish,' then we can talk," he said in a speech.

In an earlier speech, he also said that when he meets with Xi, he will offer to open all areas of trade and commerce, along with land leases of up to 120 years for Chinese companies AP

Karim Sharifi & Lynne O'Donnell,
Kabul

AFGHANISTAN

As Helmand risks falling to the Taliban, Afghans blame graft

FOR the past month, the Taliban have held control over most of Afghanistan's Helmand province, where the majority of the world's opium is grown — and as insurgent attacks intensify around the provincial capital, residents are blaming rampant government corruption for the rising militant threat.

At an international aid conference last week, Afghanistan's leaders raised USD15 billion from their international backers and pledged to clamp down on graft. But corrupt officials have hollowed out the national security forces, selling weapons and even government buildings to the Taliban, and alienated local populations. One Afghan official said that Helmand residents were so angry at corruption that they were turning to the Taliban, despite memories of the extremist group's harsh rule.

Afghanistan is consistently rated by the corruption watchdog Transparency International as one of the world's most corrupt countries, along with Somalia and North Korea. "It is estimated that an eighth of all the money that goes to Afghanistan is lost to corruption," it said in a report released ahead of the aid conference.

The U.S. special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, John Sopko, who is charged with tracing billions of dollars of American aid, estimates that while the United States pays salaries for 320,000 Afghan soldiers and police nationwide, the actual number of troops is just 120,000. The remainder are so-called "ghost soldiers." Corrupt commanders claim salaries and benefits for soldiers and police who either don't exist, have agreed to hand over part of their pay in exchange for not going to work, or who have been killed in battle.

Of the 26,000 security force personnel officially assigned to



An Afghan man look at the dead body of a victim of suicide attack in Lashkar Gah the capital of southern Helmand

Helmand, up to half are ghost soldiers, according to Sopko's most recent report.

Helmand is particularly afflicted by corruption, thanks in large part to its opium fields. The majority of the world's heroin originates in this southern province bordering Pakistan. The U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime last year valued the crop \$3 billion a year, equivalent to around 20 percent of Afghanistan's gross domestic product. It helps fund the Taliban insurgency, and local officials and military leaders profit from the industry too. They receive bribes to turn a blind eye, and sell their military equipment to cash-rich militants.

Local officials and residents say that corruption occurs at every level in the province and everything is for sale, from government jobs, to ammunition and weapons and state-owned buildings.

Across Helmand, soldiers and

police regularly change sides and give up their vehicles and weapons rather than defend themselves against attack, said Attaullah, a member of the provincial council.

"Some sell their weapons, their ammunition, even in some cases their buildings, to the insurgents," said Attaullah, who like many Afghans has only one name. "Sometimes they sell the soldiers, too, along with their equipment."

A year ago, the government controlled 80 percent of the province. "Now, for at least the past month, more than 85 percent of Helmand territory is basically under the control of the Taliban and other terrorist groups," said Abdul Ahad Massomi, a former governor of Gereshk district, which has shifted between Taliban and government control for years.

The insurgents and other drug-trafficking groups have joined forces to push the government

out of the opium trade, said a former central government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue.

The Taliban have full control of five of Helmand's 14 districts and are in effective control of eight others, where just small pockets of territory are still government-held.

The militants are now closing in on the provincial capital of

Helmand [province] is particularly afflicted by corruption, thanks in large part to its opium fields

Lashkar Gah, with a spate of assaults and suicide attacks having killed dozens of people in recent weeks. The Taliban have been on the offensive in Helmand since the start of the fighting season in April, and the latest attacks on Lashkar Gah suggest a final push before the gunmen retreat for the winter.

The Taliban don't "want to take over the city, but they do want the government and the people to know that they have the ability to take over," the former central government official said. "It's about drugs, money and power."

Razia Bloch, a member of the provincial council, says each morning she fears the Taliban will take over Lashkar Gah and declare the province fully under their control. She said that the militants are so close that from the district governor's building the white Taliban flag can be seen flying, just a few kilometers away.

The fall of Helmand province would deal a heavy blow to U.S. and Afghan officials, who consistently issue assurances that it will never fall. It would also bring the militants closer to their real prize, neighboring Kandahar province, the base of their 1996-2001 government.

But not everyone in Lashkar Gah dreads the insurgent's presence. "The people are so disgusted with the government that now they are more inclined to support the Taliban," said the former governor Massomi. According to him, despite the Taliban's hard-line interpretation of Islamic law many people feel they are "not nearly as bad as the government." AP

THAILAND

Stocks tumble, prince rushes home amid king worries

THAILAND'S stock market and currency tumbled and the prime minister canceled an overseas trip yesterday amid concerns about long-ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej's health.

His son, the crown prince, returned home from Germany, as Thais in pink shirts — a color associated with the king — gathered outside Siriraj hospital in Bangkok, which has been his home for much of the last decade.

The Stock Exchange of

Thailand's benchmark fell nearly 7 percent in afternoon trading before recovering somewhat for a 4.1 percent loss for the day. Thai stocks have slid daily since Sunday, when the royal palace announced that the 88-year-old Bhumibol's condition was unstable, the first time it has used that phrase regarding the king's health.

Also yesterday, the Thai baht fell 1.1 percent to end at 35.76 to a dollar.

The highly revered Bhumibol, the world's longest-

reigning monarch, has suffered from a variety of ailments related to old age, including kidney and lung problems.

Dozens of Thais holding incense sticks and images of the king chanted prayers outside the hospital for his recovery.

"The king is the heart of our country. So, without a heart, we cannot survive.

So we pray for our heart, for the heart of our land," said Donnapha Kladbupha, a 42-year-old English tutor. "I want to see him

come and say hello to the Thai people again."

Last week, doctors performed a hemodialysis to purify his blood. They also replaced a tube that drains excess cerebrospinal fluid.

Because Bhumibol has been king since 1946, there is great concern about the eventual succession. Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn has not earned the same respect as his father.

Vajiralongkorn lives mostly in Germany, and flew back to Bangkok. The government's top bureau-

crat, Secretary-General Wilas Aroonsri, said Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha went to the airport to receive him. Prayuth was supposed to fly to Laos on an official visit but canceled it in the morning.

The royal palace has not issued any statements on the king's condition.

Bhumibol, a constitutional monarch with no formal political role, is widely regarded as Thailand's unifying figure. However, as his health has deteriorated, his participation in



King Bhumibol Adulyadej

public affairs has sharply declined in recent years.

Concern about succession has been entwined with Thailand's political turmoil in the past decade, as royalists have sought to ensure that they control the process instead of certain politicians whose fealty to the monarchy they doubt. AP

Swiss open criminal probe over bank's links to Malaysia fund

SWISS federal prosecutors have opened criminal proceedings against Falcon Private Bank Ltd. on suspicion it failed to prevent alleged money laundering linked to the Malaysian state fund 1MDB.

The move follows the arrest of the bank's branch manager in Singapore last week, and fines and other penalties imposed on the bank by Swiss and Singaporean financial market regulators that were announced this week.

Switzerland's attorney general said in a statement yesterday that his office suspects "deficiencies in the internal organization" at Falcon.

Investigators in Singapore, Switzerland, Hong Kong and the U.S. have been probing allegations that people close to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak stole more than USD1 billion from 1MDB.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore said it had ordered the private bank to close down in the city-state. AP

Singapore scores poorly in ability to prevent illicit trade

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

THE wealthy city-state of Singapore — with its flourishing trade, orderly life and almost non-existent crime — is hardly a place one would associate with illegal trade. But a new report by a reputed organization reveals that in fact the country has a poor record of preventing just that.

The Economist Intelligence Unit released a 100-point index yesterday that placed Singapore at seven out of 17 Asian countries for its ability to prevent illicit trade that includes counterfeit goods, arms and endangered wildlife. Singapore's low ranking was largely the result of its lacunae in its free trade zones.

Commissioned by the European Chamber of Commerce, the index evaluated countries against 14 indicators including transparency, intellectual property and customs.

Singapore scored 69.8 points to tie with Taiwan. Still, it



is behind neighbor Malaysia (71.8), often seen as a nation with a far less efficient government. The top performers were Australia (85.2), New Zealand (81.8) and Hong Kong (81.4).

Singapore's government did not immediately respond to a request for comment by The Associated Press.

"While it has the strongest customs environment, a failure to monitor its busy free tra-

de zones dragged Singapore's score down," the EIU said in a press release.

One of the index's indicators rated countries between zero to four for free trade zone governance, including checks on warehouses for smuggled goods. Singapore was handed a score of one, meaning that there was little to no monitoring. It also received a poor rating for government cooperation with stakeholders.

"Given the constant evolving nature of illicit trade, authorities need to constantly enhance their regulatory controls and enforcement effort - especially in free trade zones," Simon Jim, the chairman of the European Chamber of Commerce's Committee on Intellectual Property Rights, told reporters at a news conference where the report was released.

"Fake goods don't just take revenue away from companies or governments. They threaten the security of nations by

supporting transnational crime syndicates and terrorist groups," he added.

Southeast Asian counterparts, except Brunei that did not feature in the index, ranked low on the table. The bottom three were Cambodia (23.9), Laos (12.9) and Myanmar (10.8). China, which carries a reputation of being a hub for counterfeit goods, had a score of 61.6.

"Illicit trade is more than just counterfeit goods. Illicit trade includes guns, it includes endangered species and endangered wildlife. It includes human trafficking," said author Chris Clague from the EIU.

"A lot of these other forms of illicit trade... follow the same channels that counterfeit goods do," he said.

EIU said that rising labor costs in China could encourage manufacturers to look for cheaper sites, causing illicit trade to flow to developing Southeast Asian countries. AP

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Michael Biesecker, Julie Bykowicz, & Chad Day, Washington

Leaks show Clinton inner circle grappling with email issue

HACKED emails show that Hillary Clinton's campaign was slow to grasp the seriousness of the controversy over her use of a home-brew email server and believed it might blow over after one weekend.

Two days after The Associated Press was first to report in March 2015 that Clinton had been running a private server in her home in New York to send and receive messages when she was secretary of state, her advisers were shaping their strategy to respond to the revelation.

WikiLeaks began releasing on Friday what it said were years of messages from accounts used by Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta. He said yesterday that the FBI told him it was looking into the breach as part of its ongoing investigation into the hacking of Democratic organizations by Russian intelligence.

Among the emails made public yesterday by WikiLeaks was one from Clinton campaign spokesman Nick Merrill, who optimistically suggested that the issue might quickly blow over.

"Goal would be to cauterize this just enough so it plays out over the weekend and dies in the short term," Merrill wrote on March 6, 2015.

It did not, and became the leading example of Clinton's penchant for secrecy, which has persisted as a theme among her campaign critics and rivals throughout her election season. Clinton did not publicly confirm or discuss her use of the email server until March 10 in a speech at the United Nations, nearly one week after AP revealed the server's existence.

Months after Merrill's message, the campaign was still preoccupied with emails. In May 2015, Clinton spokesman Brian Fallon alerted other staffers that the Justice Department was proposing to publish Clinton's work-related emails by January in response to requests by news organizations. Fallon, a former Justice Department spokesman, wrote that unspecified "DOJ folks" told him there was a court hearing planned soon in the case. The name and email address of the person who shared the information with Fallon had been deleted.

Donald Trump called Fallon's email "unbelievable," and his supporters said it showed collusion between the Obama administration and Clinton's campaign.

The dates of court hearings would have been publicly posted in advance on the court's docket. Fallon did not respond to a request for comment from AP. The Justice Department declined to discuss Fallon's email.



AP PHOTO
Hillary Clinton's campaign manager John Podesta (second from right), speaks with senior aide Huma Abedin (right), aboard Clinton's campaign plane

It wasn't immediately clear who hacked Podesta's emails, though U.S. intelligence officials last week blamed the Russian government for a series of breaches intended to influence the presidential election. Podesta has acknowledged his emails were hacked. He has warned that messages may have been altered or edited to inflict political damage but has not pointed to any specific case of this.

Podesta said that Russia may prefer Trump's policy positions, but he also suggested the motive could be "Mr. Trump's deep engagement and ties with Russian interests in his business affairs."

Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak dismissed the accusations as untrue.

"We are watching very carefully the election campaign in this country," Kislyak said at a discussion of bilateral affairs at Johns Hopkins University's campus in Washington. "We don't interfere (in) the internal affairs of the United States, neither by my statements nor by electronic or other means."

The messages stolen from Podesta's account describe how Clinton's closest advisers considered responding to key events during the campaign, including the discovery of her email server and her congressional tes-

timony over the deadly 2012 attacks on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya.

In emails from March 2015, Merrill suggested a strategy — ultimately nixed by Clinton herself — of having comedian Larry Wilmore and Bill Clinton joke during an event for the Clinton Global Initiative charity in Coral Gables, Florida, before having Clinton join them on stage.

Merrill laid out the scenario in emails to Podesta and other aides: "Wilmore could sit down with WJC and Chelsea and say something like 'Thanks for having me here, it's a pleasure. And I should tell you, I just emailed HRC (I hear she's a big emailer), and asked if she'd join as well. (Laughter).'" He added that Hillary Clinton could then walk out "to applause."

"It would be just light-hearted enough while giving her the opportunity to address this seriously, be a little conciliatory as discussed, and then get back to a discussion about CGI etc.," Merrill wrote in the email.

In the end, Hillary Clinton's team drafted talking points Clinton used at the news conference at the United Nations.

Clinton said she "fully complied with every rule that I was governed by" and that "there is no classified material" among her work-related emails.

Both of those statements were later proved false.

The State Department's internal watchdog concluded in an audit released that Clinton ignored clear written guidance that her email setup broke federal record-keeping rules and could leave sensitive material vulnerable to hackers. The FBI's recently closed investigation concluded that more than 100 emails exchanged through Clinton's private server contained information that was later determined to be classified.

As the email controversy escalated in the summer of 2015, Clinton herself seemed slow to grasp the continuing political damage. Communications director Jennifer Palmieri in Au-

gust expressed concerns that Clinton "wasn't in the same place" on the issue as some on her campaign staff.

At the time, the political aides were working out details of revealing that Clinton had directed her staff to hand over her server and a thumb drive with copies of her emails to the Justice Department. Palmieri was writing other campaign aides to arrange for a Univision reporter to ask "a few questions on emails" during an interview that would otherwise focus on college affordability.

"As you all know, I had hoped that we could use the 'server moment' as an opportunity for her to be viewed as having taken a big step to deal with the email problem that would best position us for what is ahead," Palmieri wrote. "It is clear that she is not in same place."

Clinton's email practices were not the only controversy her campaign's brain trust was addressing.

On October 2015, speechwriter Dan Schwerin circulated among top Clinton advisers a draft of her opening statement to the House Select Committee on Benghazi, to be delivered the following week.

The draft itself wasn't attached in the emails published Tuesday, but other messages showed how it was shaped, including a section referring to Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, who was killed in the Sept. 11, 2012, attack.

"We might consider softening the 'Chris did not believe retreat was an option — and neither do I' line," wrote Katherine Turner, a law partner of Clinton's personal attorney David Kendall. "I don't think we want to suggest that there was a commitment to be there at any and all costs."

Following Clinton's tense Oct. 22 testimony, Podesta proposed in an email that she could publicly joke, "I used to be obsessed with Donald Trump's hair, that was until I got to spend 11 hours staring at the top of Trey Gowdy's head," a reference to the slicked-back white coif of the South Carolina Republican who chairs the committee.

Other Clinton aides shot down the idea.

"I love the joke too but I think HRC should stay above the committee," adviser Jake Sullivan replied, "and especially above personal insults about it. She's got every inch of the high ground right now."

Palmieri replied: "Wow. You people are a bunch of ninnyes." AP

WikiLeaks began releasing what it said were years of messages from accounts used by Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta

what's ON



A SEXAGENARY REVISION - MASTERS OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY

TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macao

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

CREWS PULL DOWN OLD ARKANSAS BRIDGE AFTER IMPLOSION FAILS



It turns out a 93-year-old bridge deemed structurally deficient wasn't so weak after all.

Despite triggering explosives to bring down the Broadway Bridge between Little Rock and North Little Rock yesterday [Macau time], a demolition crew needed five hours to fell the structure. Severing the steel arch and bridge deck should have taken about 30 seconds.

Arkansas highway department spokesman Danny Straessle says the blasts weakened the span, but parts of the bridge fell against themselves and none fell into the Arkansas River. Ultimately, crews attached a cable to the bridge and pulled it down.

Three other implosions are planned during a six-month project to bring down the old bridge and put up a new one.

Workers have until today to remove steel from the water so barge traffic can resume.

TV canal macau

13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:30	Criminal Minds S10 (Repeated)
18:10	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
19:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	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	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema



CINETEATRO

13 Oct - 19 Oct



CELL

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Tod Williams

Starring: John Cusack, Samuel L. Jackson, Isabelle Fuhrman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN

ROOM 1

7.15 pm

Director: Tim Burton

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

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 127min

THE ACCOUNTANT

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Gavin O'Connor

Starring: Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick, J.K. Simmons

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 128min



MR. RIGHT

ROOM 3

2.15, 5.50, 9.30 pm

Director: Paco Cabezas

Starring: Sam Rockwell, Anna Kendrick, Tim Roth

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 90min

SADAKO VS KAYAKO

ROOM 3

4.00, 7.30 pm

Director: Koji Shiraishi

Starring: Mizuki Yamamoto, Tina Tamashiro, Masanobu Ando

Language: Japanese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 98min

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



1994 LOYALISTS ANNOUNCE A CEASEFIRE

Northern Ireland could be on the brink of peace after the three main loyalist paramilitary groups announced a ceasefire in Belfast.

The move comes after the IRA declared a similar truce seven weeks ago.

A statement by the Combined Loyalist Military Command, an umbrella group for the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Ulster Defence Association and the Red Hand Commando, was read by Gusty Spence, a convicted terrorist who was sentenced to 20 years in 1966 for killing a Catholic barman.

Mr Spence, 61, said that the command would "universally cease all operational hostilities as from 12 midnight on Thursday 13 October 1994".

He added that the truce would be linked to the IRA's ceasefire.

Loyalist leaders said that the price for their agreement to the ceasefire was full inclusion at the table for peace talks, with loyalist parties close to the paramilitaries allowed in alongside Sinn Fein.

The declaration was hailed by political leaders, ranging from Unionists to Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams.

Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, said the announcement marked the "closure of a tragic chapter in our history".

The Ulster Unionist MP, David Trimble, also welcomed the ceasefire, as did John Hume, leader of the nationalist SDLP party.

British Prime Minister John Major described the truce as "another very important part of the jigsaw falling into place".

He added: "What we now need to do is absorb what has happened and decide how we move forward."

"We will do that in our own time and in our own way."

The British Government believes talks between Northern Ireland officials and Sinn Fein could be under way by Christmas.

But Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams has urged Downing Street to immediately agree to all-party talks, and make concessions to the Republican movement.

In a statement issued in Belfast, Mr Adams said: "The British Government is now the only agency with armed forces under its control which has not ceased its military activity. Mr Major must stop fumbling with this peace process."

"This is a unique and historic opportunity for peace which the British government must grasp."

Meanwhile, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said a loyalist ceasefire was welcome and long overdue, adding that it must be unconditional.

The loyalist paramilitary organisations have killed more than 900 people in 25 years and more than 3,000 people have died on both sides.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the declaration, British officials met with Sinn Fein representatives for formal talks on December 9.

Despite concerted efforts for peace, the IRA broke its ceasefire two years later with the bombing of London's Docklands.

The IRA eventually announced a new ceasefire in July 1997 but negotiations and sporadic violence continued until the Good Friday peace agreement was signed in May 1998.

The problems of decommissioning persisted despite the IRA's more relaxed stance over time which resulted in the opening up of some of its arms dumps to international inspectors.

During talks at Leeds Castle in September 2004 the republicans took the issue one step further by agreeing to allow two churchmen - one Catholic and one Protestant - to witness the decommissioning of arms.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can be incredibly productive today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You should find that your home life is intensely warm and lovely today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to push yourself a little harder today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 People may almost make fun of you for your high energy levels today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You can't handle the stream of praise coming your way...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Family comes calling - maybe online - and you need to take care of their needs pronto!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to use your terrific aesthetic sense to make your home or work space look and feel more comfortable.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You have to let go if you want to get anything to go your way today...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try to relax and let the world do what it does - there's no stopping it, anyway!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your energy levels never stay flat today - they are always climbing up or plummeting down!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you've got pets, they need you today - maybe a lot more than usual!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your feelings for friends and family are heightened today - and they come right back at you!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Scorch; 5- Without ___ in the world; 10- Merlin, e.g.; 14- Racer Yarborough; 15- "See ya!"; 16- Gillette brand; 17- I'd hate to break up ___; 18- Chasing; 19- Nair rival; 20- Suggest as appropriate; 22- Last Greek letter; 23- Outback hopper; 24- Monetary unit of Burma; 25- Most orderly; 29- Military person; 33- As ___ resort; 34- Not closed; 36- Sicilian resort; 37- Knight's title; 38- Despised; 39- Kind of reaction; 40- Molecular component; 42- Anthem starter; 43- Future fungus; 45- Not strict; 47- Warned; 49- Levi's rival; 50- A really big shoe?; 51- Egg exterior; 54- Legal right of possession; 60- Indian wrap; 61- Elevator stop; 62- ___ kleine Nachtmusik; 63- Threesome; 64- Greek marketplace; 65- Hotbed; 66- Type of gun; 67- Begin's co-Nobelists; 68- General ___ chicken; DOWN: 1- Operation memento; 2- Relaxation; 3- Knighted Guinness; 4- Snappy comebacks; 5- Los ___; 6- Bistro; 7- Envelope abbr.; 8- Oboe, e.g.; 9- Make a boo-boo; 10- Created by humans; 11- To ___ (exactly); 12- Gopher Norman; 13- I could ___ horse!; 21- Bubbly name; 22- Popeye's Olive; 24- Fishing hole; 25- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 26- Select group; 27- Home run king Hank; 28- Browned sliced bread; 29- Later, dude!; 30- Gold bar; 31- Accustom; 32- Like most movies; 35- Harper Valley ___; 38- Finetune; 41- 1000 times 1000; 43- Psychic; 44- Gift; 46- It's a moray; 48- Ogle; 51- Fast fliers; 52- Mature male European red deer; 53- Buffalo's lake; 54- Gymnast Korbut; 55- Timber; 56- Nick Charles's wife; 57- Hastens; 58- ___ many words; 59- Teachers' favorites; 61- Scale notes;

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

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property.

Real estate advertisement for Rua Central Macau and Kapok Court, Ocean Gardens.

Real estate advertisement for Roof Top Apartment Macau and Coloane Village.

Real estate advertisement for La Cite Macau and Old Taipa Village, Va Fat.

Real estate advertisement for Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens and St Pauls Ruins.

JML Property logo and contact information.

VENETIAN MACAO OPEN 2016
威尼斯人 澳門高爾夫球公開賽
 13 -16/10/2016

格雷斯 Branden Grace
 11次職業巡迴賽冠軍
 11 Professional Tour Wins

亨特 Scott Hend
 2013 & 2015 威尼斯人澳門高爾夫球公開賽冠軍
 Two-time Macao Open Winner

克拉克 Darren Clarke
 2011 英國公開賽冠軍
 The Open Championship 2011 Winner

張連偉 Zhang Lian-wei
 2001 & 2002 澳門高爾夫球公開賽冠軍
 Two-time Macao Open Winner

拉希瑞 Anirban Lahiri
 2014 威尼斯人澳門高爾夫球公開賽冠軍
 2014 Venetian Macao Open Winner

澳門高爾夫球鄉村俱樂部 | Macau Golf & Country Club | www.thevenetianmacaopen.com



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Macau Bats Rugby

OUTRAGE after losing to Syria has been followed by an air of resignation in China.

The national soccer team's second loss in five days leaves China with only the slimmest chance of qualifying for the next World Cup.

The perennial underachievers have under-performed against a backdrop of massive investment in the domestic league, which is luring star players in record-breaking transfers and coaches from around the world. The imported talent doesn't appear to be improving the vast pool of local players.

Gao Hongbo quit after the 2-0 loss to Uzbekistan this week left his team with just one point from four games in Asia's last round of World Cup qualifying. Gao spoke to the Chinese Football Association after last week's 1-0 home loss to war-torn Syria — a result that reportedly sparked angry protests from fans — and indicated he'd stand aside if there was a loss in Tashkent.

"As a result of this defeat, I bring an end to my time in charge of the China national team," he said. "I hope the China national team will be better in the future and we will meet in football again."

Critics questioned his team selections and tactical decisions, but an editorial in the Communist Party flagship People's Daily yesterday said the analysis was ultimately meaningless. The newspaper bemoaned the fact that, despite some early signs of hope, China was the weakest of the 12 teams still in contention in Asia.

"With such a team and such players, what would it matter whether they were coached by

FOOTBALL

Resignation as China's struggles continue in qualifying



Coach Gao Hongbo

Ferguson, Mourinho or Guardiola?" the editorial said. "The midfield was in constant flux and the power of the attack was virtually nil. With all the 'foreign assistance' running wild in the Chinese Super League, just coming up with a roster of 23 was no easy task.

"Given that China again has only a theoretical possibility of making it out of the group stage, thinking calmly, should Chinese football not return to the starting point and start from scratch?"

The People's Daily said the Chinese Super League was papering over deficiencies in the national football setup with

all the money both earned by selling television rights and spent on hiring foreign players and coaches.

Clubs in the league have spent more than \$400 million on foreign players in 2016 alone. South American stars such as Hulk, Alex Teixeira, Ramires and Jackson Martinez have helped Shanghai SIPG, Jiangsu Suning and Guangzhou Evergrande challenge in the domestic competition and in the Asian Champions League.

High-profile coaches including Luiz Felipe Scolari, Sven-Goran Eriksson and Manuel Pellegrini have also lifted the international profile of the lea-

With such a team and such players, what would it matter whether they were coached by Ferguson, Mourinho or Guardiola?

EDITORIAL, PEOPLE'S DAILY

gue.

China is mobilizing under President Xi Jinping's drive to overhaul the game domestically and turn the Chinese team into a World Cup winner by 2050.

But despite the investment from the private and public sector — the government is also focusing on youth development — the standard of the national team will take longer to improve.

The People's Daily didn't recognize any improvement in its editorial, instead saying "China's national team is merely marching in place or even going backward in terms of quality."

The rebuilding phase must start immediately, with China hosting Qatar next month in its last World Cup qualifier of the year. There are five more matches, starting in March. To have any chance of making it to Russia for the 2018 tournament, China needs to get on a winning roll and rely on group leaders Iran, Uzbekistan and South Korea failing to pick up many points. Only the top two teams in both six-team qualifying groups will advance to the World Cup. The two third-place teams go into another playoff.

China's only appearance at the World Cup was in 2002, when it failed to score a goal in the tournament that was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan. **AP**

TENNIS

Aussie Kyrgios booed during listless effort in Shanghai

NICK Kyrgios was booed during a listless 6-3, 6-1 loss to Mischa Zverev at the Shanghai Masters yesterday, then angrily defended his behavior by saying he didn't owe the spectators anything and fans could "just leave" if they didn't like his attitude.

The Australian player, who is known for fiery outbursts and argumentative behavior on court, put in little effort in the second-round match — just three days after winning the Japan Open in Tokyo.

Kyrgios tapped a soft serve over the net and started walking toward his chair before Zverev



Nick Kyrgios

had even returned the ball. He floated other first serves in at 67 mph and smacked second-serve faults at 130 mph.

Kyrgios hit a risky trick volley between his legs

— and still managed to win the point. On changeovers, he bypassed his chair and waited impatiently to serve, twirling his racket on his fingers.

Chair umpire Ali Nili ad-

monished Kyrgios for his behavior in the first set, saying, "This is a professional tournament, you have to act like a professional."

Toward the end of the 48-minute match, the crowd started booing and jeering. One man yelled, "Respect the game," prompting a furious reaction from Kyrgios, who shouted, "You want to come here and play?"

Asked after the match if he thought he owed the spectators a better effort as one of the stars of the game, he turned defiant again.

"What does that even mean? I'm good at hitting a tennis ball at the net.

Big deal. I don't owe them anything," he said. "If you don't like it, I didn't ask you to come watch. Just leave."

On his soft serves, he replied flatly, "My arm was a little sore."

Kyrgios did admit he didn't put forth his best effort and was mentally drained after winning his third title of the season in Tokyo.

"I guess that's why I'm trying to work on being able to be consistent every week," he said. "Just took the easy way out tonight and obviously didn't show up at all."

Zverev joked about some of Kyrgios' serves after the match — it felt like

the last time he played his girlfriend, he said — but he also defended the Australian and said he shouldn't be criticized for his professionalism.

"Would Federer behave like that? Probably not," Zverev said. "But (Kyrgios) has a creative mind. ... He's top-15, 16 in the world so he's doing something right."

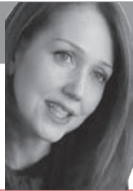
Zverev also said it's normal to be fatigued at the end of a grueling season.

"You reach a point where you're mentally tired and some people react one way, some people react a different way," he said. "It doesn't say anything about whether he's professional or not." **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



CHINA TRIUMPHS IN CHARDONNAY OLYMPICS

China just trounced snooty sommeliers in the 100ml final of the Chardonnay Olympics. That's millilitres. China's medal haul in Rio was judged poor – but they don't lose in booze.

The nation's wine tasters won a blind-tasting competition, vanquishing in 'vin' the French and Americans.

The event was the fourth world blind tasting championships and took place in France, at Chateau du Galoupet. 21 national teams identified grapes, vintages and countries of origin.

The self-esteem of previous olfactory champions was crushed. More so than their grapes. Expect a new wine, Pinot Ego Grigio. The Chinese will identify it next year.

But let's stop for a moment and let all this fine information breathe. Is China - hitherto associated with mixing red wine and coke - becoming a global sophisticate? What does this mean? Lots, frankly.

As well as being prime plonk tasters in competition, China is raising its glass game at home. It recently announced its first national sommelier association. Here's where the implications kick in. You know that dreadful point when you're asked if you'd like to taste the wine in a restaurant? The person you'll have to pretend in front of might soon be Chinese. Hereafter, China may become associated with disdainful wine superiority, giving France a national character break.

But it's also a sign of a changing Chinese workforce. Becoming highly skilled – first in tech, now tongue.

Who knows, Donald Trump's restaurants, from his hotels to his golf course in Scotland, might one day employ Chinese sommeliers. 'This desert wine goes very well with humble pie, Mr Trump.'

The wine world continues to surprise in China.

In September, Alibaba, the e-commerce platform, held its first nine-day wine and spirits shopping festival. It was called 9.9, meaning customers saw double before they started drinking.

It's usually the number eight that is revered, and especially so in wine. Is this the end of the era of the eight, and a new order in China? Nine comes before eight in the auspicious sales stakes?

Many top restaurants in London are also hearing their number is up. Warnings came this week of dining rooms facing closure because of rents being too high. Other cities, especially Hong Kong, experience this frequently.

The report, by property agents Cedar Dean Group, said London restaurants coming up to a five-year rent review face a 50% increase. And rents in the Mayfair area, it noted, have gone up by 400% in the last year, from £150 a square foot to £600 a square foot.

Restaurants like Michelin-starred Arbutus have left Soho.

The message was 'adapt or die'. One suggestion, made by the report's property authors, was a move to all-day dining. This was duly nixed by mostly French chefs, showing national reluctance to change the working hours even of haute cuisine.

But globally, you do have to wonder if fine dining restaurants use a business model which reflects the modern world. Do people go for dinner anymore? As in 'dinner dates'? Mightn't there be higher turnover serving 'Tinder coffees'? Fancy. Big profit margin. Advance settlement of the bill on new app PayParamour, not PayPal – come on, coders - would avoid that awkward dilemma of who coughs up on a hook up.

Or fine dining lunch trucks. Rescue us from sandwich tedium at Pret a Manger. Sure, they change - just not fast enough.

To fine dining restaurants, I'm tempted to suggest something more: wine-pairing dinners with Chinese food. Nine courses. With Chinese sommeliers, of course – who better to say which Cabernet Sauvignon goes best with congee?

Wine and dine. And number nine. It's a new world.

THE BZZ US, EU CALL ON VIETNAM TO RELEASE ARRESTED BLOGGER

The United States and the European Union have called on the Vietnamese government to release a popular blogger arrested earlier this week for alleged anti-state writing.

Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, who blogs as Me Nam, was arrested this week in the south central province of Khanh Hoa for what authorities say were her Facebook and blog posts

that distorted truth and instigated the public to oppose the communist government.

The ambassadors from the United States and European Union to Vietnam said in separate statements that the arrest goes against Vietnam's international obligations and domestic laws on human rights and called for her release.

Australian report warns of possible damaging cyberattacks



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

EXTREMIST groups could have the capabilities to launch damaging cyberattacks on Australia within three years, a government report on the nation's cybersecurity said yesterday.

Such groups seeking to harm Western interests currently pose "a low cyber-threat," despite demonstrating a savvy understanding of social media and exploiting the internet for propaganda purposes, the Australian Cybersecurity Center report on current threats said.

While their cybercapabilities were "rudimentary" and capable of compromising

only poorly secured, internet-connected services, they showed signs of improving significantly in the near future, the report said.

"It is unlikely terrorists will be able to compromise a secure network and generate a significant disruptive or destructive effect for at least two or three years," the report said.

Minister assisting the prime minister for cybersecurity, Dan Tehan, described the threat of extremist cyberattack as "real."

"We have to understand that when it comes to cyberterrorism, there is a growing threat," Tehan told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Foreign states posed the

greatest level of threat to Australia. The intelligence service of an unnamed country hacked into the Australian Bureau of Meteorology last year and used malware to compromise other connected government networks, the report said.

Local media reports said China was behind the attack on the bureau, which is linked through its computers to other government agencies, including the Defense Department.

The report said information had likely been stolen and that the bureau's security controls had been insufficient.

The Australian Cybersecurity Center responded to 1,095 serious cybersecurity incidents in government systems in the 18 months through June 2016.

Alaistar MacGibbon, special adviser to the prime minister on cybersecurity, described the Australian mitigation of the cyberthreat to government and business as "world class."

"But we're never going to be able to stop all the incidents. By the very nature of computer technology, we're constantly evolving our defenses against a constantly evolving attack," MacGibbon said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Veiled Iranian women take part in a mourning ceremony for Ashoura, as they cover their faces symbolically, in the city of Khorramabad, southwest of the capital Tehran. Shiites mark Ashoura, the tenth day of the Muslim month of Muharram, to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Prophet Muhammad and one of Shiite Islam's most beloved saints, during the 7th century Battle of Karbala in present-day Iraq.

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

SOURCE: D5IMG

WORLD BRIEFS

THAILAND's stock market and currency tumble and the prime minister cancels an overseas trip amid concerns about long-ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej's health. His son, the crown prince, returns home from Germany. More on p12



AFGHANISTAN An Afghan official says at least 17 people including a policeman are dead and 62 others are injured in a militant attack on a Shiite shrine in Kabul, following ceremonies to commemorate Ashoura, a major religious observance for Shiites. Meanwhile, the Taliban have held control over most of Helmand province, where the majority of the world's opium is grown. More on p13

MYANMAR The U.N. special adviser on Myanmar calls on civilians in troubled Rakhine state to exercise maximum restraint and refrain from responding to recent fighting that led to the deaths of security personnel as well as civilians.

AUSTRALIA-SINGAPORE Singapore's prime minister visits Australia to upgrade a free-trade agreement and finalize a deal that will double the capacity of Singaporean military training facilities in the Australian tropics.



AUSTRIA Members of the elite Cobra police commando unit have been assigned to protect the left-leaning candidate for Austria's presidency in response to death threats from right-wing extremists. Upgraded security for Alexander Van der Bellen was reported by Austrian newspapers and confirmed by a government official who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge the confidential measures.



ITALY Roberto Cavalli's new owners are cutting 200 jobs, closing stores and replacing the fashion house's creative director in a reorganization aimed at making a profit by 2018. Chief Executive Gian Giacomo Ferraris said the reorganization is necessary given the fashion industry is one where "only iconic brands with a coherent business model and an efficient organization can survive."