



NEW MACAU-SEOUL ROUTE OPENS

South Korean airline Jeju Air yesterday inaugurated a new route connecting Macau to Seoul's Incheon airport

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2,000 PEOPLE JOIN MACAU ECO TRAILHIKER

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LUSOFONIA HAS 'GROWN AND IMPROVED'

Portuguese-style gastronomy, music, dance, games and street decorations filled the area around the Taipa Houses-Museum

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MOP 7.50

HKD 9.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES and the U.S. are verifying if Chinese coast guard ships left a disputed shoal after President Rodrigo Duterte reached out to Beijing, allowing Filipino fishermen back to the rich fishing area that China seized in 2012 as tensions spiked in the South China Sea.



SOUTH KOREAN Thousands took to the streets Seoul on Saturday calling for increasingly unpopular President Park Geun-hye to step down over allegations that she let an old friend, the daughter of a religious cult leader, interfere in important state affairs. More on p13

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Sluggish global trade growth is here to stay

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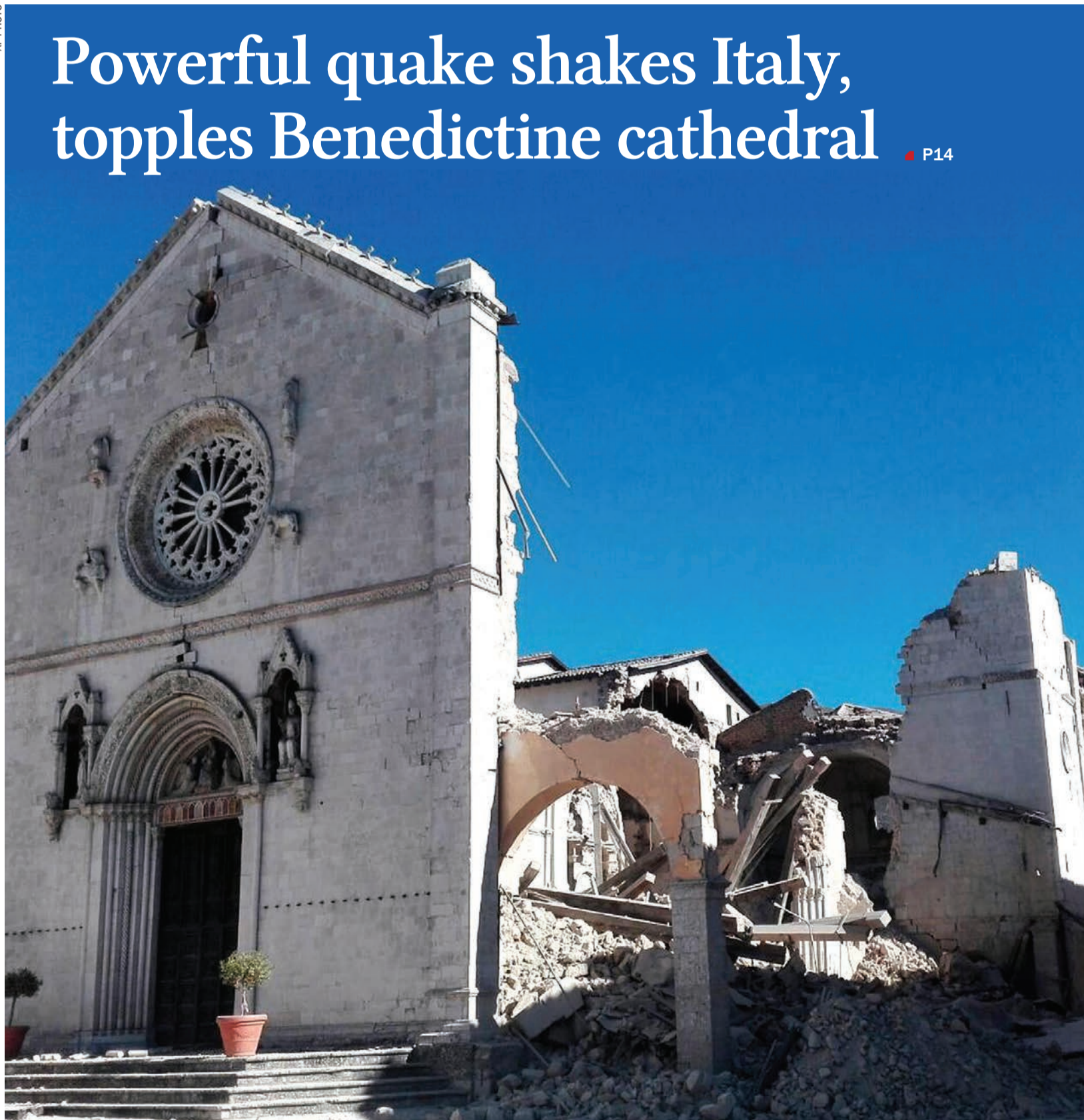
BRUTAL ASSAULT

Woman left for dead in garbage survives

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Powerful quake shakes Italy, topples Benedictine cathedral

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2,000 joined 'Walk in the Mountain'



Organised by the Sport Bureau (ID), the activity "Walk in the Mountain – Fall" was held yesterday morning at the Hac Sa Reservoir Country Park, attracting about 2,000 participants. Several highlighted officials undertook the 3.5 km walk of the circuit, led by ID president Pun Weng Kun. The event was held to promote ID's belief in "sports for all" and to actively demonstrate the beneficial effects of playing sport, including on a social level. The walk started around 9.30 a.m. following the inauguration of the event and lasted for about one hour and 15 minutes. ID also provided on-site at the Barbecue Park of the Hac Sa Reservoir several booths, offering physical assessments, information on sports activities and exhibitions. ID hopes that the event will encourage citizens to adopt a future lifestyle that includes the participation in and practice of sports activities.

Scholarships for locals who want to study in Portugal

Applications for 20 scholarships, each offering MOP65,000 per year for local high school graduates who want to pursue university degrees in Portugal, are now open. This program is available only for permanent Macau residents who have completed a minimum of four years of high school in the city. The scholarships have been specifically created for students who intend to enroll in a bachelor of law. Students must return to Macau after completing their education and serve the city for a minimum of three consecutive years. Results will be announced in February.

Property management law under debate

The president of the Legislative Assembly First Committee, Kwan Tsui Hang, said that the committee has not made a final decision yet regarding the latest property management draft law. The committee is still discussing whether companies are required to inform property owner's committees six months in advance of terminating a contract with owners. Kwan explained that different stances are held by the Housing Bureau and the Legal Affairs Bureau, with the former believing that companies should have to give notice in advance and the latter holding the contrary view.

THE president of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Ho Iat Seng announced at the AL's Open Day on Saturday that the government and the law-making body have come to an agreement regarding several "controversial" bills, which will now be postponed until the next legislative term.

The controversial bills in question include the consumer protection bill and taxi regulation bill, which Ho confirmed would not be considered until the next term begins.

The current term is set to expire in August 2017. Until then, lawmakers will focus on the remaining, less controversial bills, hoping to reach an agreement on them.

"For example, the revision on sexual crimes [in] the Criminal Code only adds two to three terms and conditions. We have a mutual understanding. They have been discussed for so long. If they are sent to the Legislative Assembly, we would go through [them] as much as we could," the AL president said, as cited

AL president: Controversial bills to be postponed



Ho Iat Seng

by public broadcaster TDM.

"However, if the entire bill is a newly-legislated one, or a new bill that begins at a structural level, I think there would be

more terms and conditions. It would take more time," he added.

Ho also said that the report on lawmaker Gabriel

Tong's proposal for the Land Act should be completed within the first quarter of 2017. During the event, lawmakers attempted to outline the legislative body's daily tasks to the public and visiting students. Some 2,000 residents were estimated to have attended the event, which ran from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

According to TDM, teachers present at the event informed the broadcaster that they have already begun teaching aspects of the Basic Law as well as Macau's administrative system in high schools.

One teacher stated that the visit would help students "to understand the workings and the function of the Legislative Assembly [... and] its structure as well."

TRANSPORT

Jeju Air inaugurates new Macau-Seoul route

Renato Marques

SOUTH Korean airline Jeju Air yesterday inaugurated a new route connecting Macau to Seoul's Incheon airport.

In a ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the departure hall of the Macau International Airport (MIA) to celebrate the inauguration flights, Eric Fong, the director of the Airport Company (CAM) Marketing Department noted that the growth in outbound travel from South Korea has become an important source market for Macau. "According to the statistics, passengers of the Korean market from MIA posted a growth of 85 percent from January to September this year," he said.

Fong also remarked that in addition to the growing interest from South Korean nationals in visiting Macau, South Korean

destinations are in turn some of the local residents' favorites, especially during the winter season.

On this topic Fong said, "these services will be in time to satisfy the Christmas peak season for travel [to Korea] in the coming December."

Jeju Air's vice president Seok-Joo Lee commented on the successful opening of the company's new routes, remarking that all of the newly opened links have brought success for both the company and the destinations, the latter benefiting from the new inbound tourists, and expressed his certainty that the same will happen with this new route to Macau.

"Whenever Jeju Air launched a new route we were not only creating opportunities to grow our market size and share but it was always a win-win situation, for Jeju



Seok-Joo Lee

Air and for the destinations as well. This time this will happen again. Expect more tourists to come from Korea and from Jeju Air," he said.

The airliner will operate the new route on a daily basis, with a flight arriving from Korea at 1.50p.m. before departing Macau at 2.50pm to return to Incheon, located close to the South Korean capital.

RETAIL

39pct of stores saw sales growth during Golden Week

AS the Golden Week of China's National Day came to an end, the Macao Economic Services (MES) interviewed 1,200 merchants in the Macau Peninsula and Taipa to investigate the situation for retail

businesses during the holiday. The survey revealed that the turnover of different retail sectors recorded different levels of increase compared to their business on an ordinary day.

The sites where the inter-

views were conducted covered the main tourism areas, including Praia Grande, Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, Ruins of St. Paul, Border Gate and Bai-xa da Taipa.

About 45 percent of the re-

tailers interviewed expressed that there were more visitors in their stores during the holiday, resulting in an average growth of 24 percent.

Regarding transaction amounts, 39 percent of all surveyed stores (470) registered an average increase of 22 percent in daily sales; 42 percent said that their business equaled that of the same period in the previous year; and 19 percent said that their business shrank during this time.

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Times

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Lynzy Valles

THE 7th Sands China Macau Eco TrailHiker took place Saturday along different natural trails in Coloane. The event attracted 2,000 participants with registration filling up in a record time of only 18 hours.

On the day, 500 teams competed for the top honor in two different racing categories, a 10km family run and a 30km corporate challenge.

According to the director of the Macau Eco TrailHiker, Robert Kirby, in addition to raising funds for local charity groups and promoting environmental awareness, the event is aimed at "promoting health, wellness, team spirit, commitment to excellence and contribution to the community."

The winning team in the 10 km race finished the course in 49 minutes and 35 seconds, while in the 30 km course the champion finished in 2 hours and 48 minutes.

To encourage more female participation in the event, the organizer added two special prizes in this year's edition: the "First All-Female Team 10km Award" and the "First All-Female Team 30km Award."

Winners of the latter award, Run Plus Woman Team 1, told the Times the charity run was meaningful because they participated for a cause. "The group was formed by people who love running. We did it!" they cheered, adding that raising funds for charity was another of the reasons they joined.

Kirby expressed his satisfaction with the turnout of the charity run, but noted that there would always be room for improvement.

This year the event attracted



TrailHiker donates MOP400,000 to local charities

more crew volunteers than in previous years, who were required to undergo training. Kirby hopes to offer more opportunities for crew training in next year's edition.

"I think a big improvement this year is that we have more crew. We have more crew than we needed, which is great," he explained to the Times. "I think overall it's been a huge success. The weather was very kind to us," he added.

Title sponsor Sands China set a goal to maintain the event's recycling rate at 40 percent. Robert Kirby stressed that the event became even more environmentally friendly this year

as they only served waters in large containers, refusing to use plastic water bottles.

At the closing ceremony on Saturday at The Venetian Macao, cheques of a total of MOP 400,000 were presented to the two beneficiaries: Macau Rotary Club and Richmond Fellowship of Macau.

Rotary Club of Macau will use the money to help autism patients while Richmond Fellowship of Macau will help the development of art projects for service users and Fun Lok Physical and Mental Health Service Station in Seac Pai Van.

James Sou, director of Rich-

mond Fellowship, assured they would invest this year's charity funds into organizing programs at the association's physical and mental health stations in Seac Pai Van.

I think a big improvement this year is we have more crew.

ROBERT KIRBY

"According to our analytical data at the affordable housing complex, there are quite a lot of residents who need mental health education and that's why we're going to spend most of the funds to organize relevant activities to help them," he explained to TDM.

A Rotary Club of Macau representative said the group intends to use the support provided by the charity event to hire experienced therapists from Hong Kong to provide training services to families for its members who have autism.

Macau Daily Times is the main media partner of the event.

Lusofonia has 'grown and improved'

PORTUGUESE-STYLE gastronomy, music, dance, games and street decorations filled the area around the Taipa Houses-Museum during the the 19th Lusofonia Festival.

The three-day festival associated with the culture of the Portuguese-speaking communities in Macau came to a close yesterday.

During the festival, ensembles of art groups from Portuguese-speaking countries and regions performed different styles of music and dance every evening.

Festival-goers had the chance to eat at Portuguese-inspired gastronomy restaurants and play traditional games. Activities for children were also on offer, such as pole clim-

This is already a landmark event in Macau.

MARIA AMÉLIA ANTÓNIO

bing, bigfoot game, tug of war and sack racing.

The Portuguese booth was themed "Palheiros," of Costa Nova, which is known for its brightly colored houses painted with vertical and horizontal lines.

The booth offered cheese, chorizo and other delicacies for free, while Portuguese sweets and cakes were for sale.

Casa de Portugal also participated in the festival, showcasing the artworks of the association's school of arts and crafts, such as jewelries and paintings.

Maria Amélia Antonio, president of Casa de Portugal told the Times the festival has been continuously growing and improving over the years.

"This event is very important. Not only for Portuguese [speaking] people but for Macau too. This is already a landmark event in Macau. It's very good for everybody to shows something from their country [...] to gather together and go," she stated.

According to Amélia António, who has been participating in the festival since its first edition, there

are more Chinese residents that come throughout the day, stressing that around 80 percent of festival-goers in the afternoon are Chinese families.

"I was at this festival since the beginning and I saw this growing and growing each year. More improvements [have been made] and [...] Chinese people, I believe, are happy to come to this event," she concluded.

Some participants interviewed by the Times praised the event. "This is the best festival in Macau, all year. I like the music, food and the fact that it's great weather and you can walk around and enjoy," said an expat.

"I think it's a really nice party because we can see



many people that we do not see over the years. So this party is like a big meeting point for the Portuguese community," said another.

Organizers believed that the festival would boost locals' knowledge of the culture, food and music of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Tourists from Taiwan said they were happy to have experienced various different cultures all gathered together at a small

site during their short stay in the territory.

"We can see so many cultures here [and] we're excited. We fly back to Taiwan tomorrow but we're really happy we have joined this festival," they noted.

The 19th Lusofonia Festival was co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau together with the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. **LV**

TRADE between China and Portuguese-speaking countries fell 11.22 percent in the first eight months of the year compared to the same period of 2015, according to figures from the Chinese Customs Services, released by the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macau Forum).

According to official statistics the trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries in the first eight months of the year reached USD60.23 billion.

Beijing imported from Portuguese-speaking countries products valued at \$41.68 billion (-0.74 percent) and exported

Trade between China and lusophone countries falls 11 percent

goods valued at \$18.54 billion (-28.24 percent) over the first eight months of 2016.

Brazil remained China's main economic partner with trade of \$45.16 billion (-7.69 percent) compared to the same period of 2015. China's exports to Brazil amounted to USD13.85 billion (-30.14 percent), while imports from Brazil amounted to \$31.3 billion (+7.62 percent).

With Angola, China second bi-

ggest trading partner amongst the eight Portuguese-speaking countries, trade fell 28.34 percent to \$10.19 billion.

Beijing exported to Angola products estimated at \$10.6 billion (-60.27 percent), compared to the first eight months of 2015 and imported \$9.13 billion (-20.96 percent).

Trade between China and Portugal in the first eight months

of the year represented \$3.57 billion (+19.19 percent). China exported \$2.61 billion's worth of goods to Portugal and imported goods valued at \$966 million (-6.78 percent).

Trade between China and Mozambique totaled \$1.140 billion a decrease of 27.26 percent over the first eight months of 2015 with exports and imports falling respectively by 32.23 percent and 5 percent.

Figures from China's Customs Services include China's trade with Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste (East Timor) and Sao Tome and Principe, despite the latter not being a Macau Forum member as it has diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Of this group only Guinea-Bissau fell by 48.43 percent in trade in the first eight months of the year. **MDT/Macauhub**

Costa proposes 'freedom of residence establishment among CPLP'

THE Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa at a summit of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Community (CPLP) currently being held in Brasilia, Brazil, will today formally propose his plan to introduce a "freedom of residence establishment" within the CPLP for citizens of member states, the Portuguese



António Costa pictured in Macau

newspaper Público reported yesterday.

The aim of the proposal is to facilitate the movement of people among the Portuguese-speaking community, an idea that if put into force will challenge the Schengen Agreement concerning freedom of movement within European countries.

If approved, such a

measure would allow any citizen from a CPLP members' state the right to live in any of the other member's state territory. At this time, the major concern with such a measure is its compatibility with the Schengen Agreement to which Portugal has been a subscriber of since 1997.

Macau is not one of

the nine members of the community, which include only Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, East Timor and Equatorial Guinea.

For some time, Costa has floated the idea that "closer ties" should connect the Portuguese-speaking countries, which

would enhance the reputation of the CPLP as a transnational "union."

In practical terms such a measure would have a direct impact on matters relating to residency, such as the recognition of academic and professional qualifications and also the exercise of political rights and the portability of social rights.

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Spooky atmosphere in Albergue over Halloween weekend



To celebrate this Halloween season, the Macau Zombie Walk held its third annual fundraising activity at and around Albergue SCM on Saturday to raise awareness of eye health and funds for Orbis.

In a bid to increase residents' mindfulness of their eye health, the organizer Rena Plus Ltd has again selected Orbis as the beneficiary organization to support their efforts in promoting eye health and education.

According to the organizers, 14 teams - some from local banks and large corporations - participated in this year's event themed "Train to Busan."

The event involved various activities, including the "Zombie Eye Hunt." The hunt is a brain-training contest and team-building opportunity for both individual players and corporate participants.

Participants were blindfolded during the hunt and had to complete problem-solving tasks with their team as a horde of zombies.

The event presented several awards such as the Best Zombie Costume & Makeup - Individual Award, Best Zombie Costume & Makeup - Zombie Horde Team Award and The Top Fundraiser.

"Every year we think that it would be very nice every Halloween season for people

to gather and [encourage them to] stop using electronic devices," said Regina Gan, a representative from Rena Plus.

"It's to raise awareness on not focusing on gadgets. Orbis really wants us to pass the message of taking care of our eyes first before we can [help] cure other people," she explained to the Times.

Meanwhile, the organizers also hosted the second edition of its Trick or Treat at Albergue SCM.

The activity encourages children to wear Halloween costumes. According to the organizer, some 500 children partook, an increase of 200 participants compared to last year.

Maps were handed out at the site yesterday to families and children in costumes, who explored the spooky neighborhood of St. Lazarus in search of the more than 20 participating shops that handed out candy.

According to the organizers, they provided a total of 10,000 lollipops to the stores.

When asked whether they have a specific amount of funds in mind to raise, the organizers said, "the most important [thing] is to focus on making it a very fun annual event with a very good message. [...] Sponsors and the fundraising will come." LV



SPECIAL FEATURE



Studio City sets new GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for longest selfie relay chain

Last week, Studio City staff set the new world record for longest selfie relay chain atop the Golden Reel, the world's first figure-8 Ferris wheel and the highest in Asia.

The Hollywood-inspired resort celebrated its first anniversary with a series of selfies by hundreds of employees, who captured 888 photos in 5 hours of themselves at the Golden Reel.

Among them were the stars of Studio City's most popular attractions, such as 'House of Magic' illusionist Franz Harary, the titular star of 'Batman Dark Flight', and other characters from Warner Bros.-owned franchises DC Comics, Hanna-Barbera Productions and Looney Tunes.

Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Crown Entertainment, described the resort's first anniversary as a "sig-

nificant milestone" and thanked staff for their contributions.

"One year ago, Studio City opened its doors to the world and started a new chapter in local entertainment history. It brings to the city some of the most dazzling and innovative entertainment offerings ever seen in the region," he said.

"Studio City showcases our unwavering commitment to supporting the Macau Government's vision of building Macau into a world center of tourism and leisure."

Ho plans to expand the resort's non-gaming amenities to attract more visitors from Macau and around the world.

Studio City opened last year in Cotai, offering a 'world of firsts' entertainment & leisure experience to Asia.



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- **House of Magic:** Get 50%* off every second ticket and receive a pair of commemorative 3D glasses!
- **Warner Bros. Fun Zone Stickers:** The first 100 children to visit each day will get a free sticker set.
- **Batman Dark Flight Souvenir Bag:** The first 100 paying riders each day will receive a Batman tote bag.
- **Table for Two:** Sample MOP1,111 set menus for two at signature restaurants Pearl Dragon, Shanghai Magic, Trattoria Il Mulino and Hide Yamamoto.
- **Retail Rewards:** Shop at The Boulevard for a chance to win vouchers worth up to \$30,000, products from Studio Beauty by T Galleria, or a stay at Melco Crown Entertainment hotels.

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Merchandise imports down 8.5 percent



Imports of motor cars declined by 57.9 percent

INFORMATION released Friday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that total merchandise imports in September 2016 decreased by 8.5 percent year-on-year to MOP6.32 billion, of which imports of motor cars and construction materials declined by 57.9 percent and 48.4 percent respectively.

Additionally, from January to September this year, the total value of merchandise imports fell by 17.8 percent to MOP52.19 billion.

In the same period, merchandise imports from mainland China (MOP18.92 billion) and the European Union (MOP12.75 billion) decreased by 19.4 percent and 10.8 percent year-on-year respectively.

Analyzed by place of consignment, merchandise imports from China in the first three quarters of 2016 declined by 6.2 percent to around MOP9 billion, of which imports from the nine provinces of the Pan Pearl River Delta region (MOP8.52 billion) fell by 6.6 percent.

Imports of consumer goods in the first three quarters dropped by 13.6 percent to MOP32.85 billion, led by significant declines in watches (-31.9 percent) and motor cars and motorcycles (-55.6 percent). Outside of consumer goods, the most notable declines occurred in imports of fuel and lubricants (MOP4.66 billion) and construction materials (MOP1.51 billion), falling by 12.7 percent and 37.3 percent respectively.

Total merchandise exports for September amounted to around MOP821 million (down by 3.5 percent), while the value of re-exports dropped 17.4 percent to MOP589 million. The month's merchandise trade deficit reached MOP5.5 billion.

For the first three quarters of 2016, external merchandise trade totaled MOP59.93 billion, down by 16.4 percent compared with the same period last year that recorded MOP71.67 billion.

CRIME

Woman found in garbage bin defies death after traumatic attack

Awoman who was raped and nearly murdered on Saturday night has survived the traumatic attack, after a passing motorcyclist discovered her body in a garbage station in Fai Chi Kei.

The woman, who was discovered with life-threatening injuries, was initially noticed after a passing motorcyclist spotted a human leg protruding from a disposal bin. Upon further investigation, the motorcyclist discovered a half-naked woman in the garbage unit, with a severe injury to her throat.

The motorcyclist called the police who arrived on the scene and arranged for the victim to be transported to the hospital. Authorities now say that she is in a stable condition.

The 25-year-old man, who is from mainland China but works in Macau at the same beverage shop as the victim, was arrested yesterday morning after returning to the MSAR. He had departed for mainland China some time after committing the crime on Saturday night.

Police say that the suspect has admitted to authorities that he raped the victim and

then tried to kill her after fearing his crime would be discovered.

"During the period, the victim was conscious. He [the suspect] then used his hand to cover her mouth and grabbed her neck, causing the victim to lose consciousness again [and] he continued to sexually harass her," said Judiciary Police Spokesperson Chan Choi Man, as cited by TDM. "Since the victim seemed to gain back consciousness, the suspect got scared that his act would be [discovered]. He took a knife and cut her neck. He also fed her some drugs that

are [normally] used to sedate dogs."

"He then took a [cardboard] box used for containing straws to wrap her up [... and] dragged the box to the garbage station near Block 3 of Ka Ieng Garden on Avenida General Castelo Branco and dumped her [inside]," the spokesperson added.

Police authorities required the suspect to re-enact the scene of the crime last night. Footage of the incident shows a masked man dragging a cardboard box in the street as bystanders watch the re-enactment. **DB**

Water more expensive from November, bigger spenders will pay more

THE Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has announced an increase in water tariffs, coming into effect from November.

According to a DSAMA statement, this tariff adjustment is based on the "consumer-pays principle," which involves adopting a moderate increase in price and establishing a larger gap between the different consumption levels, with the aim of promoting more efficient use of water resources.

After the adjustment, water tariffs for residential consumers will cost MOP4.48, 5.18, 6.04 and 7.27 per cubic meter, respectively, according to the four consumption levels.

The DSAMA remarked that such an increase will have little impact on the large majority of consumers. It is expected that 90 percent of residential consumers will see an increase of less than MOP4.5.

The statement mentions that the government has decided to continue with the subsidy program for the water bills



of residential customers at the different levels.

Sixty percent of consumers will experience an increase of less than MOP7 per cubic meter and only 10 percent of users will see a bill increase of over MOP45.

For this kind of consumer a subsidy plan is also in effect, amounting to MOP1.7 per cubic meter, that is, 22 per-

cent of the total.

The DSAMA estimates that 50 percent of costumers will see a raise of less than MOP270 per month that will not be subsidized.

The government stated that the new system aims to highlight the importance of this key asset, in the hopes that consumers will further implement water conservation measures. **RM**



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GAMING

Crown crackdown throws up uncertainty, rival Star says

Angus Whitley

CHINA'S detention of 18 Crown Resorts Ltd. employees has created some uncertainty and it's tough to grasp how the crackdown might impact business, Australian rival Star Entertainment Group said.

The potential effect on Star's revenue isn't yet clear because of the limited information available on the detentions, Chief Executive Officer Matt Bekier said in his address to shareholders at the company's annual general meeting in Sydney on Friday.

Star's revenue from big-spending, top-priority gamblers accounts for less than 30 percent of gross group revenue, and 16 percent of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, it said. Around 80 percent of this revenue comes from so-called Asian junket

operators that typically take high rollers overseas and lend them money to play in casinos.

"These are early days in terms of the situation in China," Chairman John O'Neill said in his address to shareholders. "We will continue to monitor developments closely, while working with staff and Asian-based external agents to understand the

Star's revenue from big-spending, top-priority gamblers accounts for less than 30 percent of gross group revenue

situation more fully as it unfolds."

Shares of Star, the operator of Sydney's only licensed casino, fell 2.5 percent to AUD4.76 at 10:55 a.m. in Sydney, valuing the company at AUD3.9 billion (USD3 billion).

The roundup two weeks ago of Crown staff across China, including the company's head of international high-roller operations, sparked concern that the government in Beijing may be cracking down on casino companies that promote gambling abroad. O'Neill said no Star staff have been held or questioned by Chinese authorities and it has no office in mainland China.

Anyone who entices Chinese citizens overseas to bet, or who tries to force them to repay their debts, faces jail. Macau, a special administrative region, is the only Chinese city where casinos are legal. **Bloomberg**

China embraces hybrid cars in pivot from plug-in only path

CHINA'S government is pivoting after years of promoting plug-in vehicles, elevating the importance of conventional hybrids and setting its first sales targets for the segment in a move that could benefit Toyota Motor Corp. and suppliers like Hunan Corun New Energy Co.

The government wants one in four vehicles to be plug-less hybrids that run on both gasoline and electricity by 2030, according to a transcript of comments made Wednesday by Ouyang Mingao, who leads a group China's auto industry regulator commissioned to set targets for energy-saving autos.

Before reaching the 2030 goal, hybrid sales should account for 8 percent of total passenger vehicle sales by 2020 and rise to 20 percent by 2025, according to the Technology Roadmap for Energy Saving and New Energy Vehicles, drafted for the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

The targets represent a significant shift after years of China's government policies excluding conventional hybrids from subsidies offered to reduce tailpipe emissions and dependence on imported oil. The industry regulator has focused on plug-in vehicles and downplayed the importance of hybrids, to the detriment of automakers including Toyota, which argues the technology could be more widely accepted by consumers as a solution.

"This is the first time we set a clear target for developing non plug-in hybrid technology," said Wang Hewu, an associate professor at the department of automotive engineering of Tsinghua University, who was involved in drafting the road map. "The government has always been emphasizing the importance of developing energy-saving vehicles."

Hunan Corun shares climbed as much as 4.9 percent, their big-



Toyota Levin hybrid

gest jump since Aug. 19, and were up 3.6 percent as of 10:03 a.m. in Shanghai trading. Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd. gained as much as 3.8 percent.

China requires automakers to lower the average fuel consumption of their vehicles to 5 liters per 100 kilometers by 2020 from the current 6.9 liters. The government has targeted a 10-fold increase in electric vehicle sales by 2025.

While many local automakers have devoted resources to developing pure electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids, manufacturers such as Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co. and Hunan Corun have been lobbying the government to step up support for development of gasoline-electric hybrids.

Hunan Corun's Chairman Zhong Faping has proposed the government should put hybrids on equal footing with plug-in cars for the past 14 years in his role as a member of the National People's Congress. Hunan Corun supplies batteries for Toyota's China-built hybrids.

"Government is shifting to include energy-saving vehicles such as non-plug-in hybrid in the auto industry development strategy and setting a clear road map for growth of such vehicles," said Cui Dongshu, secretary general of Passenger Car Association. "It's a breakthrough and it will provide guidance for automakers' development going forward." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CEM HOLDS SEMINARS ON PUBLIC ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION



Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) joined hands with the General Residents Association of Macau and Aliança

de Povo de Instituição de Macau to hold two seminars on the safety of public electrical installations.

According to a statement from CEM, more than 200 property owners attended the seminars, which were aimed at promoting better maintenance and management of communal electrical installations.

During the sessions, CEM representatives clarified the responsibilities of the company and of property owners in terms of electrical installations, and advised that owners should "hire local experienced electrical contractors to perform regular inspections and maintenance."

According to CEM, Q&A sessions were held at the end of both seminars, providing an opportunity for property owners to raise any queries with the company's representatives.

PETROCHINA PROFIT SLUMPS



PetroChina Co. posted a 77 percent decline in third-quarter profit as a suppressed international oil market and lower do-

mestic natural gas prices eroded earnings at the country's biggest producer.

Net income fell to 1.2 billion

yuan (USD177 million) in the July-September period, the Beijing-based company said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange on Friday. Higher earnings from refining and chemicals were overwhelmed by losses on production and weaker performance from its natural gas and pipelines units. Revenue dropped 3.8 percent to 411.4 billion yuan.

"PetroChina has done a good job controlling costs and managed to get a small profit despite lower crude prices in the third quarter," said Gordon Kwan, head of Asia oil and gas research at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Hong Kong. "Oil prices should be significantly higher in the fourth quarter, which will help improve PetroChina's profit in the winter, especially if the government raises natural gas prices."

Chinese official: Anti-graft drive not politically motivated



CHINA'S nearly 4-year-old campaign against corruption is not politically biased and only seeks to defend the interests of the country's 1.3 billion people, a leading Communist Party anti-graft official said Friday.

Wu Yuliang told reporters that those speculating that the campaign was being used to target political foes were acting out of ulterior motives.

"In the past some people accused us of inaction in the face of corruption, and now that we have intensified efforts to fight corruption, we have been accused of being selective," Wu said. "I'm afraid those [critics] may have other purposes or motives."

Wu's comments came the day after a major meeting of the ruling Communist Party that renewed President Xi Jinping's drive to end corruption and tighten discipline within the 88 million-member organization that has run China since seizing power in a 1949 revolution.

The party meeting also elevated Xi to the position of "core" leader, underscoring his clout and strengthening his dominance ahead of a reshuffle in the top ranks next year.

More than 1 million party members have been punished in the anti-corruption campaign, which has also brought down two former top generals and a past member of the Politburo Standing Committee, the apex of political power.

"When uprooting rotten trees one has to start with the most rotten ones. If that

is called selective I have to say this is just the way we do our work," said Wu, who is vice secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The ruling party "pursues wholeheartedly benefits for the people, and we are making anti-corruption efforts wholly for the purpose of the interests of the people and the country," he said.

While mainly symbolic, the move to bestow Xi with "core" status reflects his rise as the country's most powerful leader in decades, along with his determination to run the ruling party as a clean institution enjoying unfettered authority.

While this week's meeting kicked off the process of selecting new leaders, Wu and other officials at a briefing Friday said they had no information about future appointments.

Five of the current seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee — all but Xi and Premier Li Ke-qiang — are due to step down next year according to custom.

While Xi has accumulated a growing number of titles and powers, observers say his need to constantly enforce discipline within the party points to a continuing push-back from rivals and disgruntled members of the rank and file.

And while his assertive foreign policy has won plaudits from the public, he faces intense pressure to solve domestic challenges including slowing economic growth and massive layoffs resulting from the closure of steel mills and coal mines. AP

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Maintains Focus on Team Member Development

Industry awards recognise success of company's innovative development and engagement programmes

As one of the leading integrated resort developers in Macao, Sands China Ltd. has established various programmes dedicated to developing its team members – regarded by the company as its most valuable asset.

Sands China seeks to offer the best for its team members through effective and innovative human resource programmes, initiatives, and activities that engage team members and help them develop at work – paving the way forward in their career paths.

To date, Sands China's human resources department has initiated, organised, and executed several programmes and initiatives under the umbrella of its Sands China Academy – with impactful results for both team members and the company.

Through this training platform, Sands China provided more than 1 million training hours in 2015, equivalent to 320 team members trained per day. The ongoing initiative has seen a 70 per cent increase in training hours during the first nine months of 2016, compared to the same period the year prior.

One of the academy's innovative and successful team member engagement programmes is the Because We Know knowledge competition. It is an interactive self-learning platform implemented in a game format. Through the game, team members are able to enrich their knowledge of the company's products and services. This competition platform has attracted participation from more than 9,000 team members. Over 2,000 questions are now in the game database, with additional questions to be added on a continual basis. This inventive way of engaging large numbers of team members impressed the judging panel of Human Resources magazine's HR Innovation Awards 2016, who awarded Sands China with a Gold Medal in its Employee Engagement Award.



Another innovative initiative of the Sands China Academy is the My Way programme, the first career development programme of its kind in Macao to be implemented at such a large scale. My Way has already provided career opportunities to around 1,200 team members and is the result of a systematic, cross-departmental effort. Unlike standard work transfer, My Way equips participating team members with a diverse integrated resort skill set, offering them an abundance of opportunities to try new fields and positions for a set period of time and find the ones most suitable for paving their career paths. By nurturing integrated resort

talent, the programme supports Macao's development as a world centre of tourism and in leisure. This initiative was also recognised by Human Resources magazine, with Sands China receiving two Bronze Medals in the Employee Development Award and Team Training Award, respectively.

Beyond Macao and Hong Kong, Sands China's human resource initiatives have also received recognition in Greater China. In September, the company was named one of the Best HR Teams in Greater China 2016 by HRoot, the largest human resource media company in China. With more than 130 companies participating in HRoot's awards, the award was given to Sands China for its proactive approach to embracing digital thinking, for building a unique company culture and for its dedication to improving its human resource team's working efficiency.



And in 2013, from among more than 12,000 hospitality industry participants at the 3rd VeryEast Human Resources Summit in Hangzhou, China, two hotels at Sands China properties were awarded – The Venetian Macao for The Best Employer and Conrad Macao, Cotai Central for the Outstanding Contribution Award to Human Resources.

Team members continue to be a top priority for Sands China, and the company remains dedicated to initiating additional programmes in the near future to benefit team members' work, career paths and work-life balance. With a focus on team members, Sands China aims to be Macao's employer of choice.

Sailing team implores US to continue ocean search



Guo Chuan



A trimaran that the U.S. Coast Guard has located in Hawaii

Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, Hawaii

The racing team of a Chinese professional sailor who went missing on a mission to set a solo trans-Pacific world record is imploring the U.S. Coast Guard to resume its search for him.

In a post titled "Who can help us save Guo Chuan?" the team said Friday it was disappointed the search for Guo was suspended two days ago. It also said members had written a letter to the Coast Guard for help.

"We are deeply saddened by the decision to suspend the search

and beg you to continue searching until there is confirmation that he has lost his last chance for survival," the group wrote in the letter, according to the statement on its official social media page.

"Guo Chuan's crew will assist regardless of cost, if you could just tell us what to do," they said in the statement.

The search was suspended Wednesday after a U.S. Navy crew from the USS Makin Island went aboard Guo's 97-foot trimaran about 620 miles northwest of Oahu and found only his life jacket.

The Coast Guard often receives requests from family and friends of people missing in the ocean but can't resume the search unless there's new information, Chief Petty Officer Sarah Mooers said.

Guo was the first Chinese person to sail around the world in 2013

"It's incredibly sad and it's unfortunate this happened," she said. "We never like suspending a search. Unfortunately after a certain point it becomes necessary."

The last indication that Guo was aboard the vessel was Monday, she said: "Four days is a long time for something or someone to move adrift."

Guo "was a professional mariner with a deep passion for sailing," said Capt. Robert Hendrickson, who directed the Coast Guard's search. "Our deepest condolences go out not only to his family and friends but also to his racing team and the sailing community."

Lt. Ben Powers, the Coast Guard pilot who was air commander in the search, said waves, wind and darkness hampered the effort.

"It was pretty frustrating not to find him, not to hear him," Powers said Thursday at Air Station Barbers Point in west Oahu. "The hardest thing we do is search for a person in the water because it's a huge ocean."

Guo, 50, was the first Chinese person to sail around the world in 2013, according to his website, guochuanracing.com. He left San Francisco on Oct. 18 to challenge the solo nonstop trans-Pacific world record of 21 days.

Powers piloted one of the HC-

130 Hercules planes that participated in the search. He said he spent hours scanning the ocean for Guo through 4-to-6-foot waves. There was no moon, he said, so illumination was low even with night-vision goggles.

Rescuers radioed Guo every 15 to 30 minutes, Powers said. There was no response.

"When the person's in the water basically the only thing above the water is the person's head," Powers said. "So that's really what we're looking for — something the size of a human head from an aircraft from 300 to 700 feet."

Guo's team said a company that operates helicopters for tourism in Honolulu has expressed its willingness to provide up to 10 helicopters for the search. It said they can only travel 500 kilometers (310 miles) without stopping and would need a ship to serve as a platform for refueling on the sea.

The team is in contact with commercial ships but the nearest one is hundreds of miles away because Guo Chuan was taking a non-traditional route, it said.

Guo's sailboat, the Qingdao China, is adrift, and its main sail has been taken down, the Coast Guard said. Guo's racing team plans to recover the sailboat, the Coast Guard said. **AP**

AD



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Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

Overseas takeover spree meets growing resistance

CORPORATE China's global shopping binge barreled last week with more multibillion dollar deals, but Beijing is starting to discover that there are limits to what its money can buy.

In recent days German and European Union officials have moved to tighten up scrutiny or even block high-profile acquisitions in the latest sign of growing opposition to Chinese purchases of companies in key industries due to national security or competition concerns.

Swiss chemical giant Syngenta said Tuesday that EU regulators examining its proposed USD43 billion takeover by state-owned ChemChina have "recently requested a large amount of additional information," which will drag the approval process out into the first quarter of next year.

At about the same time, the German government withdrew clearance for a Chinese company to buy semiconductor equipment maker Aixtron in a \$670 million deal over unspecified security-related concerns — a decision that threatens to complicate German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel's trade visit to China next week.

"The surge in Chinese acqui-



Dalian Wanda Group is China's largest commercial property company and the world's largest cinema chain operator

sitions of high-tech companies certainly has policymakers on high alert, especially in Germany," said Bjorn Conrad, vice president of research at the Mercator Institute for China Studies in Berlin, which tracks China's overseas investment. "That is because China is not playing by the rules."

He said some of the deals reflect a political strategy in which state-owned Chinese companies, spurred by an aggressive outbound industrial policy,

unfairly exploit Europe's open markets to gobble up companies with core technologies to speed the country's technological advance.

European policymakers "are not naive when it comes to government-driven acquisitions. They will apply a much higher level of scrutiny in the future," Conrad said.

Chinese companies have invested nearly \$200 billion so far this year in overseas firms, almost double the amount for all of 2015, according to Dealogic. The transactions have included a German robot maker, a Finnish video game company and an American appliance maker.

Just this week, HNA Group paid \$6.5 billion for a 25 percent stake in the Hilton hotel chain, after one of its units earlier this year bought Carlson Hotels, operator of the Radisson and Country Inns & Suites brands. Meanwhile, Beijing-based China Oceanwide Holdings Group agreed to buy U.S. insu-

rer Genworth Financial for \$2.7 billion.

However, about \$40 billion in proposed Chinese purchases has been cancelled since the start of 2015, reflecting resistance to such deals, according to Dealogic.

In Australia, the government blocked a Chinese group from leasing a Sydney electricity grid in an unusual turnaround, citing classified national security reasons. The deal involving state-owned State Grid Corp. and Hong Kong-based Cheung Kong Infrastructure group would have earned the government more than 10 billion Australian dollars (then-\$7.6 billion).

The August decision was unusual in that the government had initially invited the companies to bid and only rejected them at the last minute on general security concerns unrelated to any specific country, said Hans Hendrichske, a professor at the University of Sydney Business School who specializes in Chine-

se investment in Australia.

However, "overall, certainly, I think the political outcome is clearly that the perception is created as if all of these are somehow directed against Chinese acquisitions of assets in foreign countries."

The concerns mirror those in the U.S.

Last month, 16 lawmakers wrote to the Government Accountability Office calling for a review of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., a federal inter-agency panel also known as CFIUS, saying it should be updated or expanded to keep pace with the surge of foreign acquisitions in strategically important sectors.

Specifically, the letter said the committee's powers might need to be widened in light of Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda's recent purchases of U.S. theater chains and the Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment, citing fears about Beijing's censorship and propaganda efforts. **AP**

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Temple of Heaven, Beijing, China

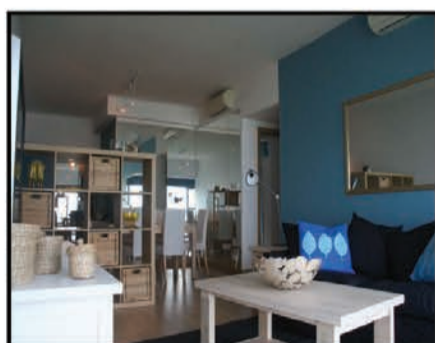
Park of Nations, Lisbon, Portugal

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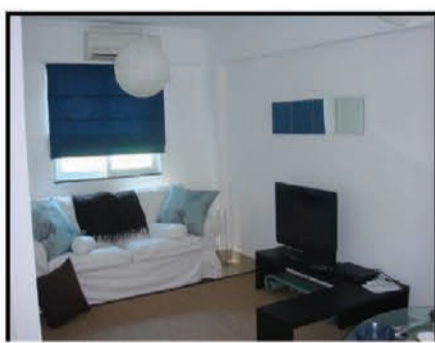
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One Central, Tower 7, Unit E "The Beach House" Macau
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 1,300sq. ft. HKD18,000
 Premier Apartment Building. Central Location. Bright & Airy. Master bedroom with en suite. Guest bedroom. Newly furnished / Colour Palette Grey Blues, White & Yellow. Modern Fitted Kitchen, galley style.



Tou Un – Taipa
 (Ref: 16060595)
 500sq. ft. HKD 7,800
 Furnished one bedroom apartment in quiet location in Taipa.
 Recently renovated, lovely décor and furnishings. Open plan kitchen. Inclusive of electrical appliances. Lovely green views.



Manhattan F Unit, High Floor
 (Ref: 16090612)
 1,720sq. ft. HKD 22,000
 Wonderfully bright and modern property in the desirable complex of Manhattan. Three good size bedrooms all with plenty of wardrobe space.
 Master bedroom has en suite bathroom. Open plan living dining area over looks North East over the South China Sea to HK. Furnished throughout.



Hoi Fu Garden - Macau
 (Ref: 16020567)
 1,651sq. ft. HKD 12,000
 Semi-furnished apartment on a high floor with unobstructed view from living area and all 3 bedrooms. Other than the main balcony, there are also two smaller balconies, one in the en-suite bedroom and one in another bedroom. Convenient location within minutes walk to bus stop, restaurants, shops, banks, etc. Plenty of storage with built in closet in all 3 bedrooms.



Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa
 (Ref: 16090609)
 1,030sq. ft. HKD 12,000

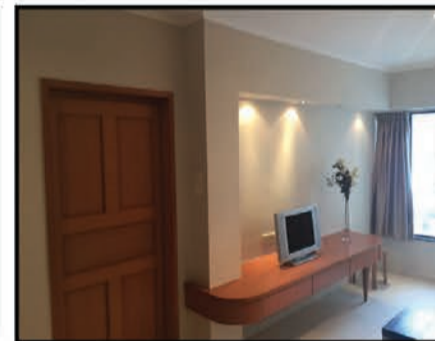
A lovely bright and well appointed apartment. Open plan dining, living area and modern renovated kitchen. Two good size bedroom with two bathrooms, one with ensuite. Beautifully furnished throughout.



The Buckingham, Mid Floor, Unit D
 (Ref: 16020558)
 1,350sq. ft. HKD 14,500
 Newly furnished apartment in Taipa's latest complex. Fully furnished inc. linens & kitchen ware. Open kitchen inc. built in Siemens appliances. Spacious living area with 3 metre L shape sofa bed. Good size balcony for two. Two bedrooms & one Bathroom.



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau
 (Ref: 16090610)
 627sq. ft. HKD 10,800
 One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



Chun Leung
 (Ref: 16090615)
 700sq. ft. HKD 8,800
 Great one bedroom apartment with huge walk in closet area an elevated bedroom area. Good size living dining area with open views. Modern kitchen.
 Renovated stylish shower room. Fabulous location in Central Taipa close to shops, restaurants, banks and bus stop.

For Sale



Roof Top Apartment, Macau
 (Ref: 15055441)
 799sq. ft. HKD4.634M
 Rate: HKD 5,800sq ft

Renovated 5 years ago this apartment has a modern open plan kitchen. The main floor consists of a good size double bedroom and a separate bathroom. A wooden staircase leads to the upper floor which has an open area, good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area. This apartment has a wonderful private terrace with views over looking Government Offices. This is a rare chance to buy a view. Viewing by appointment only.



Nam Long, Taipa
 (Ref: 16095500)
 515sq. ft. HKD 3.8M
 Rate: HKD 7,378sq ft
 Taipa / Village apartment. Renovated and modernized apartment in Central Location, originally 2 bedrooms now changed to 1 large bedroom. Open kitchen, simple and modern interior, apartment sold as investment together with furniture and tenancy. Easy access to shops, taxi's and Cotai strip. Extremely popular area where property is in high demand.



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens Appealing Apartment in Coloane
 (Ref: 16045473)
 1,633sq. ft. HKD 7.8M
 Rate: HKD 4,776sq ft
 Three good size bedrooms. Master bedroom with ensuite. Open style kitchen, made larger by incorporating the original maids quarters and back balcony. With only 7 floors in this block this apartment can be considered a low rise building. Renovated 10 years ago the property could benefit from a face lift although with some TCL it could also be a great rental property. This apartment comes with one parking space.



Rua Central, Macau
 (Ref: 16095496)
 800sq. ft. HKD 4.3M
 Rate: HKD 5,375sq ft
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Kim Tong-Hyung

South Korean protesters call for president to step down

THOUSANDS of South Koreans took to the streets of the capital on Saturday calling for increasingly unpopular President Park Geun-hye to step down over allegations that she let an old friend, the daughter of a religious cult leader, interfere in important state affairs.

The evening protest came after Park ordered 10 of her senior secretaries to resign over a scandal that is likely to deepen the president's lame duck status ahead of next year's election.

Holding candles and signs reading "Who's the real president?" and "Park Geun-hye step down," the protesters marched through downtown Seoul after holding a candlelight vigil near City Hall. Police estimated that about 12,000 people turned out for the biggest anti-government demonstration in Seoul in months.

"Park has lost her authority as president and showed she doesn't have the basic qualities to govern a country," Jaemyung Lee, from the opposition Minjoo Party and the mayor of the city of Seongnam, told the protesters from a stage.

Park has been facing calls to reshuffle her office and Cabinet after she acknowledged on Tuesday that she provided longtime friend Choi Soon-sil drafts of her speeches for editing. Her televised apology sparked intense criticism about her mismanagement of national information and a heavy-handed leadership style that many see



South Koreans shout slogans during an anti-president rally in downtown Seoul

as lacking in transparency.

There's also media speculation that Choi, who holds no government job, meddled in government decisions on personnel and policy and exploited her ties with Park to misappropriate funds from nonprofit organizations.

Prosecutors on Saturday widened their investigation by searching the homes of presidential officials suspected of interac-

ting with Choi and receiving their office files from the Blue House — the presidential office and residence. Prosecutors had previously summoned some of Choi's key associates and raided their homes and workplaces, as well as the offices of two nonprofit foundations Choi supposedly controlled.

The saga, triggered by weeks of media reports, has sent Park's approval ratings to re-

cord lows, and the minority opposition Justice Party has called for her to resign. The Minjoo Party, a larger opposition party that has refrained from calling for Park's resignation over fears of negatively affecting next year's presidential election, said Park's decision to shake up her secretariat was too little, too late, and called for stronger changes, including the reshuffling of her Cabinet.

Park's aides on the way out include Woo Byung-woo, senior presidential secretary for civil affairs, and Ahn Jong-beom, senior secretary for policy coordination. Lee Won-jong, Park's chief of staff, tendered his resignation on Wednesday.

Woo has been blamed for failing to prevent Choi from influencing state affairs and has also been embroiled in separate corruption allegations surrounding his family.

Ahn, whose home was searched by prosecutors on Saturday, is under suspicion that he helped Choi pressure South Korean companies into making large donations to the Mir and K-Sports foundations, launched in October last year and January this year, respectively. Choi reportedly masterminded the creation of the two nonpro-

fits, which managed to gather around USD70 million in corporate donations over a short period of time, and is suspected of misappropriating some of the funds for personal use.

Park's office said she plans to announce a new lineup of senior secretaries soon.

Choi's lawyer Lee Gyeong-jae said that she was currently in Germany but would return to South Korea if prosecutors summon her. In an interview with a South Korean newspaper earlier in the week, Choi acknowledged receiving presidential documents in advance, but denied intervening in state affairs or pressuring companies into donating to the foundations.

Choi and Park reportedly became friends in the 1970s, when Choi's late father, Choi Tae-min, a shadowy religious figure who was a Buddhist monk, cult leader and Christian pastor at different points of his life, emerged as Park's mentor.

At the time, Park was serving as acting first lady after her mother was killed in 1974 by a man trying to assassinate her father, military strongman Park Chung-hee, who would be murdered by his own spy chief five years later. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Battle of billionaires brews as Sy joins Manila airport chase

Ian Sayson, Cecilia Yap

THE Philippines' richest man has joined a contest to build a new airport near Manila, breathing life into the long-delayed project and drawing an immediate response from fellow billionaire and competitor Ramon Ang.

Belle Corp., part of Henry Sy's SM Group, will become an almost equal partner in Solar Group-led All-Asia Resources & Reclamation Corp.'s USD20 billion proposal to construct an airport and seaport, said Edmundo Lim, the venture's vice chairman. While he declined to specify how much Belle would invest, he added that China Communications Construction Co.'s dredging unit is set to be both an investor and te-

chnical partner. Ang, after being told of Sy's proposal, said in a text message that it's now going to be a "beauty contest."

All-Asia plans to reclaim 2,500 hectares of land

All-Asia plans to reclaim 2,500 hectares of land near a naval and air base at Sangley Point, south of Manila

near a naval and air base at Sangley Point, south of Manila, as the Philippine capital struggles to cope with a rising number of flights and increasing road traffic. The proposal competes with Ang's San Miguel Corp., which offered to build an alternative airport two years ago. While talk of a second airport has been around for years, President Rodrigo Duterte's new government has vowed to boost spending on infrastructure and speed up projects.

"Sy's interest is an indication of this project's potential returns and we could see more interest from other big business groups," said Manila-based Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Holdings Inc., a financial and

investment advisory firm. "We will have a fashion show on who can present the best plan. The reputation of an investor is important, particularly in big-ticket projects. The interest in this bidding could draw attention to other government infrastructure projects."

Sy - worth an estimated \$14.4 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index - runs businesses including SM Prime Holdings Inc., the nation's biggest property company by market value, and BDO Unibank Inc., its largest lender. Solar, owned by the Tieng brothers, has investments in industries such as TV networks, real estate and consumer goods. San Miguel, the country's largest food and drinks com-



Henry Sy, chairman and founder of SM Prime Holdings

pany, has expanded under Ang into non-allied industries, including tollroads and power.

While the International Air Transport Association says Manila's four air terminals have a combined designed capacity of 31 million passengers, government data show that 36.68 million passengers passed through last year. Traffic congestion in Manila and other urban areas cost the Philippines 2.4 billion pesos (\$49.4 million) in productivity losses per day, or more than 800 billion pesos a year, according to a bill filed in the Senate to provide Duterte emergency powers to solve the issues.

Building a new port

and special economic zone will help ease traffic in Manila, home of the nation's largest sea-cargo facility, Lim said. Between 6,000 and 7,000 vehicles a day travel between the Manila port and industrial sites, he said. The airport is also used by about 40,000 vehicles a day. "This is such a big project, and we need big muscles," Lim said in a phone interview, adding that his company is open to other partners.

In his "beauty contest" text message, Ang said that San Miguel has offered to build the new airport in Bulacan, north of Manila, in a revision from its 2014 proposal for a \$10 billion airport on reclaimed land in Manila Bay. **Bloomberg**

ANOTHER powerful earthquake shook Central Italy yesterday, sending panicked residents running into piazzas, raining boulders onto highways and toppling a Benedictine cathedral and other historic edifices that had withstood several recent quakes. There were no immediate reports of deaths.

The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 was the strongest to strike the country in nearly 36 years, hitting a mountainous region northeast of Rome where people were still unnerved after a pair of jolts last week and an August quake that killed nearly 300.

Some 20 people suffered minor injuries. That there were no reports of fatalities was largely due to the fact that thousands had left their homes after the earlier temblors.

Premier Matteo Renzi pledged that wrecked homes, churches and businesses would rise again, saying they were part of Italy's national identity. The government last week earmarked 40 million euros for rebuilding.

"We will rebuild everything," Renzi said. "We are dealing with marvelous territories, territories of beauty."

Residents already rattled by a constant trembling of the earth rushed into the streets after being roused from bed by the 7:40 a.m. quake. It was felt as far north as Salzburg, Austria, and all the way down the Italian peninsula to the Puglia region, the heel of the boot.

"It is since 1980 that we have had to deal with an earthquake of this magnitude," said Fabrizio Curcio, head of Italy's Civil Protection agency. Curcio was referring to a 6.9-magnitude quake near Naples that killed some 3,000 people and caused extensive damage in November 1980.

Curcio said authorities were responding with helicopters to help the injured and monitor collapses, as many roads were blocked by landslides. Some 3,600 people had already been relocated, many to the coast, following last week's quake, and Curcio said more would follow.

Closest to the epicenter was the ancient city of Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict, the father of monasticism, and famed for its Benedictine monastery. Witnesses said the 14th century St. Benedict Cathedral collapsed in the quake, with only the facade still standing.

"It's as if the whole city fell down," Norcia City Assessor Giuseppina Perla told the ANSA news agency. The city's ancient walls suffered damage, as did another famous Norcia church, St. Mary



The tower of the Church of the Madonna of the Angels is still standing amidst rubble on a road near Norcia

Powerful quake shakes Italy, topples Benedictine cathedral

Argentea, known for its 15th century frescoes.

Television images showed nuns rushing into the main piazza as the bell tower appeared on the verge of collapse. Later, nuns and monks knelt in prayer in the main piazza. A firefighter appealed to a priest to help keep residents calm in an effort to prevent them from looking for loved ones.

The town's deputy mayor, Pierluigi Altavilla, said his house remained standing, but everything inside had been toppled.

"It seemed like a bomb exploded inside the house," he told Sky TG24.

The quake comes during a long holiday weekend in Italy ahead of Tuesday's All Saint's Day, when Catholics remember the dead. The head of the church in Umbria, Cardinal Gualtiero Basseti, urged priests not to hold Masses inside churches but in open spaces for fear of further collapses, ANSA reported.

Mayors in some towns, including Castelsantangelo sul Nera, said coffins had been pushed out of their resting place inside cemeteries, which in Italy are typically walled structures.

"The scene is indescribable,"

Mayor Mauro Falcucci told ANSA.

The quake struck a cluster of mountain towns, many of historic significance, already reeling from last week's pair of aftershocks to last August's deadly quake, including Norcia, Visso, Castelsantangelo sul Nero and Preci.

Some towns and smaller settlements were left isolated by landslides that blocked the roads, and the civil protection

The scene is indescribable.

MAYOR MAURO FALCUCCI

authority was responding with helicopters to help the injured, while also monitoring damage.

A civil protection official in the Marche region, Cesare Spuri, said authorities were trying to determine if people were trapped under debris. New collapses were also reported throughout the region, including in Tolentino, where the news agency ANSA said three people were extracted from the rubble.

The hilltop town of Camerino, some 60 kilometers from Ancona, suffered new building collapses, but there were no reports of injuries. City spokesman Emmanuele Pironi said the main fire hall had been rendered uninhabitable.

Pironi said most of the area's 9,000 university students had left after the town's historic center was closed due to danger of collapses last week, and some of the 7,000 residents had been moved to hotels near the coast or to shelters nearby. Few remained in their homes.

The mayor of Ussita said a huge cloud of smoke erupted from the crumbled buildings. "It's a disaster, a disaster!" Mayor Marco Rinaldi told ANSA. "I was sleeping in the car and I saw hell."

In Arquata del Tronto, which had been devastated by the deadly Aug. 24 earthquake, Mayor Alejandro Petrucci said, "There are no towns left."

"Everything came down," he said.

The quake sent boulders tumbling onto state highways and smaller roads, forcing closures throughout the quake zone that impeded access to hard-hit cities such as Norcia.

The Salaria highway, one of the main highways in the region, was closed at certain points. In addition, Italy's rail line said some local lines in Umbria and Le Marche were closed as a precaution.

The quake forced the temporary closure of some of Rome's most important tourist sites, including the presidential palace, so authorities could check for damage.

The St. Paul Outside the Walls basilica was closed for several hours after some plaster fell, but was later reopened. Vatican firefighters conducted checks at St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican's other basilicas but found no damage.

The crowds in St. Peter's Square interrupted Pope Francis with applause when he mentioned the quake during his weekly Sunday blessing.

"I'm praying for the injured and the families who have suffered the most damage, as well as for rescue and first aid workers," he said.

To date, Italy's deadliest quake in recent history remains the 1908 Messina quake that destroyed the Sicilian city and killed tens of thousands of people. **AP**



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what's ON



CONCERT

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre Small Auditorium

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

LOST IN THE MÖBIUS – COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION BY MACAU AND TAIWAN ARTISTS

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: November 4, 2016

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

THRILLER LIVE

TIME: 8pm (Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays and Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

1pm & 6pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: November 13, 2016

VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP280, MOP480

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily, (Except Thursdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Centre, Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre MOP25; Planetarium MOP60-80

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

TIME: 10:30am-7pm (closed on the first Monday of every month)

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

N.Y. TIMES TOP EDITOR RIPS CNN OVER TRUMP COVERAGE

The New York Times executive editor Dean Baquet is airing some strong opinions about U.S. cable news outlets.

In a new interview, Baquet called CNN's considerable Trump coverage "ridiculous," and singled out the decision to hire former Donald Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski as a commentator.

"I'm sorry, that is outrageous. I cannot fathom that," he told The Financial Times.

Baquet elaborated to the paper that cable news is "in the long run, bad for democracy and those institutions ... This mix of entertainment and news, and news masquerading as entertainment, is kind of funny except that we now have a guy who is a product of that world nominated as Republican presidential candidate."

Undoubtedly, Trump has been a huge ratings driver for news outlets. CNN stands to make USD100 million more than it typically would in an election year, according to an NPR report.

That huge ad boon is one reason why it's often rumored that Trump is looking to step into the world of cable news with his own media foray.

Of course, it isn't just CNN and Fox who have benefited from Trump coverage. "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for [us]," CBS CEO Leslie Moonves said at a media conference in February. (Moonves later clarified that he was joking.)

CNN chief Jeff Zucker, meanwhile, has brushed aside any criticisms. In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter this week, the exec said: "This is the best year in the history of cable news [...] for everybody." **Bloomberg**

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:45 | RTPi Live |
| 17:40 | Precious Pearl (Repeated) |
| 18:30 | Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Sport |
| 22:10 | Precious Pearl |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | UEFA Champions League 2016/2017 Magazine Programme |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |

cinema

CINETEATRO

27 Oct - 2 Nov



DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor,

Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min



JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Edward Zwick

Starring: Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Damika Yarosh

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 118min

HEARTFALL ARISES

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ken Wu

Starring: Nicholas Tse, Sean Lau

Language: Chinese (English and Cantonese)

Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

27 Oct - 16 Nov

DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor,

Rachel McAdams

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 115min

this day in history



2003 END OF MAHATHIR ERA IN MALAYSIA

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohamad, has handed over power and stepped down after 22 years in office.

The change of leadership to Mohamad's deputy, Abdullah Badawi, has been anticipated since Dr Mahathir announced his resignation in June 2002. He agreed to stay on until today to ease the transition to his successor.

Dr Mahathir has led Malaysia for almost half its history since independence in 1957, and the handover is a big change for a country where about 40 percent of the population were not even born when he came to power.

In that time, he has overseen Malaysia's transformation from a backwater to high-flying industrialized nation.

The 78-year-old Dr Mahathir has also gained a controversial reputation abroad as a blunt-speaking pragmatist who regularly lashes out at the West and defends authoritarian practices at home.

Only a few days ago, he angered foreign governments and Jewish groups by claiming a Jewish cabal "ruled the world". He was also criticized for the abrupt dismissal and arrest of former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar was jailed for six years in 1999 on charges of corruption, and given a further nine-year sentence in 2000 on a charge of sodomy. Anwar claims both charges were politically motivated.

Dr Mahathir has himself admitted he is ready for retirement. "I've had my day. It's other people's turn now," he told reporters. "I had 22 years. I can't complain."

The handover took place at a ceremony in the National Palace, broadcast live on television. The King of Malaysia, Syed Sirajuddin Putra Jamalullail, swore in Abdullah Badawi as the country's next prime minister.

Mr Badawi, wearing a black tunic and traditional ethnic Malay dress, pledged to "fulfill the obligations of this position honestly and with all my energy".

At the end of the day, Dr Mahathir symbolically checked out at the new government city in Putrajaya using the punch card system he introduced for civil servants.

Mr Abdullah will check in using the same system on Monday morning. The new prime minister is very different in style from Dr Mahathir.

He is seen as a safe pair of hands, yet someone who has gained a tough reputation in his treatment of political opponents and alleged terrorists. He will have his first major test in a general election widely expected early next year.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Abdullah Badawi went on to win a landslide general election victory in March 2004.

He gained a reputation for being more conciliatory with political rivals than his predecessor, with a far less autocratic style.

In September 2004, the sodomy charge against former deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim was overturned on appeal.

Mr Anwar was freed, although the court upheld the conviction for corruption, preventing him from seeking public office until 2008.

Dr Mahathir went on to become an advisor to the state oil company, Petronas, and to the Malaysian national car manufacturer, Proton.

On taking on the car manufacturer, he quickly poured cold water on a suggestion that it look for an international partner, causing concern among international investors.

Correspondents say he is believed to have other giant former state enterprises in his sights, such as Telecom Malaysia and national power company Tenaga Nasional.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need to find an emotional outlet. It could be a therapist, a trainer or an old friend, but you've got to clear out some old baggage that just doesn't seem to move on its own. You can do this!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your intuitive side is making the day's activities a little stranger - but a lot easier! You can read people better and find clues you would have missed last week. Make the most of this energy!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You feel unusually possessive - this isn't a trait you usually like in others, and it's weird to see it in yourself. Go with it for now, as you need to work through this instead of denying its existence.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your emotional side is hard at work making life more interesting for you - and easier too! Your family should see a better side of you, and your colleagues are more likely to see things your way.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your deep warmth is showing someone close that it's okay to open up - and you may find yourself enmeshed in a deep conversation soon! It's a good time to bring your family closer together.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Reach out to friends today - they've got more going on than usual, and you may be able to lend a hand and score some points. Your energy is more stable than theirs, even if that's usually reversed.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your people are clamoring for help today - but you couldn't possibly get to them all! It's a good idea to hear out at least a few before making any decisions about who needs you the most.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Expect good news today - it's a great time to get what you want. You may find that your positive energy helps you to get ahead, though it all fits together as part of a much larger picture.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your moods can be epic - and today brings both dark clouds and rainbows. Make sure to stay true to yourself and keep up with whatever your emotions are tossing your way. It can be fun!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've got to deal with a few extratricky issues today - so block out some time and blow off anything that isn't absolutely vital. Your energy is much better spent on small-scale problems.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You need to focus on something that's a pretty big deal - so close yourself off and hunker down, if you must. Things could get a lot more interesting once you unlock this big mystery.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Show someone how you feel today. It doesn't have to be romantic, though that energy is definitely highlighted today. See if you can get your crush to at least look your way - it's not hard!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

CROSSWORD clues: ACROSS: 1- Shamus; 4- Faction of a group, often religious; 8- One who enjoys inflicting pain; 14- Conductor...; 15- Tennis great Arthur; 16- Roma's land; 17- City in GA; 18- Screen image; 19- One who grinds grains; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Needle case; 24- Flower segment; 25- Aardvark morse; 28- Free from danger; 30- Herb; 33- The act of restoring; 36- Valuable violin; 40- Suffix with ball; 41- Backbone; 42- Mandate; 45- Slightly crazy; 46- Medical; 51- Part of ETA; 52- Intended; 55- Got up; 56- The more recent part of the brain; 59- Edmonton team; 62- Converse competitor; 63- Barbell abbr.; 64- Title of reverence for God; 65- Director Vittorio De...; 66- ... de cologne; 67- Break; 68- Sounds of disapproval; 69- AMA members; DOWN: 1- One making fun; 2- Executor's concern; 3- Hardened part of the skin; 4- Travel on water; 5- Fugitive; 6- Strangle; 7- Dogma; 8- Having a resemblance; 9- Squabbling; 10- Tyne of "Judging Amy"; 11- Under the weather; 12- Sprechen... Deutsch?; 13- Pitch; 21- Personal quirk; 22- U.S. gangster; 25- Et... (and other men); 26- Light gas; 27- Daly of "Judging Amy"; 29- Heap of "David Copperfield"; 31- Dreadlocks wearer; 32- Indy 500 sponsor; 34- Saturated; 35- Male turkey; 36- Proceedings; 37- Heath; 38- Asian river; 39- HBO competitor; 43- Agent of retribution; 44- Niggle; 47- Lilt syllable; 48- Like some oats; 49- Weather map line; 50- Official count of population; 53- With... of thousands!; 54- One of the Leeward Islands; 56- Hawaii's state bird; 57- Notable times; 58- Lukas of "Witness"; 59- Boat propeller; 60- Ox tail?; 61- Rapper Tone...;

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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



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Gerry Shih, Beijing

FOOTBALL

Lippi urges China to unite for 'improbable' World Cup run

MARCELLO Lippi has urged his China team and the nation to pull together to accomplish the "improbable" task of qualifying for the 2018 World Cup before he begins a thorough overhaul of the struggling football program.

The Chinese Football Association formally unveiled Lippi as head coach of China's Dragons at a news conference on Friday, almost a week after the deal was agreed.

Chinese media reports say Lippi's three-year contract is worth 20 million euros (USD21.8 million) annually and makes him the highest paid national team coach in the world. Association officials have declined to discuss specifics of the compensation package for Lippi, who led Italy to World Cup victory in 2006.

China is ranked No. 84 by FIFA and is a perennial under-achiever in international football competition, despite massive spending on foreign players and coaches in the domestic league. High-profile managers including World Cup winner Luiz Felipe Scolari and former England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson have also arrived to take charge at Guangzhou Evergrande and Shanghai SIPG.

"I believe the players are all skillful and have no need to feel inferior or envy toward players of other countries, because they can reach the same level," Lippi told reporters. "What they need is a sense of responsibility, mission and belief."

Still, it's unlikely China will



Marcello Lippi

even qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Gao Hongbo quit as head coach after the 2-0 loss to Uzbekistan earlier this month left China with just one point from four games in Asia's last round of World Cup qualifying. China has qualified for the World Cup only once, when the tournament was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan in 2002, but was bounced out of

the group stages without scoring a goal.

"In the qualification stages, our chances are not great, but what we need to do is pull together — the entire squad, the CFA, logistics, medical team — and maximize our chances and accomplish this improbable mission," Lippi said. "After that, we can consider our long-term issues."

Above all, the Chinese team

— frequently derided by China's soccer-loving public as a national embarrassment — needs to fix its mentality and gain self-confidence, said Lippi, who said his first priority is to psychologically evaluate his players.

"What I need to know first is why our players play very well for their club but only at 40 percent for their country," he said. "I want to tell them it's the hi-

ghest honor to put on the country's shirt and they need to fight and perform at the same level."

Lippi is already familiar with Chinese football at the club level, having coached Guangzhou Evergrande from 2012 to 2015. He led Evergrande to multiple domestic titles and, most notably, the Asian Champions League trophy in 2013.

The financial details of Lippi's arrangement remains murky, with domestic media reporting his salary will be partially paid for by the real estate group Evergrande, whose owner, Xu Jiayin, is an avid supporter of Chinese football. Other Chinese commentators have questioned whether Lippi's services are worth the expense.

CFA president Cai Zhenhua declined to address Lippi's salary on Friday, citing his privacy, but said the amount was fair for a manager of his credentials.

The investment is part of a national soccer push. President Xi Jinping, a big fan of the game, has made improving Chinese football from the grassroots all the way to the international level a priority of his administration, saying it could boost children's physical education as well as national pride. **AP**

Maradona's former house turned into museum in Argentina

Debora Rey

HOW many sleepless nights did the young man who would become one of soccer's greatest players spend gazing up at the ceiling, imagining dizzying dribbles, spectacular goals and hoisting the World Cup above his head?

That is the question visitors often ask when they see the small wooden bed in the former house of Diego Maradona, which was recently turned into a museum in Argentina's capital.

Maradona, now 55, lived with his family in the two-story house in Buenos Aires' La Paternal neighborhood in the late 1970s, when he was playing with the Argen-

tinios Junior soccer club. Officials say the museum sheds light on a little-known era of his life, before he became an internationally known superstar who led Argentina to victory at the 1986 World Cup tournament.

The home was given to Maradona's family in 1978 by Argentinos, part of his payment for signing his first contract. At that time, such payments were rare for teenage soccer players, even those with exceptional talent.

Crossing the doorstep, visitors travel back in time, seeing dozens of photographs, documents and objects evocative of Maradona's teenage years. A photograph of him with curly hair and

an innocent smile sitting on a stair in front of the house vouches for the authenticity of the building, as does a deed in the name of Maradona's father, Don Diego.

His first contract is another treasure displayed in the museum, which is owned by Alberto Perez, a former Argentinos Junior manager who is a collector of Maradona paraphernalia.

"This was perhaps the most romantic part of his life, the best time," Perez said.

Standing in the courtyard where Maradona used to play pingpong with his brothers, Perez recalled that era. "We raised Diego in Argentinos Junior [...] We can't forget what Diego meant

for the club and for the neighborhood. At the world level, they know us because of him."

Perez negotiated for years to buy the house from the woman who acquired it after Maradona left the neighborhood in 1981, when he went to play for Boca Juniors.

Perez achieved his goal eight years ago when he bought the house for USD100,000. Since then he has sought exact replicas of the original furniture and other household items used by the Maradonas.

Diego Maradona's bedroom was on the upper floor, with the bed covered by a blue quilt. A small table with a lamp sits next to it.

"Diego slept in this room



A mural decorates the terrace of soccer legend Diego Armando Maradona's home-turned-museum in Buenos Aires

and had a bathroom outside. It was cold in winter. Diego is a person who always lived with family," said Perez.

The family came to this middle-class neighborhood in Buenos Aires from the poor suburb of Villa Fiorito.

Here Dona Tota, as Maradona's mother was known, raised five daugh-

ters and three sons. She died in 2011.

"In the pictures you can see how happy he was," Cesar Perez, who helped his father with the museum, said of Maradona.

"This is a work of the heart, a living tribute to the best player of all time," he said of the museum, which is free for visitors. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



SQUARING THE CIRCLE

Had we the phlegm of a frivolous and exotic glare while watching Hong Kong Legislative Council heating up, we could sort things out with an empty line of narrative common sense: political drama is unfolding by the hour.

Unable to keep cool we would rather risk a more extreme evaluation of the ongoing fight between localism and loyalism - a coarse simplification in the benefit of our reasoning - one of a tragedy in crescendo. Do not take it in the wrong way; the mounting tragedy is about the fate of Hong Kong political development, indeed democracy.

The thing is that the 2014 Umbrella Movement brought an end to the unwritten bipartisan political understanding between pro-Beijing apparatus and pro-democracy well-wishers. It is no longer possible for the former to pretend to be waiting for universal suffrage and for the latter to pretend to be demanding universal suffrage... in vain!

The political game changed and asked for new players. On the pro-establishment beach are now those who are not just about to defend their privilege, but are able and willing to enforce the Law (Basic), even though they might bend it a little or understand it through the NPC interpretation. On the pro-democracy front there can now be found those able and willing to force the Law (Basic) to defend their actual civil and political rights, forgetting about the old democrats able and willing to wait for the day of universal suffrage.

The heat is on. Chief Executive CY Leung overrode the Legislative branch and took Youngspiration duo of Sixtus Baggio and Yau Wai-ching voicing of an iconoclast and disrespectful oath mentioning "Hong Kong nation" and an imitation of the derogatory "Sheena" to the Courts. If the Government loses... it will be no surprise should CY Leung request an interpretation. Perhaps Sixtus' Legco career will never take off... perhaps that is his aspiration and the price to pay to force loyalists to disrespect the Rule of Law.

Conventional wisdom says that all politics is a local affair. It is not the case if the local is Hong Kong. Being a SAR would be enough to assess Hong Kong's limitations, but we kind of feel compelled to slightly belittle Hong Kong regarding Big China problems.

We would prefer to say China Big problem. Actually, the problem of all problems is none other than the ancient squaring the circle. President Xi, now formally at the core of the leadership, is to fully address his own theory of the Four Comprehensives: strict party governance; build a moderately prosperous society; deepen reform; govern China by law.

No one would dispute that President Xi succeeded to strengthen the party discipline - a euphemism for the unrelenting drive against corruption - but there are mixed signals about the cooling of the economy, and too much doubt over the actual depth of the process of reform. And then we come to the core of the problem: the 4th comprehensive.

Albeit putting in place legal infrastructure, China could not show off a sound and credible system that would deserve to be named "Rule of Law." And this is the crux of the matter, the main contradiction and the enormous challenge China faces today: how to square the circle!

SCMP Cary Huang (24/10) put up a brilliant summary on the subject: "...What the party really wants is for the rule of law to strengthen its one-party rule. At the core of the rule of law is judicial independence. Yet, in China, the courts, the prosecutors, the police and lawyers are under the party's control, with its all-powerful political and legal affairs committee making all the important decisions [...] The party's absolute rule makes true rule of law impossible".

It seems equally impossible to erase the brand of crony capitalism China has been nurturing, although President Xi seems able to clean the game, or at least the players of the game.

THE BUZZ MISS MACAU IN MISS EARTH TOP 16

Miss Macau made it into the Top 16 at Miss Earth 2016 held in Manila on Saturday. Representing Macau was Clover Zhu, whose environmental advocacy slogan is "Less Meat, Less Heat, More Life." "I have chosen this because it is something easy that all of us can do to have a positive impact on the planet, and is the same policy that is advocated by the Chinese nutrition society," she said.

Miss Macau is presently attending the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She is majoring in Nursing and has received various

scholarships and awards for her academic achievements, as cited in Miss Earth 2016's promotional video.

According to Zhu, "Macau has an amazing history with beautiful art, traditional medicine, ancient architecture, different styles of food, and unique ethnic minorities found throughout the country."

Miss Ecuador, Katherine Espin, was crowned Miss Earth 2016 at the pageant's grand coronation night on Saturday, succeeding Filipina beauty queen Angelia Ong.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN Dozens of prisoners and security personnel were feared dead after Saudi-led airstrikes on Saturday battered two prisons inside a security headquarters in a western port city, security and medical officials said. The airstrikes bombed the al-Zaydiya security headquarters in the Red Sea port city of Hodeida. The building contained two prisons, and many prisoners along with security forces were killed in the strikes, the officials said.



US Engine pieces from an American Airlines plane that caught fire Friday on a runway at Chicago's O'Hare airport were found thousands of feet away, a federal investigator said. Lorenda Ward, a National Transportation Safety Board senior investigator, confirmed Saturday that the fire was caused by engine failure. What caused the engine to fail has not yet been determined



TURKEY expanded its sweeping post-coup crackdown over the weekend, issuing two new governmental decrees that dismissed more than 10,000 civil servants and shutting down 15 mostly pro-Kurdish media outlets. The decrees were passed Saturday, also instituting changes in due process and university administration.

MOROCCANS are planning protests after a fisherman was crushed to death in a garbage truck - an incident some are comparing to the death of a Tunisian vendor in 2010 that sparked the Arab Spring uprisings.

Pirate Party make gains as center-right hangs on in Iceland

Jill Lawless, Reykjavik

THE radical Pirate Party made gains but not a breakthrough in Iceland's election, as returns yesterday showed that voters favored the incumbent center-right Independence Party over the upstart advocates of direct democracy and digital freedom.

No party emerged with a majority of parliament seats from an election dominated by public discontent at the establishment after years of financial crisis and political turmoil.

With almost all votes from the balloting Saturday counted, the Independence Party had 29 percent support and the Pirate Party 14.5 percent, putting them in third place behind the Left-Green movement at 15.9 percent.

The result should give the Independence Party about 21 seats in Iceland's 63-seat Parliament, the Althingi, with the Left-Greens and Pirates winning 10 each.

It's a better performance than expected for the Independents, who have governed in coalition since 2013.

The Pirates' result fell short of what some polls had suggested - and what the party's fleet of energetic volunteers and supporters had hoped.

Founded four years ago by an assortment of hackers, political activists and internet freedom advocates, the Pirate Party drew international at-



Birgitta Jonsdottir of the Pirate party (Pirater) reacts after the first results in Reykjavik

tention as its support surged.

Like Spain's Podemos or the movement behind Bernie Sanders in the U.S. presidential race, it drew in throngs of mostly young supporters fed up with the status quo.

Pirate lawmaker Birgitta Jonsdottir said the results were in line with the party's own prediction of between 12 and 15 percent - up from the 5 percent it secured in 2013.

The election result looks set to trigger a period of intense political negotiations. It was not immediately clear whether the Independents had the support to assemble a coalition government with other parties of the center and right.

Saturday's election was called after then-Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson resigned in April during public protests over his off-shore holdings, revealed in the Panama Papers leak.

The tax-avoidance scandal outraged many Icelanders, who suffered years of economic upheaval after the country's debt-swollen banks collapsed during the 2008 global financial crisis.

The chief victim of voters'

wrath was Gunnlaugsson's Progressive Party, which lost more than half its seats in the Althingi.

The election was dominated by Iceland's economy - now recovering on the back of a tourism boom, with low unemployment and high growth - and voters' desire for political reform.

The Pirates campaigned on promises to introduce direct democracy, subject the workings of government to more scrutiny and place the country's natural resources under public ownership

The party also backs tough rules to protect individuals from online intrusion. Jonsdottir, the Pirates' most prominent voice, is a former ally of WikiLeaks who has called on Iceland to offer citizenship to U.S. National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden. Opponents argued that the inexperienced Pirates could scare off investors and destabilize the economy.

A wind-lashed volcanic island near the Arctic Circle with a population of 320,000, Iceland has become known in recent years for large street protests that ousted one government after the 2008 financial crash and dispatched another in April.

But Icelanders - infused with a spirit of Viking self-sufficiency - also have a strong conservative streak that led many to mistrust the Pirates and stick with the status quo. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



People attend the Day of the Dead Parade in downtown Mexico City, capital of Mexico. Thousands of Mexicans gathered on Saturday in to join the parade of the traditional celebration for the Day of the Dead.