



FLYING EYE HOSPITAL IN MACAU

The unique aircraft arrived in Macau following its sight-saving mission in Shenyang, China

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VIETNAM BRACES FOR TYPHOON SARIKA

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RUSSIA, SYRIA HALT ALEPPO AIRSTRIKES

Russian and Syrian warplanes halted their airstrikes on Aleppo. Moscow described the move as an "humanitarian pause"

P14 SYRIA

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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-PHILIPPINES

This week's visit to China by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte points toward a restoration of trust between the sides following recent tensions over their South China Sea territorial dispute, Chinese official news agency says. [More on p11](#)

CHINA Entertainment giant Wanda is offering producers a rebate of 40 percent to promote its upcoming USD8b movie studio in eastern China in an ambitious bid to establish the complex as a major production base in Asia. [More on p10](#)



THAILAND People waited patiently in long queues outside government banks to secure special commemorative 100 baht currency notes in honor of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

BANGLADESH Three Bangladeshi men have been identified as the financiers of the July 1 attack in which a group of assailants tortured and killed 20 hostages at a restaurant in Dhaka, a counterterrorism official says.



NEW ZEALAND A U.S. Navy warship will visit New Zealand next month for the first time since the 1980s, ending a 30-year-old military stalemate between the countries that was triggered when New Zealand banned nuclear warships.

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GAMING

Detentions cast pall over Macau's recovery

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AL PLENARY

Most lawmakers against Ng Kuok Cheong's political reform proposal

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Lynzy Valles

INDUSTRIAL revolutions have made mass production possible and have brought digital capabilities to people around the globe. Yet such revolutions also mean that the masses are likely to face both great risks and opportunities.

In a business luncheon hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce on Monday at Wynn Macau, the 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' book was discussed, highlighting that emerging technology trends are shaping the digital market.

In today's world, generations have the capability to connect with more people through digital networks, which has dramatically improved the efficiency of organizations.

One of the speakers, Rob Scott, a top executive at the consultancy company Presence of IT, expressed his concern that some organizations may be unable to adapt to these fast-paced changes and may fail to regulate new technologies in order to capture their benefits.

Citing the book, Scott said that the world is facing a range of new technologies that combine the "physical, digital and biological worlds," which could make an impact on all economies and industries.

He remarked that the evidence of dramatic change is obvious and it is happening at an exponential speed, and thus these changes are coinciding with the emergence of a new workforce that is diverse, demanding and mobile.

"The way we manage, lead, collaborate and organize ourselves is undergoing radical change," said Scott. "Succeeding in today's digital world is a challenge that can not be solved

EXPERTS

HR organizations should embrace digital networks to improve efficiency



Rob Scott

simply by consuming more and more technology, or, as some fear, replacing humans with technology."

In terms of the global digital economy, growth is driven by the 'Digital Native' generation, who are demanding a world fashioned to its needs and expectations about how work should be organized.

According to him, the younger generations are demanding technology to work in a particular way, such as Facebook and Weibo, to enable them to do a better job, and give them the power to achieve great outcomes.

However some organizations are unwilling to adapt to the use of these new technologies, and

may fail to regulate such technologies properly.

Scott explained to the Times that if organizations do not take part in these radical, cultural and leadership changes, organizations will be "left behind."

"If you don't move into this new direction of transforming organization into a digital space, you're going to be left

behind. People want to work for organizations that are thinking ahead, that are using technologies," he explained.

The consultant said that one of the biggest challenges in the HR industry in Macau is keeping its employees in the industry as the market continues to expand.

"Contingent workforce is a big thing in this region. How are you going to better manage contingent workforces to make sure they are the right person at the right cost?" Scott questioned.

The way we manage, lead, collaborate and organize ourselves is undergoing radical change.

ROB SCOTT

Managing director of TalentGroup Asia, Alan Chan, told the Times that the pace of utilizing technology in the region's human resources departments has been "very slow."

"We should encourage the use of technology in the HR space whereby all these systems can tightly integrate with each other to bring a seamless HR corporation space into the hospitality world," he explained.

He also hinted that numerous companies in the past years have been focusing on meeting the quantity requirements on employees rather than focusing on the quality of the talent.

Orbis launches Flying Eye Hospital tour in the region

ORBIS launched the inaugural tour of its third generation Orbis Flying Eye Hospital in Macau on Sunday, following its sight-saving mission in Shenyang, China last month.

The unique aircraft is expected to depart from Macau today. More than six years in the making, the new Flying Eye Hospital is the only mobile ophthalmic teaching hos-



pital, on board an MD-10 aircraft. According to a press release issued by Orbis, hundreds of experts, including medical and aircraft maintenance teams, contributed their avionics, hospital engineering, technology and clinical expertise to the transformation of the aircraft into today's Flying Eye Hospital.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Paul Forrest,

chief development officer of Orbis International remarked that the Flying Eye Hospital plays a vital role in the organization's mission to bring the world together to fight blindness.

"Equal parts teacher, envoy and advocate, this powerful tool energizes change as we implement key long-term global initiatives," he noted.

The hospital suite is

comprised of nine customized modules including a 46-seat classroom, state-of-the-art AV/IT room, patient care and laser treatment room and an operating room equipped with a 3D surgical microscope.

The non-governmental organization's team of over 400 expert medical volunteers from 30 different countries was able to accomplish this by training local medical teams both in their hospitals and on the Flying Eye Hospital.

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MICE

Fewer exhibitors registered for the 21st MIF

Julie Zhu

FEWER exhibitors registered to visit the 21st edition of the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), which will take place from tomorrow to October 22, according to Irene Lau, the executive director of the Institute for Promotion of Trade and Investment of Macau.

"Our [visitor] numbers are the same as last year, but the customers' quality improved," said Irene Lau during an MIF press conference. She expects this year's MIF to be received similarly to previous editions.

Lau indicated her belief that the drop in the number of exhibitors is a consequence of the global economic climate and of the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum Macau, which took place last week and attracted many visitors to the city.

"We had expected this [smaller] figure," admitted Lau, adding that the organizers will try to attract more visitors.

There are 1,600 exhibition booths arranged for the event, a 20 percent decrease compared to the 1,900 booths arranged last year. The number



of visitors from Portuguese-speaking countries also dropped by approximately 20 percent year-on-year "because of [the Forum Macau] last week, which had a direct effect."

However, the number of participating companies increased ten percent, said Lau.

This year, the budget amounts to approximately MOP33 million, the same as previous editions. This marks the fourth consecutive year with the same amount, according to Lau. She claimed that over 90 percent of the contracts signed during last year's MIF already launched their operations.

The 21st MIF is themed 'Cooperation - Key to Opportunities'. The event will occupy

an area of more than 30,000 square meters at the Venetian, with participating delegations from over 50 countries and regions. More than 40 forums, promotions and seminars will be offered.

Regarding new highlights, six-time event participant Beijing will be the partner city of this year's MIF for the first time, with a Beijing Pavilion and a Beijing Time-Honored Brands Pavilion to be arranged. The former will be divided into five sections featuring Beijing's municipal commission of commerce, an international horticultural exhibition, traditional Chinese medicine, the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, as well as Bei-

jing's Pinggu district. A sales area dedicated to Beijing delicacies will also be available.

The MIF will also establish partnerships between Portugal and Beijing with hopes of creating new and diversified business opportunities. For the first time, the program will also feature a Portuguese-Speaking Countries Fashion Show. Commercial and trade services for SMEs between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries will be set up for the first time.

The second Young Entrepreneurs Forum of China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries will take place today, in advance of the original date.

Traditional Chinese medicine cooperation seminars, on-site investment and financial consultancy services, electronic commerce and various services to promote the transition and upgrade local enterprises, as well as online business matching services, will be provided.

The fair will be open for trade visitors tomorrow from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the main hall, and from 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. for the SME exhibition. On Thursday and Friday, the events will be open to the public.

Sao Domingo's market revamp



Starting next Tuesday, the IACM will resume the renovation projects of vendor spots

on the ground floor of Sao Domingo's market Building B. During the renovation period, the market off Senado Square will operate as usual, with some vendors moving to Building A to continue doing businesses. Renovation works will last 60 days and focus mainly on updating the market layout, as well as optimizing the operating environment. After the project's completion, the fish shops previously located in the first basement will be relocated to the ground floor of Building B. According to the IACM, the majority of the vendors have been willing to cooperate with the department, and hope that the project can be carried out as quickly as possible.

Lusofonia Festival postponed

This year's Lusofonia Festival has been postponed to next week on account of Typhoon 'Haima', which may affect Macau. The festival will run from October 28 to 30, according to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), which took over the organization of the event from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM). Held at the Taipa Houses-Museum and Carmo Area, the festival will feature concerts, folk art and culinary booths from ten Portuguese-speaking countries.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest

Photo of previous cast member

at The Parisian Macao

Question for readers:
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THRILLER LIVE, a stunning theatrical concert created to commemorate arguably the world's greatest ever entertainer, Michael Jackson, is coming to the newly-built The Parisian Theatre from Sept. 30 to Nov. 13, 2016 for a limited season. It will be the first show held at the 1,200-seat theatre at The Parisian Macao which officially opens Sept. 13, 2016 as the newest addition to Sands Resorts Cotai Strip Macao. Tickets for THRILLER LIVE go on sale NOW and are available at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

been performed over 5,000 shows and seen by over 4 million people in more than 30 countries continues to moonwalk around the world and is now finally in Macao. A 90-minute, high-energy explosion of pop, rock, soul and disco takes the audience on a magical audio-visual journey through Michael Jackson's astonishing 45-year musical legacy. We challenge you to stay in your seat!

As well as experiencing his legendary live performance and innovative dance routines, fans can expect to hear their favourite Jackson songs perfectly rendered by the exceptionally talented cast, including I Want You Back, ABC, Man in the Mirror, Black Or White, The Way You Make Me Feel, Smooth Criminal, Beat It, Billie Jean, Dirty Diana, Bad, They Don't Care About Us, Dangerous, Thriller and many more.

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Direct from London's West End where it is now in its eighth year, the constantly evolving show, which has

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AL PLENARY

Most lawmakers against Ng's political reform proposal

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) voted in yesterday's session on a proposal delivered on Monday by lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong that aimed to force the government to initiate a political reform for eventual universal suffrage in the election of the Chief Executive (CE).

The proposal received backlash at the plenary meeting. Several lawmakers slammed Ng's initiative and in some cases, accused him of trying to make the AL and its legislators "hostages" of his private interests.

Ng claimed otherwise, arguing that debate on a real political reform in Macau was urgent.

"We have, as soon as possible, to prepare to change our political system to one based on universal suffrage," he argued, justifying such a measure by the changes occurring in the region's demographics. In Ng's opinion, "Macau cannot continue to fail to make progress and be conservative [on this matter]."

Chief among the proposal's many critics was Kwan Tsui Hang, who was visibly upset and said the topic under debate was "not a simple matter of yes or no."

Claiming that universal suffrage will not solve society's problems, Kwan asked rhetorically: "Will be possible that a legislator with so many years of experience doesn't know what this represents?"

Also slamming the proposal in a heated intervention was Tsui Wai Kwan, who said that Ng has always claimed that a democratic system with votes to elect the lawmakers and the Chief Executive will help to fight corruption, but "we have many examples of countries and territories where the government is elected by universal suffrage and its



Ng Kuok Cheong

CALLS FOR ALTERNATIVE LRT SOLUTION

KOU HO In, Cheang Chi Keong and Chui Sai Cheong backed the idea expressed by Kou Ho In in his spoken enquiry during the period before the agenda at the AL yesterday. The group calls for an alternative solution to the implementation of the Light Rail Transit system (LRT) in the peninsula regarding the problems encountered during the works in Taipa section. The legislators say that other solutions are to consider since the traffic congestion and other construc-

tion related problems currently seen in Taipa would create a very serious situation if repeated in the Macau side. As an alternative they propose the government to simply connect the Taipa section to the Barra main station and the construction instead of a "mono-rail system around the city following the shoreline." Such a system together with a readjustment of the roads network could relieve the traffic pressure and even add a "touristic element" to them.

“We have, as soon as possible, to prepare to change our political system to one based on universal suffrage.**”**

NG KUOK CHEONG

members are still involved in corruption.”

“I see no urgent need to change the system,” he added.

Others justified the rejection of such a proposal on the grounds of the procedures it sought to implement.

Chan Iek Lap described the proposal as “an abuse to the AL regiments” and remarked that such a norm “does not serve the purpose of expressing a personal political opinion and will.”

Other lawmakers like Song Pek Kei recalled that Ng had presented a similar proposal to the AL in 2014, which at that time was already considered an abuse of power.

“I don't know what the lawmaker really wants with all this. Is it that he is trying to promote any real change or does he just want to forcibly lead other lawmakers to express their personal position on the topic?” Song asked,

adding that it was not up to Ng alone to define the right time for political reform.

However, Song admitted that the government had not made any real progress on the subject and voiced her hopes that the government could “create a platform so everybody can express his or her opinion.”

Supporting the proposal were Au Kam San, Pereira Coutinho and Leong Veng Chai. The biggest support came from Au, who said that the proposal has “relevance”, recalling the CE's promise in 2014 to ensure development of the political system. There have been no such developments to date.

“We know that this voting does not promote any effect but it can send a message to the CE on that way [to develop the political system],” Au said, adding that “there is a certain urgency to move into elections.”

Pereira Coutinho also supported the motion, but chose his words carefully.

“We hear people saying that they want more lawmakers directly elected but we continue with the same number. The College that elects the CE is only 400 people and it's totally controlled,” he said.

Coutinho acknowledged that “this time” Ng was successful in his attempt to “shake the pillars”, adding also that the “lack of participation of the youngsters is due to a marginalization of young people [who] can only resort to protests and demonstrations [to be heard].”

AL denied more supervision over public works

THE bill that will establish the new Budget Framework Law (LEO) was discussed and approved yesterday during the plenary meeting of the Legislative Assembly (AL). Although the bill passed with only three votes against, the session heated up after the presentation by the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong and his team at the plenary for the second consecutive day.

Several lawmakers made comments, with Ng Kuok

Cheong the most prominent among them. Ng reiterated that Leon's predecessor, Francis Tam, had presented a similar proposal a few years before. In his opinion, the bill does not offer many advances and “is still unsatisfactory to what concerns public constructions.”

Ng and other lawmakers reaffirmed their wish for major public construction works to fall under the scrutiny of the AL.

The lawmaker proposed that public construction

works “budgeted above MOP40 million or MOP50 million should be open to public discussion [through a debate at the AL].”

He remarked that this opinion had also been expressed by former secretary Tam, but that it had been not considered in the analysis of the current bill.

“If this mechanism is not included, it will be a major omission,” Ng said.

Chui Sai Cheong was one of those who expressed support for the bill, highli-

ghting that the new law presents “several aspects that contribute in certain ways to the transparency [of public accounts].”

Nevertheless, the lawmaker remarked that “to learn about its [the law] functionality, we need to know the administrative regulations that will complement it.” He expressed the hope that such regulations can be presented to the standing committee specializing in the relevant area.

Cheong also commented

on the need of the Finance Bureau (DSF) to undertake a significant effort in order to clearly explain the new system to all departments.

The new law establishes two new government reports regarding public accounts: a mid-term report to be presented in the beginning of August and a quarterly report on the execution of the PIDDA.

Some lawmakers, such as Ma Chi Seng, questioned what the AL could do in the event that any irre-

regularities are found in the mid-term reports, but received no answer.

On the government's side, Lionel Leong explained that according to the Basic Law, individual projects will not be presented to the AL. He said that “big projects” from the government are already included in the general budget submitted for AL approval, so that lawmakers can question and request information on these projects ahead of time. **RM**



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Daniela Wei

GAMING

China casino detentions cast pall over Macau's recovery

CHINA'S detention of 18 Crown Resorts Ltd. employees may have been intended as a warning to foreign casinos, but it's also unsettling gambling businesses in Macau, the nation's own betting enclave.

In theory, the detentions of workers at the Australian company late last week shouldn't affect Chinese casinos and could even help them by putting higher scrutiny on competitors outside of Macau. But a more watchful government eye is unwelcome in an industry that has been roiled by corruption crackdowns in the past few years.

Just hours after the news of China's clampdown on the Australian casino company, at least three Macau junket operators said they have called off meetings with Chinese high-rollers. The operators, who lend money to VIP visitors who bet hundreds of thousands of dollars during excursions to the former Portuguese colony, asked not to be identified, as the plans are confidential.

Gambling revenue has just starting to rebound after two years of declines in Macau's USD29 billion gaming market, where foreign companies run casinos with Chinese partners. The question is whether that nascent recovery can survive a renewed focus on foreign casino operators that market in China.

"The Crown incident is raising concerns in Macau's gaming market," said Ben Lee, managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX. "We expect the direct VIP and premium mass market will dive over the next several months."

For story on China warning Crown and others about casino marketing

The Chinese government hasn't specified any of the charges. The Foreign Ministry has only said the Australians are being detained for gambling-related crimes based on China's laws. Not only is it illegal to gamble in China. Anyone who entices its citizens overseas to bet, or try to force them to repay debts later, can be punished with jail terms. While gambling is legal in Macau, the gaming hub is highly regulated in other ways.

Shares of Crown rose 1.7 percent by the close of Sydney trading yesterday, a day after it



plummeted a record 14 percent. Macau casino shares also advanced after declining Monday, with Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. up 2.7 percent and Sands China Ltd. gaining 0.9 percent in Hong Kong.

The medium-term impact for Macau's casinos "could be limited as there's little evidence to suggest the crackdown could involve 'local' casinos or junkets," JPMorgan Chase & Co. analyst DS Kim wrote in a note. "There was no meaningful impact on Macau's VIP or premium-mass after the Korean casino incidents last year. We don't see why this Australian case is different."

The next few weeks will deter-

We expect the direct VIP and premium mass market will dive over the next several months.

BEN LEE
IGAMIX MANAGING PARTNER

mine if the Crown detentions have a more widespread chilling effect. Casinos in Macau are expected to stop sending marketing executives across the border to facilitate fund transfers and entertain high-rollers and the next category of elite players known as premium mass, said Lee.

To avoid scrutiny, the junket operators said they won't travel to meet high-stakes players in Guangdong province and Shanghai that were scheduled in upcoming weeks.

"It is almost a certainty that Macau will see shorter-term operational pressures," said Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd. analyst Jamie Soo. "It is uncertain how long the impact will last as it remains to be seen what steps China will take."

Of course, rival casinos in other countries are also likely to pull back on marketing in China because of the detentions. In the short-term, Asia casinos will stop aggressively promoting in China for a while, hurting their high-roller revenue, said JPMorgan's Kim. Further out, foreign casinos - such as in South Korea, the Philippines and Singapore - will be increasingly careful about

The next few weeks will determine if the Crown detentions have a more widespread chilling effect

marketing, hurting their ability to acquire new players, Kim said.

China arrested employees of Korean casino operators Paradise Co. and Grand Korea Leisure

Co. in June last year. All six of its employees who were arrested have been released after serving jail time, a Paradise spokeswoman said Monday. Out of Grand Korea's seven jailed employees, three were set free in August and four on Monday, its spokesman said yesterday.

Paradise shares fell 4.7 percent and Grand Korea slipped 0.2 percent by the close of trading in Seoul.

The latest detentions also pose uncertainties for the planned spinoff of international assets by Australian billionaire James Packer's Crown, including its stake in Macau casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. The split had been designed to isolate Crown's Australian casino business from the wider group, which Crown Chairman Robert Rankin said investors undervalued because of Macau's gambling downturn.

Crown still owns a 30 percent stake in Nasdaq-listed Melco Crown, which saw its net income tumble last year amid the Macau slump.

"We will continue to make all efforts needed to observe evolving requirements," Melco Crown said in a statement when asked about the impact of the latest detentions, adding that its marketing practices "are guided by the prevailing legal requirements." The company declined to comment on the Crown detentions. **Bloomberg**

JAMES PACKER'S REACTION TO DETENTIONS

THE MAJOR shareholder in Australia's largest casino operator voiced concerns yesterday after executives were detained for suspected gambling crimes. The head of Crown Resorts Ltd.'s VIP International team, Jason O'Connor, is believed to be one of 18 Crown employees being questioned by Chinese authorities. James Packer, an Australian gaming mogul with a personal fortune estimated

by Forbes business magazine at \$3.6 billion, said that he had sought regular updates on the detentions and had asked Crown to do everything possible to contact the employees and to support their families. "As the major shareholder of Crown Resorts, I am deeply concerned for the welfare of those Crown employees detained in China," Packer said in a statement.

GRAFT

Lou Ngai Wa sentenced to 12 and a half years in jail

THE former head of the Division of Transport Management Department of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lou Ngai Wa, was sentenced on Monday to 12 and a half years in jail and fined

MOP36,000.

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) last year found that Lou had received MOP16 million in bribes for assisting three companies to obtain parking

lot management contracts from the SAR government between 2012 and 2015.

The Court of First Instance (TJB) announced its ruling yesterday, as well as sentences for five

other defendants including Pun Ngai, Lou's former subordinate and the second defendant in the case. Pun was sentenced to seven years and nine months in prison.

At a previous hearing

session, both Lou and Pun had denied all accusations in the indictment.

The four remaining defendants - Chan Chi Pio and his wife Chan In Seong, Leong Ion Fai, and Yin Heshun, manager

and owner of the three companies involved in the case - were also sentenced to jail.

Chan Chi Pio was sentenced to six years and three months, while Leong Ion Fai received a four-year sentence. Chan In Seong and Yin Heshun were each sentenced to four years and three months.



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Harley-Davidson 3Q profit falls on lower sales



HARLEY-DAVIDSON Inc. on yesterday reported a decline in third-quarter profit on lower sales and said it will cut costs.

The motorcycle maker's profit fell 18.7 percent to USD114.1 million, or 64 cents per share. Revenue fell 4.3 percent to \$1.09 billion.

The profit results exceeded Wall Street expectations. The average estimate of 12 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of 63 cents per share. But, revenue fell short, with eleven analysts surveyed by Zacks expecting \$1.11 billion.

The Milwaukee-based company cited weak U.S. sales and said market share was essentially flat.

"We continue to effectively navigate a fiercely competitive environment and an ongoing weak U.S. industry," said President and CEO Matt Levatich.

Levatich said the company expects its 2017 lineup of motorcycles to drive growth for the remainder of 2016.

Still, the company is planning to cut costs during the fourth quarter because of a slowdown in industry growth. It said it would "streamline" operations but did not specify how many jobs it would cut in a reorganization.

Harley-Davidson shares were steady at \$49.79 in light premarket trading. They have climbed 9.5 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has climbed 4 percent. The stock has decreased roughly 10 percent in the last 12 months. **AP**

Online restaurant booking goes global and multilingual

Justin Bachman

NEXT time you're in Paris, you may be able to book a dinner reservation without subjecting the maître d' to your terrible French accent.

The restaurant reservation platform OpenTable can now take reservations at restaurants around the world through users' local accounts, and can support English, French, German, Japanese, and Spanish, it said yesterday. The company has roughly 38,000 restaurants in 20 countries, with the vast majority in the U.S. and seven others.

Since it dropped \$2.6 billion in cash for the dining reservation service in June 2014, The Priceline Group Inc. has been working to make OpenTable more international, trying to turn the company into a more critical platform for global travelers.

The changes mean OpenTable's websites and mobile apps can help the company become "a true 'Global Dining Passport' for diners across the world," chief executive Christa Quarles said in a news release. And the goal for OpenTable, which says it handles 20 million reservations per month, is to enable global jet-setters to use local accounts anywhere in the world.

The expectation is to align dining more closely



with its parent company's traveler base—an entrée into the lucrative space of what Priceline executives have called "transient diners," people who want a good meal when they travel. About 97 percent of travelers report eating out at least once daily, according to OpenTable research.

For much of the past two years, San Francisco-based OpenTable has been revamping its technical infrastructure to handle multiple languages in nations where the idea of reserving a lunch or dinner table via web or mobile app is still considered a bit wacky. While Americans

might be relatively familiar with going online to book a restaurant reservation, that concept remains foreign across much of the world, Priceline's former CEO, Darren Huston, said in a November 2015 interview.

"Nobody books restaurants online," he said of OpenTable's international expansion to Europe and Asia, adding, "a lot of plumbing had to be put in place."

OpenTable also sells table management and payment tools that can help restaurants manage their tables, accept mobile payments and offer digital gift cards, and it hopes that

even more casual-dining restaurants that don't book reservations may find interest in its software platforms.

"The core business itself is very healthy," Huston said of OpenTable. "It's profitable, it's growing, there have been lots of good changes made. But really we want OpenTable to be multiples of the size of what it is."

Quarles, who was previously OpenTable's CFO and before that was a games executive at The Walt Disney Co., was named chief executive in November to help speed the pace of the international plans.

Bloomberg

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA VISITS FLYING EYE HOSPITAL



Some 60 Sands China Care Ambassadors visited the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital Sunday and Monday

at the Macau International Airport.

Sands China said in a statement that it is one of the spon-

sors of Orbis' Third Generation Flying Eye Hospital Tour in the region. The sponsorship covers accommodation, meals, and Hong Kong-Macau ferry transportation for Orbis' crew during their tour of the city.

Sands China has also donated MOP 50,000 in cash to Orbis' efforts for the Macau launch event.

The Sands China Care Ambassador program gives Sands China staff an opportunity to serve the local community.

With over 1,500 volunteers coming together from across its properties, the Sands China Care Ambassadors have contributed more than 9,500 hours of community service in over 100 activities since the program was founded in August 2009.

PORTOFINO RESTAURANT PRESENTS REGIONAL MENU



The Venetian Macao's Portofino restaurant is offering a regional menu featuring the cuisine of Abruzzo, one of Italy's

best-kept secrets and a little-known treasure trove of Italian gastronomy, in the 'Abruzzo in Tavola' promotion from now un-

til November 21, 2016.

The promotion's special menu has been crafted by Portofino's Senior Chef and Abruzzo native, Domenico Cicchetti.

According to a press release by Sands China, dishes are seasoned with chili pepper, saffron, olive oil, wine, garlic and rosemary, all directly imported from Italy. One distinctive dish is chitarra, or "guitar pasta", the name of which comes from its unique pasta cutter, a wooden box with strings used to cut sheets of egg dough into strips. Chitarra is found only in Abruzzo. Cicchetti had one of these authentic pasta cutters brought over specifically for the promotion.

Portofino is open daily from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Ting Shi

CHINA'S REAL 'HOUSE OF CARDS'

TV series unveils graft excess

CHINESE state television is airing a documentary series on President Xi Jinping's signature anti-corruption campaign in prime time this week, unveiling new footage and salacious details of high-profile corruption cases ahead of a key Communist Party meeting.

The eight-episode series, called "Always On the Road," is being beamed daily to hundreds of millions of Chinese homes through Oct. 25 on CCTV's Channel 1. Xi, who has pledged that his battle against official graft - now into its fourth year - will never be eased, is preparing to chair the ruling party's sixth plenum next week. Two documents on strengthening party discipline will be discussed and approved at the meeting, which is slated to start Monday in Beijing.

The first episode was interspersed with excerpts from Xi's speeches and opened with the courtroom confession of Zhou Yongkang, the former security chief who was sentenced to life in prison in June last year. A series trailer featured previously unseen footage of two retired top commanders in the People's Liberation Army, Xu Caihou and Guo Boxiong. Both appeared frail and aging, with their once dark hair turned gray. Xu died of cancer last year.

Li Chuncheng, a former deputy party chief in the western province of Sichuan and the so-called "first tiger" snared in the corruption crackdown, was shown weeping during his CCTV interview. "Life is a live broadcast where there is no repeat button," Li was shown as saying on camera. "I should accept punishment by the party organization and the law."

"The series makes publicity preparations for the sixth plenum," said Zhu Lijia, a public affairs professor at the Chinese Academy of Governance in Beijing. "It aims to show that



Delegates applaud as Chinese President Xi Jinping, front, arrives for the closing session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People

The series makes publicity preparations for the [CCP] sixth plenum.

ZHU LIJIA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROFESSOR

corruption is a deep-seated socio-economic and political problem and calls for an enduring battle."

Xi's anti-graft campaign remains popular among average Chinese, with 83 percent of those surveyed earlier this year by the Pew Research Center describing corruption as a problem - a larger share than any other issue. At the same time, 64 percent said they believed the situation, which Xi has cast as a life-or-death battle for the party, would improve over the next five years.

The series displayed a dramatic flair worthy of Netflix Inc.'s "House of Cards," which both Xi and his top graft-buster, Wang Qishan, have referenced. The CCTV documentary, howe-

ver, sought to dispel any remaining aura still surrounding the once-powerful officials.

The program offered new details on cases, including those of Bai Enpei, a former senior lawmaker with the national legislature; and Zhou Benshun, a former party boss of the northern province of Hebei. Footage showed furniture and tea collected by Bai and gifts of jade jewelry given to his wife, with one bracelet reportedly worth 15 million yuan (USD2.3 million).

Zhou Benshun was accused of spending more than 1 million yuan to employ two

chefs and two domestic helpers - one tasked solely with taking care of his pets. His salary should be a little more than 100,000 yuan annually. The program cited his temple visits and multiple shrines as evidence of "superstitious activities" frowned upon by the officially atheistic Communist Party. When his pet turtle died, he transcribed a Buddhist text to bury with it.

Bai was given a death sentence with a two-year reprieve on Oct. 9 for accepting bribes of almost a quarter of a billion yuan. That same day Zhou was formally charged with bribery. **Bloomberg**

Wanda lures Hollywood to China with 40 percent rebate offer

CHINESE entertainment giant Wanda is offering producers a rebate of 40 percent to promote its upcoming USD8 billion movie studio in eastern China in an ambitious bid to establish the complex as a major production base in Asia.

The 408-acre Qingdao Movie Metropolis is due to open in the port city in August 2018. Not just a movie studio, it is slated to include four indoor theme parks and even international schools to encourage foreign filmmakers to live there



Chinese workers prepare the stage ahead of a ceremony for Dalian Wanda Group at a hotel in Beijing

with their families.

In an announcement Monday in Los Angeles, Wanda said the next installments of "Pacific Rim"

and "Godzilla," made by Wanda-owned Legendary Entertainment, would be filmed in Qingdao, as well as unspecified films by

Lionsgate.

Wanda said it and the Qingdao city government had established a film and TV industry development

fund to enable Chinese and international producers to receive a rebate of 40 percent of their Qingdao production expenses.

The announcement is the latest by Wanda to promote its growing entertainment brand on the global stage, even as U.S. lawmakers raise concerns about the company's investment in Hollywood.

Wanda already owns U.S. cinema chain AMC Theaters and bought Legendary Entertainment for \$3.5 billion in January. It has said it will invest in multiple Sony

Pictures productions, and strive to highlight China in those films.

Last month, a group of U.S. lawmakers called for closer scrutiny of Chinese investment such as Wanda's in the entertainment industry, concerned those moves could limit creative freedom or promote Chinese propaganda.

Originally a property and cinema giant, Wanda has also expanded into sports, becoming a top-tier sponsor of FIFA and acquiring a 20 percent stake in Spanish football team Atletico Madrid. **AP**



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

Xinhua: Beijing says visit by Philippine president restores trust

THIS week's visit to China by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte points toward a restoration of trust between the sides following recent tensions over their South China Sea territorial dispute, China's official news agency said yesterday.

The visit by the recently elected Duterte, who was due to arrive in Beijing later in the day, will be a step toward ending years of estrangement between the countries, Xinhua News Agency said.

"Should he demonstrate his good faith, the trip will present a long overdue opportunity for the two nations, which enjoy longstanding friendship, to heal the wounds of the past

few years and steer their relationship back to the right course," Xinhua said in a commentary.

Duterte's visit will help define how far he wants to shift allegiance from the United States to an Asian superpower locked in a territorial standoff with his small, impoverished country, and the Philippines' 65-year alliance with the U.S. — a key pillar of President Barack Obama's rebalance to Asia — could hang in the balance.

The Xinhua editorial signals how China hopes to use the visit to regain lost ground in a Southeast Asian nation that won a major arbitration lawsuit against Beijing's massive territorial claims in the South China

Sea just three months ago.

China refused to take part in the litigation or accept the ruling, which said China's historical claim to virtually the entire strategic waterbody wasn't supported by international law.

"The verdict issued by a law-abusing tribunal has no place in the negotiations at all," Xinhua said.

Duterte is scheduled to meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials tomorrow. The Philippine draft of a proposed joint statement touches on the restoration of permits for Filipino agricultural exports, China's support for Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs, boosting tourism and enhancing Coast Guard coope-

ration to avoid misunderstandings at sea.

Details are still being worked out, officials say, and it remains unclear whether the thorny issue of the South China Sea territorial disputes will be reflected in the statement.

China was to offer "assistance in personnel training and donation of equipment to aid in the fight against illegal drugs," according to the Philippine draft seen by The Associated Press.

Duterte's deadly battle against drug dealers and abusers has been a defining issue of his political career, prompting him to lash out at Obama and other foreign critics and further propelling him toward rapprochement with an uncritical Beijing.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi says no "foreign force" can stand in the way of progress in the long-neglected relationship between China and the Philippines.

Speaking in Beijing yesterday, Wang praised Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte for working to improve ties and for returning to "the track of dialogue and cooperation."

Wang said: "This reflects the wish of the Philippine people, and is in line with the Philippines' national interest. No foreign force can stand in the way of such process."

While Wang gave no details, he was likely referencing the United States as a foreign force that could upset the rapproche-

ment between Manila and Beijing, given the 65-year-old mutual defense treaty between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has told the official news agency that China is his country's only hope for development.

Previously, Duterte said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency that his visit to China points toward a restoration of trust between the sides following recent tensions over territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

He said China is a potent source of capital for much-needed infrastructure development and that the Philippines should leverage its 2 million-strong ethnic Chinese minority as a bridge to encourage Chinese investment.

Duterte said in the interview that his own grandfather was Chinese, and that "It's only China (that) can help us."

He said that unlike the U.S. and other Western nations, China has offered its support for his 3-month-old government without criticism.

A new poll shows that most Filipinos strongly trust the United States but have opposite feelings toward China.

The independent poll was released yesterday as Duterte starts a visit to Beijing to bolster ties.

The Social Weather Stations survey showed 76 percent of adult Filipinos have "much trust" in the U.S., while 13 percent are undecided. The rest have "little trust" for a "very good" net trust rating of plus 66.

China, on the other hand, is regarded with "little trust" by 55 percent of Filipinos, while 19 percent are undecided. Only 22 percent have "much trust" on the Asian economic powerhouse, the poll results showed.

The poll outcome came despite Duterte's praises for China and his efforts to rebuild relations between Beijing and Manila that have been strained by long-seething territorial conflicts in the South China Sea.

The SWS Sept. 24-27 survey polled 1,200 adult Filipinos and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. **AP**

Should he demonstrate his good faith, the trip will present a long overdue opportunity for the two nations ... to heal the wounds.

XINHUA EDITORIAL

Kenya: China petitioned to stop building railway in park

ABOUT 300 peaceful protesters marched to the Chinese embassy in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, to urge the Chinese government not to build a railway across the Nairobi National Park and surrounding areas.

Kenya is redoing its railway line from Nairobi

to the port city of Mombasa, and the line would cross over the park as it approaches the town of Naivasha, where the government wants to construct an industrial hub.

The Chinese funded project would cross 6 kilometers (4 miles) of the park and environmental groups have vowed to

fight it. Sydney Quntai, who spoke Monday on behalf of the peaceful protesters including conservation groups, said the construction of the railway through the park was a guise to grab land.

He said there are six other routes that are viable. **AP**



Environmental and wildlife campaigners gather to march to the Chinese embassy in the capital Nairobi

SINGAPORE

Self-driving car hits; no injuries

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

A self-driving car with two engineers on board was switching lanes in Singapore when it hit a truck yesterday, authorities said. No one was hurt.

The vehicle was operated by autonomous vehicle software startup nuTonomy, which made headlines last month when it offered free rides in its self-driving taxis in a Singapore district.

The Land Transport Authority said the car was "involved in a minor incident" on a public road designated for testing.

"The test vehicle was changing lane when it collided with a lorry at a low speed. There were no injuries," it said in a Facebook post. The transport regulator said it is working with police to investigate.

NuTonomy, a spinoff from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which has offices in Massachusetts and Singapore, said in a statement that it is cooperating with the authorities and conducting an investigation of its own.

The company's six cars - modified Renault Zoe and Mitsubishi i-MiEV electrics - have a safety driver in front who is prepared to take the wheel if necessary and a researcher



An autonomous vehicle undergoes a test drive in Singapore

in back who watches the car's computers.

Its self-driving vehicles were tested in a 6.5-square kilometer business and residential district of Singapore called "one north." The official test area has since been doubled by the government, nuTonomy CEO Karl Iagnemma said.

Last month, nuTonomy began allowing the Singapore public to take trips in its self-driving vehicles for free. The company's previously invitation-only trial was launched in August, beating ride-hailing service Uber, which began offering autonomous car rides in Pittsburgh weeks later.

NuTonomy was formed in

2013 by Iagnemma and Emilio Frazzoli, MIT researchers who studied robotics and autonomous vehicles for the Defense Department.

The company expects its fleet of self-driving cars to grow to a dozen by the end of the year. It plans to make its Singapore taxi fleet fully self-driving by 2018. AP

AUSTRALIA

UN investigator urges review of secrecy laws

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S government has become increasingly secretive through a range of new laws, including a gag on officials speaking out about conditions at an Australia-run immigration camp in Nauru, a United Nations human rights investigator said yesterday.

Michel Forst, the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, recommended that Australia review its secrecy laws, including the "stifling" Border Force Act, to remove provisions that contravene human rights principles.

The Attorney-General's Department said Forst did not present a balanced view, but that the government would consider his recommendations.

Australian doctors have initiated a court challenge to the Border Force Act, which they argue gags them from speaking publicly about child abuse and other threats to asylum seekers and refugees held in the Pacific atoll nation of Nauru.

The law was introduced last year as part of a widely criticized policy of sending all asylum seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat to Nauru or to the South Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea.

The Australian military-run Operation Sovereign Borders, which rankles Indonesia and human rights advocates because it involves turning back boats and rejecting refugee applications at sea, is shrouded in secrecy.

The Border Force Act makes it a criminal offense punishable by two years in prison for a broadly defined "entrusted person," such as a Nauru doctor, to disclose "protected information."

Journalists are also at risk of prosecution for abetting such an unlawful disclosure. Journalists are all but barred by Nauru's government from visiting the 1,159 asylum seekers and refugees who live among 10,000 local residents on the tiny island.

Amnesty International earlier this week released a report on Nauru, which it described as an open-air prison where conditions endured by asylum seekers and refugees amounted to torture.

yesterday, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull rejected the London-based human rights group's description of deliberate and systematic torture on Nauru as "absolutely false."

Forst, the U.N. human rights investigator, said he had been assured by government officials during his two-week visit to Australia that no one had yet been charged under the Border Protection Act. AP

Vietnam braces for Typhoon Sarika as flood toll rises to 31



VIETNAM is bracing for Typhoon Sarika as the death toll from flooding in the central part of the country triggered by heavy rains rose to 31.

The typhoon with sustained winds of 165 kph and gusts of up to 200 kph is moving toward northern Vietnam at 15 kilometers per hour, the national wea-

ther forecast center said yesterday.

It warned that heavy rains are expected today in the northeast of the country.

The government has urged ships and vessels to stay away from the typhoon path in the South China Sea and take shelter. It also urged local authorities to prepare to evacuate people from high-risk areas.

Sarika, named after a singing bird in Cambodia, slammed the northern Philippines on Sunday, killing two people and displacing 150,000.

In Vietnam, seven more bodies have been recovered, bringing the death toll from the flooding in central region to 31, while authorities are still searching for another person who was reported missing, disaster officials said.

The flooding triggered by heavy rains of up to 90 centimeters last week submerged 125,000 homes and damaged infrastructure, crops and temporarily disrupted the North-South Highway and railway links.

Vietnam is prone to floods and storms, which kill hundreds of people and cause damages of millions of dollars each year. AP



Nick Perry, Wellington

AP EXCLUSIVE

US ignored rising-sea warnings at radar site in Pacific Ocean

THE U.S. Air Force is spending nearly USD1 billion to build a radar installation that will help keep astronauts and satellites safe by tracking pieces of space junk as small as a baseball. That is, if global warming doesn't get in the way.

The Space Fence is being constructed on a tiny atoll in the Marshall Islands that scientists say could be regularly swamped by rising seas within a couple of decades as a result of climate change. The salt water could play havoc with the equipment, the scientists say.

And The Associated Press found that neither the military nor its contractor, Lockheed Martin, gave serious consideration to that threat when designing the installation and choosing a site, despite warnings from the island nation's environmental agency.

The future "does not look good for a lot of these islands," said Curt Storlazzi, an oceanographer with the U.S. Geological Survey who is leading a study at Kwajalein Atoll, where the Space Fence complex is being built.

Dana Whalley, a civilian who is managing the Space Fence program, said that the radar installation has a projected lifespan of 25 years and that he doesn't expect sea levels to rise enough over that period to cause a problem. But if necessary, he said, the base could take steps to improve its seawalls.

Still, because of budget pressures, military equipment is often used well beyond its projected lifespan. In fact, a key part of the radar tracking system that the Space Fence replaces was built during the dawn of the space age and was badly outdated by the time it was shut down 50 years later in 2013.

Midway between Hawaii and Australia, the Marshall Islands are specks of land that typically poke just a few feet above the Pacific Ocean, making them

some of the world's most vulnerable places to rising seas.

The U.S. military has a longstanding connection to the islands. Bikini Atoll was used as a nuclear test site after World War II. Kwajalein Atoll, a battle site during the war, is now an Army base, a ballistic missile test site and an important part of the military's space surveillance network.

The growing problem of space debris was highlighted in 2009, when an old Russian satellite smashed into a commercial U.S. satellite, creating hundreds of pieces of orbiting junk. The 2013 movie "Gravity" dramatized the threat to astronauts, who need to be safe from debris whether they're traveling on the International Space Station or in a rocket.

Lockheed Martin won the \$915 million Space Fence contract in 2014 and broke ground last year. When the radar system becomes operational in late 2018, it should increase the number of objects that can be tracked tenfold to about

■ **The future 'does not look good for a lot of these islands,' said Curt Storlazzi, an oceanographer with the US Geological Survey**

200,000 and provide more precise information on their orbits.

The Space Fence installation will include digital transmitters and receivers as well as power and cooling facilities. About 15 people will operate and maintain it around the clock.

The military chose the Marshall Islands because the Space Fence works best near the equator. But it means the installation is being built just 3 meters above sea level, or the height of a basketball hoop.

Storlazzi said his study explored the point at which storms will cause the sea to wash clear across an island, completely submerging it, at least once a year. He said that's when an island will no longer be able to sustain most plant or animal life.

He examined one island within Kwajalein Atoll and found that it will probably reach its tipping point within a few decades. He said the island on which the Space Fence is being built faces a similar threat.

The flooding there will probably damage power cables, sewer lines and other electronics and hardware, he said. The seawater will erode land, he said, and eat away at everything from concrete to cars.

"When you get to the point where water is going over the top of the island annually, it will affect a lot of daily life, whether it's related to the Space Fence or other operations, like moving food around," he said.

The study, funded primarily by the Defense Department, has not yet been peer-reviewed or published. But it paints a much more dire future for the atoll than earlier studies.

"We are talking the next couple of decades, not centuries, as previously thought," Storlazzi said.

He said his team studied the underwater contours of the islands and showed how coral reefs will become less effective as breakwaters when sea levels rise.

The Marshall Islands base is among dozens of U.S. military sites threatened by climate change. A July report by the Union of Concerned Scientists analyzed 18 military installations along the U.S. East and Gulf coasts. It found that with just a moderate rise in sea levels, 16 could flood 100 times a year by 2050.

Last October, strong winds and waves battered Kwajalein Atoll. Ferries were canceled and a dock was damaged, forcing the base to take the unprecedented step of hosting 845 Marshallese day workers overnight.

Whalley said the military investigated threats, including ocean flooding, in an environmental assessment of the site before beginning construction. "The over-wash threat, if you will, is built into the government requirements of the site," he said.

Yet that 2014 assessment, which runs over 100 pages and addresses everything from sea turtles to the island's archaeological history, makes no mention of climate change, noting only that the Space Fence would be able to withstand a small earthquake-generated tsunami.

A single line reads: "Based on historical data, there are no anticipated issues with ocean tide

and/or wave flooding."

Lockheed Martin did not investigate the issue either. Bruce Schafhauser, Lockheed's program director for the Space Fence, said the Air Force asked it to design the system to withstand earthquakes but not rising seas.

"We don't have any insight into that," Schafhauser said. "It has not been something that has been required from the Air Force."

Schafhauser said the responsibility for finding a suitable location for the installation fell to the military.

The Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority wrote a response to the environmental assessment, describing the U.S. military's overall treatment of the climate change threat to Kwajalein as "wholly inadequate." It questioned whether the military was overstating the atoll's elevation and criticized its reliance on historical data when the problem is rising seas, a more recent phenomenon.

The military responded in its final report: "Detailed study of sea-level rise risks are beyond the scope of this document."

Since then, leaders from the Marshall Islands say they have been working with the U.S. to improve environmental standards and ensure climate effects are seriously addressed in future military projects.

Whalley said he plans to find out more about the USGS research at Kwajalein.

"It's the first I've heard about the study," he said. "When they give you a billion dollars, you tend to focus on getting the radar built." **AP**

Vladimir Isachenkov
& Bassem Mroue, Moscow

MIDDLE EAST

Russia, Syria halt Aleppo airstrikes ahead of 8-hour lull

RUSSIAN and Syrian warplanes yesterday halted their airstrikes on Syria's besieged city of Aleppo in preparation for a temporary pause in the military push that Moscow has announced for later in the week, the Russian defense minister said.

According to Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the halt in the strikes should help pave way for militants to leave the eastern rebel-held parts of the contested city.

Both Russian and Syrian air raids on Aleppo were suspended on 10 a.m. Tuesday, Shoigu said. He described the suspension as a precursor for the opening of humanitarian corridors.

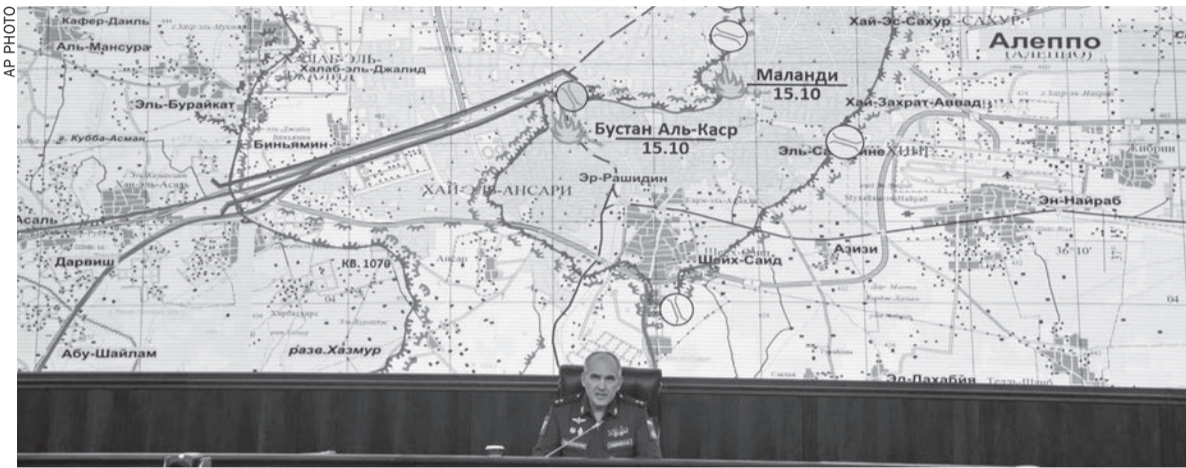
Moscow announced a "humanitarian pause" tomorrow to allow civilians and militants safe passage out of the city.

At that time, Russian and Syrian militaries will desist from any offensive actions. Syrian rebels, including al-Qaida militants, as well as the wounded and the sick will be allowed to leave to the neighboring rebel-held province of Idlib.

"The early halting of airstrikes is necessary to declare a 'humanitarian pause'," Shoigu said in a televised statement. "It will ... guarantee a safe exit of civilians through six corridors and prepare for the evacuation of the ill and the wounded from the eastern part of Aleppo."

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the halt in the airstrikes was a goodwill gesture to pave the way for Thursday's pause. "The Russian military is offering yet another chance, and we hope that our partners will allow us all to take advantage of that," Peskov said.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and once its commercial hub,



Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of the Russian military's General Staff speaks to the media, with a map of the area around Aleppo seen in the background

has been subjected to the most intense aerial bombardment since the start of the Mideast country's conflict in 2011. In recent months, the Syrian army has pressed its offensive into the rebel-held eastern part of the city. Air raids have killed hundreds and caused international outrage.

A Russia-U.S.-brokered cease-fire collapsed last month as the Syrian army launched an offensive on eastern Aleppo under the cover of Russian warplanes.

Mohammed Abu Rajab, an Aleppo resident, said airstrikes on the eastern neighborhoods stopped early Tuesday, just after the city had been subjected to another intense round of air raids.

"There were airstrikes throughout the night," Abu Rajab, who works at a local hospital, said over the telephone.

In Moscow, Shoigu added that Russia is "asking the countries

wielding influence with the (Syrian) rebels ... to persuade their leaders to end fighting and leave the city."

He said the Syrian troops will pull back to distances allowing unimpeded exit for those carrying weapons via two corridors, including the main artery of Castello Road.

The Russian initiative also should boost talks between military experts from several nations that are set to open in Geneva on Wednesday, he added.

"Their work will be aimed first of all at separating the 'moderate opposition' from the terrorists and its withdrawal from the eastern part of Aleppo," he said.

Moscow has urged Washington to encourage Syria's Western-backed rebels to sever ties with al-Qaida militants.

During a meeting over the weekend co-chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey La-

vrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar said they would work to separate moderate opposition groups in Aleppo from Syria's former al-Qaida affiliate once known as the Nusra Front.

Russian and Syrian officials

have since embraced a proposal made earlier this month by the U.N. Syria envoy, Staffan de Mistura, to allow al-Qaida-linked militants to leave Aleppo in exchange for a truce and a local administration for the eastern districts. Rebels there, along with many residents, have rejected the offer.

Russia's announcement did not include any promises of an extended cease-fire or local administration in and around Aleppo.

U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner, speaking to reporters in Washington yesterday, said the Russian-Syrian pause planned was "a bit too little, too late."

Peskov, Putin's spokesman, would not say if the strikes would resume after the pause, saying that depends on whether the rebels can be persuaded to cut ties with militants. **AP**

GERMANY: FIGHT AGAINST IS WON'T INCREASE SECURITY THREAT

GERMANY'S INTERIOR minister says efforts to combat the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria won't increase the risk of attacks at home.

Thomas de Maiziere says authorities expect IS fighters from Europe to try to return as the group faces military setbacks, but that authorities are working to minimize security threats. He told reporters in Berlin yesterday that he didn't see "any additional threat to Germany from the

fight against IS (in the region)," noting that "the threat is already high and it's right that we should combat IS militarily."

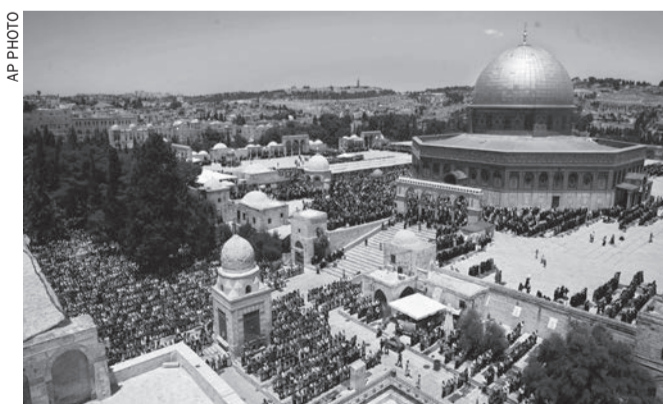
Speaking after meeting the European Union's security commissioner, de Maiziere said that members states were working to combine databases holding fingerprint, visa and border crossing information, adding that this was "legally difficult, technically complicated and of utmost urgency."

UNESCO adopts controversial Jerusalem resolution

UNESCO'S executive board yesterday approved a resolution that Israel says denies the deep historic Jewish connection to holy sites in Jerusalem — and that has angered Israel's government and many Jews around the world.

The board adopted the measure by consensus in its morning session at Paris-based UNESCO. A draft form of the resolution had already been approved by a commission last week.

The resolution is not expected to have direct impact on Jerusalem itself, but it deepened tensions within UNESCO, which is



Palestinians pray in the Al Aqsa Mosque compound during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, in Jerusalem's Old City

also facing a diplomatic dispute between Japan and China that threatens funding.

The resolution, titled "Occupied Palestine," is the latest of several mea-

sures at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization over decades that Israelis see as evidence of ingrained anti-Israel bias within the United

Nations, where Israel and its allies are far outnumbered by Arab countries and their supporters. Israel's concern has mounted since UNESCO states admitted Palestine as a member in 2011.

Israel last week suspended its ties with UNESCO over the draft resolution, which uses only the Islamic name for a hilltop compound sacred to both Jews and Muslims. The site includes the Western Wall, a remnant of the biblical temple and the holiest site where Jews can pray.

Jews refer to the hilltop compound in Jerusalem's Old City as the Temple

Mount. Muslims refer to it as al-Haram al-Sharif, Arabic for the Noble Sanctuary, and it includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the golden Dome of the Rock. It is the holiest site in Judaism and the third holiest in Islam, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Israel had already suspended its funding to UNESCO when Palestinian membership was approved, along with the United States, which used to provide 22 percent of the agency's budget.

"We won't negotiate and we won't take part in these ugly games," the Israeli ambassador to UNESCO,

Carmel Shama-Hacohen, told The Associated Press after the ratification. "There is no place for these games in UNESCO. This noble organization was established to preserve history, not to rewrite it."

The longstanding dispute is also linked to Israel's refusal to grant visas to UNESCO experts to go in the country and assess the level of preservation of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Elias Sanbar, Palestinian ambassador to UNESCO, told the AP this refusal to allow a UNESCO mission was a "very big problem." **AP**

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FMBA Breakfast Meeting

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what's ON



LUSOPHONE PAINTERS EXHIBITION - 2016

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: October 23, 2016

VENUE: Room Ho Yin, Macau Military Club, Av. Da Praia Grande, 795

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 4000

'HAVE FUN' CHU KIN FAT ARTWORK EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

ADMISSION: free

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lazaro

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

ART COURSES STUDENT'S EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU MUSEUM OF ART

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

UNTIL: November 27, 2106

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY - A RETROSPECTIVE

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

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

SPAIN: TOWN MAY FINE CHURCH OVER 'NOISY' BELLS

A small Spanish town is considering fining a medieval church 16,000 euros (USD17,500) because its bells are "too noisy."

The town hall of Mostoles, southwest of Madrid, said yesterday that following complaints from residents, town technicians measured the noise level of the chimes of Our Lady of the Assumption Church and found they were some 30 decibels above the 55 rate permitted by town regulations.

Experts say normal conversation produces 55-60 decibels while an airplane in flight produces 110-120 decibels.

Parish priest Ignacio Torres told the El Pais newspaper the bells have always been tolling in the town, and that they were usually only rung at noon and before evening Mass. He said he had no idea how the church would pay the fine if enforced.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:40	Champions League 2016/2017: Sporting - Borussia Dortmund (Repeated)
17:15	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
18:00	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:50	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live
02:45	Champions League 2016/2017: Dynamo Kiev - Benfica (Live)

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



1987 SHARES PLUNGE AFTER WALL STREET CRASH

The world's stock market has collapsed after shares on Wall Street suffered a wave of panic selling.

The Dow Jones industrial average plummeted by a record 508 points, registering a percentage drop of 22.5%.

On Wall Street itself, share prices crashed across the board in frenzied trading that saw collective losses worse than the infamous "Black Monday" in October 1929.

In London the value of quoted shares fell by £50bn as the FT 30-share index dived 183.7 points to 1629.2.

The previous sharpest one day fall was on March 1, 1974 after Labour's indecisive election victory, when shares fell 7.1%.

The FTSE index also crashed more than 300 points with a loss of £63bn.

The collapse was triggered by Friday's fall on Wall Street and a steep drop in Tokyo.

The White House attempted to calm investors by issuing a statement declaring that President Ronald Reagan remained convinced that the US economy was sound.

Dealers marked prices down in an effort to discourage sellers amid scenes close to hysteria.

The percentage drop was the second largest ever next to the 24.4% fall of 12 December, 1914.

Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange John Phelan said: "This is the nearest thing to a financial melt-down I've ever come across. I would not want to be around for another one like this."

But officials warned against comparisons, saying that the situation is dramatically different from 1929.

Trading activity was driven down by growing fears of rising interest rates and a falling dollar.

These were exacerbated by the news that the US had retaliated against Iranian attacks in the Gulf by bombing an offshore oil rig.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the wake of the 1987 crash, which also became known as Black Monday, markets around the world were put on restricted trading mainly because at the time computers were dealing with so many orders that they were unable to keep up.

By the end of October, stock markets in Australia had fallen by 41.8%, Hong Kong 45.8% and the United Kingdom 26.4%.

The effects of the crash were not as crippling as expected because it was not followed by a depression.

Over the next decade interest rates went down and investors showed new faith in the market.

The debate over the cause of the crash continued for many years after the event but economists have never been able to name a single factor that ushered in Black Monday.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A child is the key to your happiness today. If you're a parent, that's a no-brainer, but if not, you may find yourself drawn to a friend's family, or you may just end up helping a lost kid at the park.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You are all het up and ready for a fight - but those around you may not be contrary enough to mix it up with you. Don't spend the day trying to find someone to rise to your challenge.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your social and mental energies are aligned in the same direction today - and that should be lots of fun for you! It is a good idea to arrive at conclusions via argument, but try to keep it light and fluffy.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to make today's purchases based solely on price - you've got to at least think about quality as well. You may not be ready for a colossal price tag, but you can surely compromise.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your ability to dream up great ideas on the fly is enhanced now - so make sure that you're showing people what you can do. It's one of those days when things are swinging your way.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There's a bit too much going on for you to keep track of it all. That's not to say that you're overwhelmed - just that you'd rather take things one step at a time. Try to clear out anything extraneous.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Leadership isn't necessarily something you seek out - but it is sometimes thrust upon you, like today. Expect to need to take charge of some group and lead the way toward a new day.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your inner power is growing, so make sure that you're pushing yourself in new directions. You may find that people are more willing to give you room to breathe if you ask for it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Take a risk - though make sure you're not staking anything you can't afford to lose! There are no sure things in this life, but the odds are definitely in your favor today. Besides, it's fun to play!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Be wary with sharing today - you may end up accidentally giving up more than you or your people can afford. That's not to say you should be miserly, just that you need to keep careful accounts.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your energy may be off-balance - but it's really your relationships that are out of whack. You need to throw yourself into figuring out your friends and family before you can make progress.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got to mind your own business today - even if curiosity is killing you! At least one colleague just needs their privacy, so let them stew or freak out until tomorrow at the earliest.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Devilfish; 6- Needy; 10- License plates; 14- Thin as ___; 15- Bern's river; 16- Together, in music; 17- Spiritual sustenance; 18- Old Fords; 19- Property claim; 20- One-celled organism; 22- Careless; 24- Nile biter; 26- Half the diameter; 27- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 31- Managed; 32- Lasso; 33- Actor Keach; 36- Mai ___; 39- Yard tunneler; 40- Fish illegally; 41- Not us; 42- Santa ___ winds; 43- Bowling alley button; 44- Jewelled crown worn by women; 45- Where the buoys are; 46- Flexible; 48- Disengage; 51- Family man; 52- Azure; 54- Cramps, e.g.; 59- In the center of; 60- Long and Peeples; 62- Belief involving sorcery; 63- Sites; 64- Wishing won't make ___; 65- Potato pancake; 66- Golfer Aoki; 67- Sets of equipment; 68- Lucy's landlady;

DOWN: 1- Doll's word; 2- Composer Khachaturian; 3- Second start?; 4- Fork prong; 5- Montgomery's state; 6- Good buddy; 7- Sworn thing; 8- Command; 9- Investigate; 10- Capital of Estonia; 11- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 12- Surmise; 13- Chamber workers; 21- Cool ___ cucumber; 23- June 6, 1944; 25- Mexican moola; 27- Humorist Bombeck; 28- Large cat; 29- In ___ land; 30- Dug in; 34- ___ kwon do; 35- Played the part; 36- Yonder thing; 37- Ethereal; Prefix; 38- Apple computer; 40- Antiwar activist; 41- ___ the season...; 43- Actual; 44- Frog baby; 45- Workroom; 47- ___ Cruces; 48- Band's sample tapes; 49- "All My Children" vixen; 50- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 52- Colombian city; 53- Political cartoonist Thomas; 55- Blind as ___; 56- Clockmaker Thomas; 57- Earn; 58- Cartoonist Silverstein; 61- Mayday!;



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Rob Harris, London

FOOTBALL

Man City profits up, in 'critical new phase' under Guardiola

MANCHESTER City achieved its second profit under its Abu Dhabi owners prior to a bout of heavy spending on players in the off-season which is aimed at title challenges in England and Europe.

As City disclosed its annual financial results, chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said yesterday that the Premier League club has started a "critical new phase" in the transformation that began with the 2008 takeover by Sheikh Mansour, a member of Abu Dhabi's oil-rich ruling family.

Profits nearly doubled to 20.5 million pounds (USD25 million) in the 2015-16 season, when the only trophy was the League Cup, prompting the replacement of Manuel Pellegrini as manager with Pep Guardiola.

City did reach the Champions League semifinals for the first time last season, losing to eventual champion Real Madrid, but only finished fourth in the Premier League. The response was providing Guardiola with around 170 million pounds (\$207 million) to lavish on fresh talent in the summer transfer window, including de-

AP PHOTO



Manchester City manager Josep Guardiola

fender John Stones and winger Leroy Sane.

"I believe the 2016-17 season represents the beginning of a critical new phase in the evolution of Manchester City," Al Mubarak said in a statement. "We know that we have the playing, coaching and off-field capabilities at our disposal to achieve great things in English and European football in the years ahead."

City, which won the English title for the first time in 44 years in 2012 and then again in 2014, is top of the standings after eight games. City has never won the European Cup and Guardiola faces Barcelona in the Champions League this night with the team two points behind his former club in Group C.

City has had an uncomfortable relationship with the Champions League and competition organizer UEFA, which

previously restricted the team's spending and squad size as punishment for breaching Financial Fair Play rules following large outlays on transfers.

With limits on how much its wealthy owner can inject into the club, City has focused instead on generating more cash. City's best Champions League run helped to drive revenue up 11 percent to a club record 391.8 million pounds (\$478 million) in 2015-16. City's neighbor Manchester United last month reported annual revenue of 515.3 million pounds (\$628 million).

Manchester City is the dominant club in the City Football Group — which also includes teams in New York, Melbourne, Yokohama — and was valued at \$3 billion last year when a Chinese consortium took a 13 percent stake. **AP**

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FINALLY, MACAU AS A PLATFORM?

The Forum Macau was launched in late 2003 with the purpose of promoting the 'multilateral co-operation mechanism aimed at consolidating economic and trade exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries'. Since its inception, it has had strong political backing from the Chinese government. The other objective of the Forum was that Macau be used as a primary platform for cross-investments between these countries.

However, after thirteen years, five Ministerial Conferences, hundreds of seminars, meetings and official trips and hours of well-intended speeches, the role of Macau has been limited to hosting the Forum and being the place where framework agreements and MOUs are occasionally signed. Ask any official or promoter of the Forum why Macau should be used as a 'platform for investment' and you will hear the benefits of similar legal systems, political proximity, friendship and a common language, but little more. Nothing of tax exemptions, preferential expatriation of fund schemes, finance benefits or institutional support, other than a few inter-governmental introductions.

We have associated offices in Portugal, Angola and Mozambique, and have participated in some of the major Chinese investments in these countries. Truth be told, Macau was never even remotely involved. Difficulties have been highlighted, as even Susana Chou – a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a very successful entrepreneur and a driving force of the relationship between China, Macau and the Portuguese-speaking countries – has acknowledged; saying that the process of turning Macau into an effective platform has encountered certain failures and disappointments, namely difficulties related to funding and financing.

It must be said that the Forum Macau officials have been working extremely hard throughout the years to fulfill the 'one platform' objective, but there must be strong political will from all countries involved to set out an efficient action plan that makes Macau an attractive, useful and effective hub for China-bound investment in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Nevertheless, during last week's Ministerial Conference, I believe there were strong movements towards finally making the objectives of the Forum Macau a reality. Chinese Premier Li Ke-qiang announced 18 initiatives to "deepen cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries of the forum in the next three years." He also made other statements which pointed strongly to the continuation of the central government's support for Macau actually becoming what it has sought to be for more than a decade. One of the measures he mentioned was encouraging the development of the 'Silk Road Fund and the China-Africa Development Fund'.

You may remember that former Premier Wen Jiabao announced a USD1 billion fund in 2010 and established it in 2013, headquartered in Beijing and sponsored by the China Development Bank and the Macau Industrial and Commercial Development Fund. After some disappointment in the effectiveness and actual performance of the fund (only a couple of projects were approved), Premier Li announced that the fund would move to Macau. This is certainly very positive and we can expect the implementation of the fund to be more successful than the previous one. This can only be achieved by the creation and disclosure of clearer funding application regulations and criteria, in the hopes that the process will be more effective and accessible to companies and projects that actually need it. When this happens – and with the involvement of all stakeholders (governments, financial institutions, regulators, associations, brokers, corporations, entrepreneurs and service providers) – I am sure that more investments will be funded and structured in or through Macau.

THE SWISS OPEN PROBE INTO SON OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S PRESIDENT

Swiss prosecutors have begun a preliminary investigation into Teodorin Obiang Nguema, the son of the president of Equatorial Guinea, who is set to go on trial in neighboring France for alleged mispending of public funds.

Switzerland's 24 Heures newspaper reported yesterday that Swiss judicial authorities

had requested support from France regarding Obiang.

Obiang is accused of acquiring real estate, luxury cars, art and other goods in France with public funds from the oil-rich African country. He is set to go on trial there for money laundering and other charges.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Roman coins ID'd in Japanese ruins, but their origin baffles



Excavation site where 10 coins including a few likely dating to the Roman Empire were found

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

THE eyes of a visiting archaeologist lit up when he was shown the 10 tiny, rusty discs that had sat unnoticed in storage for two and a half years at a dig on a southern Japan island.

He had been to archaeological sites in Italy and Egypt, and recognized the "little round things" as old coins, including a few likely dating to the Roman Empire.

"I was so excited I almost forgot what I was there for, and the coins were all we talked about," said Toshio Tsukamoto of the Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property in Nara, an ancient Japanese capital near Kyoto.

The discovery, announced last month, is baffling. How did the coins, some dating to the third or fourth century, wind up half a world away in a medieval Japanese castle on the island of Okinawa? Experts suspect they may have arrived centuries later via China or Southeast Asia, not as currency but as decoration or treasure.

The 10 copper coins were unearthed in December 2013 at the 12th-15th century Katsuren Castle, a

UNESCO World Heritage site, during an annual excavation for study and tourism promotion by the board of education in Uruma, a city in central Okinawa.

While the find has yet to be submitted for publication in an academic journal, an outside expert is convinced the coins are real.

"There is almost no mistake" about their authenticity, said Makiko Tsumura, a curator at the Ancient Orient Museum in Tokyo, though she allowed that they could also be counterfeit versions from about the same time.

Four of the coins have are from the third to fourth-century Roman Empire, and a fifth one from the 17th-century Ottoman Empire. The remaining five are still being examined.

The coins, which are on display at the Uruma City Yonagusuku Historical Museum through Nov. 25, were dug up from about 1 meter underground in a layer believed to be from the 14th to 15th century.

"At first, we didn't think they were coins. Those little round things, to us, seemed like armor parts," said Masaki Yokoo, a city official in charge of the archaeological project.

Details that were barely distinguishable emerged more clearly in X-ray analysis. One bears an image of

fourth-century Roman Emperor Constantine I, and another shows a helmeted soldier holding a shield in one hand, while stabbing an enemy with a spear in the other.

The Ottoman coin is inscribed with the year equivalent to 1687, Yokoo said.

Tsumura said the X-ray analysis, photos, size and weight match typical Roman and Ottoman coins, resembling those excavated in China, Indonesia or India – places that had trade with Okinawa.

Tsukamoto said the coins might have been intentionally planted as a pacifying ritual at the castle, which was abandoned in 1458, similar to armor, jewelry and other valuables buried in funeral rituals in Okinawa.

Further investigation, including analysis of the copper content and other artifacts found with the coins, may help identify the coins' origin.

Researchers are also seeking an explanation for why coins from two distinct eras were found near each other, and how a 17th-century coin could have been in a layer believed to be 200 to 300 years older than that.

"There are still lots of unknowns," said Okinawa International University archaeologist Hiroki Miyagi. "Our findings this time are just the beginning." AP

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA Canberra has become increasingly secretive through a range of new laws, including a gag on officials speaking out about conditions at an Australia-run immigration camp in Nauru, a United Nations human rights investigator says. More on p12

SINGAPORE A self-driving car with two engineers on board was switching lanes in Singapore when it hit a truck, authorities say. More on p12



MIDDLE EAST Iran supports the Iraqi gov't in its fight against terrorism amid an offensive to drive out the Islamic State group from the northern city of Mosul. Iran is a close ally of the Shiite-led government in Baghdad and has sent Revolutionary Guard advisers to Iraq to help organize Shiite militias. More on p14



GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel will host a meeting with the Russian, Ukrainian and French presidents today to discuss efforts toward peace in eastern Ukraine – their first summit in a year, her office said. Merkel invited Putin, Poroshenko and Hollande to "assess the implementation of the Minsk (peace) agreements since the last meeting and discuss further steps."



NIGERIA's gov't is negotiating the release of another 83 of the Chibok schoolgirls taken in a mass abduction two-and-a-half years ago, but more than 100 others appear unwilling to leave their Boko Haram Islamic extremist captors, a community leader said yesterday.