



NEW MEDICAL MALPRACTICE REGULATIONS

Laws relating to medical malpractice are expected to be enforced starting from the end of the month

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CASINO CRACKDOWN INFECTS SYDNEY

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REPORT SAYS LAWYERS BEATEN, ARRESTED

Lawyers who defend human rights activists and dissidents targeted by Beijing have increasingly become subject to political prosecutions

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah said statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (pictured) and U.S. President Donald Trump mark the end of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The leader of the Lebanese militant group said the "two-state basis for peace [is] over," and described Trump's policy on the issue as "confused".

PHILIPPINES

An opposition senator pressed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday to publicly release details of his bank accounts to disprove allegations that he had large sums of undeclared money. Trillanes, one of Duterte's harshest critics and a navy officer once detained for a failed coup plot against a former president, said he would resign if Duterte can disprove the allegations. More on p12

AP PHOTO



THAILAND Police raided the head temple of a controversial Buddhist sect yesterday but failed to find and arrest the abbot, who faces criminal charges over accepting USD40 million in embezzled money. The action followed several earlier failed attempts, thwarted when crowds of monks and followers blocked the way, risking a violent confrontation. More on p12

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More arrests linked to Kim's murder

Alias Facebook account shut down P6, 7

RENATO MARQUES



Lilau mansion on the market, bids start at HKD250m

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Extra times weekend Guide

INSIDE

Lawmaker says casinos pressured government

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong believes that Macau's six gaming operators have pressured the government to rescind its support of a smoking ban inside casinos. Ng claimed that the casinos led the Chief Executive and the Secretaries have taken a step backwards, which consequently prompted the Health Bureau (SSM) – which had previously said that smoking lounges cannot isolate the risks associated with smoking – to also change its standpoint. Ng believes that the city's laws regarding tobacco controls will be amended and that the SSM's early suggestions on smoking lounges will also be approved by the Legislative Assembly.

200 people apply for DSPA compensation

The Environment Protection Bureau (DSPA) received more than 200 applications for the government's compensation for the disposal of two-stroke engine vehicles. This number was registered on the first day that the DSPA's new measure came into effect. The measure states that the government's financial support plan will compensate vehicle owners by up to MOP3,500 for the disposal of the aforementioned vehicles. Applications for the program are open from February 25 until June 30. Earlier government statements noted that the DSPA expects to receive responses from the owners of around 30 percent of the total number of vehicles.

New Liaison Office department director appointed

China's Liaison Office in Macau has appointed Gao Qixing as the office's new head of research at the Liaison Office, according to Chinese press yesterday. Prior to this appointment, Gao was the secretary of the Director-General of the Coordination Department of the Liaison Office, deputy Director-General of the Coordination Department, and an inspector at the Liaison office's research sector. According to the Liaison Office, Gao's appointment is "in line with the work's needs."

Baby Chyn back to ICU, family appealing for financial support

Lynzy Valles

A Filipina baby who was in 2015 diagnosed with Down Syndrome, a congenital heart disease, a complete ventricular septal defect and pulmonary hypertension is back in the hospital fighting for her life.

Born to non-resident Filipino parents, Chyn de Guzman underwent heart surgery on February 8 at Kiang Wu Hospital.

As of Tuesday, the family's bill has risen to approximately MOP120,000.

Baby Chyn is currently in the Kiang Wu Hospital Intensive Care Unit, waiting for her condition to stabilize sufficiently for an additional heart surgery.

Her father Chuck de Guzman lamented that his daughter may be scheduled for a major heart surgery in the coming months, depending on her condition.

De Guzman, who works at a resort in Cotai, claimed they were advised to prepare MOP500,000



Chuck de Guzman with baby Chyn



Nina Guzman with baby Chyn

for the upcoming operation, a staggering amount which the family could not provide.

As the father is a non-resident worker in Macau, his daughter is not entitled to any financial support from the government. His wife is on a tourist visa as she resigned from work to care for their daughter.

De Guzman said that the family approached the Social Welfare Bureau two years ago, but their request for financial assistance was denied.

When questioned on whether he would request assistance again, he

replied: "Unfortunately they can't provide assistance because we're not residents. I think it's useless to try again because they would give us the same reasons."

"It's quite difficult to approach the Macau government. It's disappointing but we cannot do anything. This isn't our territory and we have to respect their laws," the father said.

As a result, Chyn's family is again hoping for the financial assistance from netizens.

Back in 2015, the family launched a fundraising campaign on

Facebook and Indiegogo to gather funds for the baby's first operation.

After the recent operation, the parents have updated followers on their Facebook page "Help our Little Angel Baby Chyn" on the current situation.

Between Tuesday and Wednesday, netizens donated about USD600. The total raised in the fundraising campaign reached USD15,457 as of last night. "We were hoping that people would reach out to donate," the father said.

De Guzman admitted that their current situation is extremely tough as they are not only facing their daughter's complicated health issues, but also the lack of the finances they need to save her.

Baby Chyn is currently showing some improvement, but is still assisted by a ventilator as she cannot breathe on her own.

Just this week, it was discovered that the baby is also suffering from pneumonia due to the use of the ventilator.

Medical malpractice law to be enforced from February 26

Renato Marques

LAWs relating to medical malpractice are expected to be enforced starting from February 26, following the assessment from the Executive Council (ExCo).

The information was revealed in a press conference yesterday at the government headquarters, where it was announced that the analysis of three administrative regulations have been concluded, meaning the new laws are enforceable.

ExCo spokesperson Leong Heng Teng revealed that the regulations of the "Evaluation Committee of Medical Malpractice" (which will oversee technical evaluation of medical malpractice cases, determine the investigations and necessary examinations as well as assess the



complaints presented for both healthcare services users and workers) are not yet public knowledge and will be disclosed "later through an executive order from the Chief Executive."

Information such as the names of the seven members that will compose the committee – of which five will be from the medical field and two from a legal background – were also not disclosed.

As mentioned last year when the bill was discus-

sed by the Legislative Assembly (AL), the committee was asked to evaluate whether or not it is necessary to pay a fee to request the committee's intervention. However, the amount was also not disclosed.

In August last year when the bill was being debated by the AL, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, admitted that reference amounts from neighboring regions were being considered. These amounts ranged

between MOP5,500 and MOP8,900.

While a 90-day limit was established for the committee to investigate and disclose a report, doubts were expressed on whether the time frame would be sufficient for some complex cases, in which the regulation may permit an extension for an undefined period of time.

Another administrative regulation now approved by the ExCo referred to the "mandatory compensation insurance for the healthcare providers."

The government spokesperson highlighted that the regulation sets a minimum amount of MOP500,000 to MOP2 million for individual professionals, and MOP1 million to MOP20 million for the related institutions and entities.

The regulation also sets the conditions of exclusion under which the insurance company will not be required to pay compensation, such as willful misconduct due to its classification as a criminal act.

It was also clarified that in a case where healthcare professionals have difficulty in securing insurance (specifically, if the insurance companies refuse), the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) will intervene and help healthcare professionals find a suitable policy.

"At the moment there are, I believe, seven insurance companies [operating in the territory] that can provide this kind of insurance," said Leong.

The last of the administrative regulations to be analyzed was the creation of the "Conflict Mediation Center", which can provide free assistance for cases regarding medical malpractice.

The intervention of such a center is voluntary and can be stopped at any time by the decision of the parties.

Citing figures from the Health Bureau (SSM), Leong said there were 59 reported cases of potential medical malpractice in 2016.

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Lilau mansion on the market, bids start at HKD250m

Renato Marques

ONE of the houses most symbolic of Macau's historical center has been listed for sale. Bidding on the Lilau mansion, a three-story building facing the famous Lilau Square and close to the Mandarin house, will commence at an open-house event on February 26, starting at HKD250 million.

The information was released in a press statement from iAOHiN Gallery.

The building, which is currently owned by Isabel Chiang, has housed two art galleries in the last few years.

The house is said to have been recently priced at a sum of HKD240 million. According to information to which the Times had access, it has been mortgaged twice in 2014 and 2015 for a combined total of HKD90 million.

In the press release, Chiang said that the house's sale



PAULO BARBOSA

follows the decision to close the art galleries operating in the building, due to high maintenance costs.

Chiang is known for her recent involvement with the acquisition of several buildings in historical areas, which were developed for creative projects such as the one by Number 81, which established a number of retail shops at Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo and Patio de Chon Sau, near the famous Ruins of St. Paul's.

"This cooperation leverages our ability to promote Lilau Square, which is a wonderful plaza with rich history, yet little known and rarely visited

by locals and tourists alike," said Simon Lam, iAOHiN Gallery's curator. Lam will host the open-house heritage event.

This event will count among many others, such as talks by the president of the Association for Macanese Education (APIM) Miguel Senna Fernandes, and the architect Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro, who will discuss Lilau Square's 400-year history.

It is not clear who might be interested in acquiring such a historical building, but the event organizers have said that the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) might be a suitable candidate to preserve the

monument and keep it in the public domain.

Chiang wants the space to be used for cultural events and heritage seminars.

The mansion, which was restored in 2014, still features much of its original architectural features, including wooden windows with exterior window shutters, plaster moldings and hardwood roof beams. A series of bronze sculptures by the French sculptor Jacques Le Nantec will be on display at the event. Le Nantec's Rua de Lilau studio is right behind the mansion, and the artist is known for his passion for the square and the surrounding area.

The open-house heritage event will feature a live painting session by contemporary painter Tashi Norbu, a fashion exhibition by local designer Ana Cardoso, and a cello, violin and harp concert by Daniel Leong, Ng U Tong and Elisa Chon.

Macau diaspora exhibition in Portugal

An exhibition on the Macanese diaspora in Shanghai during the mid-20th century will be held in the Alfredo Pimenta Municipal Archives in Portugal on March 3. The exhibition, organized by the Macau Archives under the guidance of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, is titled "Shanghai Portuguese Refugees in Macao (1937-1964)". Both Shanghai and Hong Kong were popular destinations for the Macau diaspora in the last century. Due to the Japanese invasion of 1937, World War II, the Chinese civil war and other factors, the Macanese were forced to leave Shanghai and seek shelter in Macau. Some of them later resettled in places such as the United States, Canada, Brazil, Portugal, Angola and Mozambique. This exhibition showcases a selection of over 100 records that illustrate the historical background of the Macanese diaspora around the world, the social inclusion of the Macanese in Shanghai and the journey of the Portuguese refugees to Macau.

Chief Executive to visit Fujian and Guangdong

Chief Executive Chui Sai On will visit Fuzhou (Fujian Province) and Guangzhou (Guangdong Province) to discuss the advancement of joint efforts for the development of the "Belt and Road" initiative. According to a statement issued by the government, the MSAR hopes to assume a larger role in developing the country's Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, particularly in relation to boosting cooperation efforts with Guangdong and Fujian. Chui will meet the leaders of both Provinces on February 22 to 24 to expedite cooperation in several fields. Several Macau officials will be part of the delegation to Fuzhou and Guangzhou, including the president of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Jackson Cheong, and the director of the Macau Government Tourism Office, Helena de Senna Fernandes. In Chui's absence, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, will be Acting Chief Executive.

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Zhuhai listed as key transportation hub

The Ministry of Transport of China has listed Zhuhai as one of the region's key transportation hubs in addition to 50 other cities, according to reports by Chinese press. The department released a national logistic channels and node diagram in January which shows that the nation will build 11 great logistics avenues and 85 nodes to improve its transportation network. In Guangdong province, the cities of Zhanjiang, Shantou, and Dongguan are also listed as key transportation hubs. Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Foshan are included as part of the national transportation backbone.

PSP to hold community 'fun day' in March

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) will conduct a new round of collections for "Police Stories III" when it holds the "Police and Community Fun Day" on March 5 in Tap Seac Square. The PSP aims to boost the interaction and cohesion between police officers and members of the community, according to a statement released by the bureau. On the sidelines of the bureau's annual luncheon with local media, which was held on Wednesday, Commissioner Leong Man Cheong noted that last year's event enabled the force to promote its new guiding principles of "proactive policing", "community policing" and "public relations policing". This year, the PSP said, the police force will continually strive to uphold its spirit of "Integrity, High Efficiency, Competence and Professionalism."

Scholars praise execution of 'One Country, Two Systems' policy

Julie Zhu

THE Macau University of Science and Technology held a seminar on China's "One Country, Two Systems" policy yesterday. University professors, as well as lawmaker Si Ka Lon, praised Macau's efforts to implement the policy and pointed out that Hong Kong had, in comparison, done less meaningful work in realizing the policy.

Yang Yunzhong who is currently a researcher at the Macau Polytechnic Institute who specializes in the study of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, said Macau – as one of China's two special administrative regions – has been consistently praised by mainland authorities and residents for its peaceful and loyal implementation of the policy.

During the seminar, Yang reiterated that Macau "should not be pleased only by the ostentatious complements from the state



leaders" and said the "One Country Two Systems and mainland China's special socialism build-up consists of one single thing, not two."

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon also commented on Hong Kong's political situation, saying that Hong Kong has encountered issues with its economy, society and livelihood since its handover. The lawmaker claimed that there has been obvious interference from external forces in Hong Kong's internal affairs.

"The most serious aspect

is that Hong Kong is facing a great challenge from the returning of its people's hearts," said Si.

Si suggested that Macau, likely because of geographical reasons, "has a sense of identity."

Nevertheless, Si expressed his belief that Macau's government still needs extra cooperation from the public, adding that when it comes to Macau's political body, "the administration and the legislation have been cooperating more and restricting each other less."

"It's necessary for us to set up a statue of Deng Xiaoping [the late Chinese leader who formulated the One Country two systems]," he said.

Si also told the media that "the negative energy is [greater] than the positive energy among public opinions on said policy."

He suggested that educating school-aged students can help to achieve the policy's vision, "because nowadays students and younger generations have difficulties accepting or listening to it."

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Wynn's Career Advancement Program a journey of self-development

As a proud corporate citizen, Wynn understands that training is the best tool to empower team members, supporting Macau's economic diversification and facilitating the upward mobility of local employees. Wynn's Career Advancement Program (CAP) is one example, specially designed to provide Gaming employees with exciting, alternative career opportunities in the hospitality industry.

This advancement initiative – a first-of-its-kind in the city – enables Gaming employees to take advantage of new career opportunities in the hotel industry. The initial group of 18 participants were carefully chosen from a pool of over 500 interested team members and given one year of accelerated learning and development. Wynn's management team devoted considerable time to training, educating and coaching the participants to ensure their success after promotion.



Selection Process



All participants successfully graduated last month at a ceremony attended by Wong Chi Hong, Director of the Labour Affairs Bureau. Director Wong presented awards to outstanding participants and said that he appreciated the efforts made by Wynn in helping their gaming employees' career advancement. He encouraged the graduates to treasure and seize every training opportunity to increase their competitiveness in order to live out their dreams.

THE CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (CAP)

In essence CAP is a professional development program that has the unique feature of focusing as much on the participants' self-development as on the company's needs. In the words of Niale McLoughlin, Executive Director of Learning and Advancement of Wynn Macau, the program "is designed to be a journey of self-realization and transformation."

The 18 talented and ambitious team members chosen spent a year training intensively in a wide range of non-gaming departments of the resort. They rotated through all operational departments, such as Front Office, Kitchen, Housekeeping, and restaurants. After successfully completing the program, all of them gained a guaranteed Assistant Manager position in the division of their

choice. The CAP program not only focuses on imparting skills, but also provides personalized mentorship with each trainee having a member of senior management staff guiding them as they went along.

THE FACES BEHIND CAP

Jason Loi, Ling lao, Stephen Sou and Yuki U are four of the faces of CAP. Having completed the program, these dynamic individuals feel very different in how they see themselves, their abilities and even the company.



Jason Loi, at Wynn Macau for 10 years

Jason's wife is proud of her husband and happy with how he has developed, such as in the way he has become more organized since joining the program. Jason agrees. "It has been so good to see what happens beyond the gaming table. We now have a much better understanding of how the company works and we feel we truly belong to the Wynn family."

Ling lao, at Wynn Macau for 8 years

Wynn Macau was this young and confident lady's first job, where she was a dealer for eight years. Ling speaks

freely in English, explaining that for her the program was a breakthrough. She feels she is finally able to have her ideas heard, both at work and in her personal life. "The CAP program was a chance for me to finally find my voice, knowing that I have ideas I want to share. It also helped me understand the role of a leader much better. It is hard to have the responsibility, but it's rewarding too."

Stephen Sou, at Wynn Macau for 5 years

Stephen Sou believes CAP was a wonderful opportunity to grow, both professionally and personally. He too realizes he is more organized both at home and at work since the program started. For him, one of the biggest impacts of the program is his new-found appreciation for the small things. "I had no idea of the effort it took to clean and tidy a hotel room. When we first learned to do it, it took me three hours to complete a single room."

Yuki U, at Wynn Macau for 5 years

Wise and confident are the two best words to describe Yuki. She insists on speaking English as she explains that the CAP program was life-changing for her. "I think I can finally be myself. It is like I now have my opportunity to shine." Her supportive husband fully agrees, "I'm extremely happy that Yuki finally found a platform to be everything she can be."

Their Teachers

Kurma Mac and Edwyn Tam, two professors from the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) who have been teaching

the group, also sing their praises. "In all my years as a teacher, I have never seen such a group that is always on time and focused. It is impressive. They motivate me to become a better teacher because of their dedication", says Kurma. Edwyn Tam elaborates, "In this industry it is always gratifying to see the human potential. You have to build people so you can build hotels, and this program is definitely building people."



A UNIQUE PROGRAM IN A UNIQUE COMPANY

Zuleika Mok, Senior Vice President of Human Resources of Wynn Macau Limited, believes CAP to be above all an elite program with unique characteristics. "We are not merely transferring local employees from Gaming positions to non-Gaming roles, we are providing a career ladder. We want to nurture future industry leaders and give them every chance to succeed and grow," she explained.

Although Wynn Macau continues to be an industry leader, the CAP initiative has a much broader goal. Ultimately, the idea of CAP is to benefit Macau as a whole by developing local talent for specialization in hospitality management, thereby supporting the Government's initiative of promoting the city as a world center for tourism and leisure.

THE mysterious death of Kim Jong Un's half-brother removed a potential avenue for China to press the North Korean leader to rein in his nuclear ambitions.

Kim Jong Nam, 45, lived out of North Korea for many years and had close links to China. He started families in both Beijing and Macau, and had the protection of Chinese authorities, according to a South Korean lawmaker who was briefed on intelligence reports.

His murder at an airport in Malaysia this week in circumstances akin to a spy novel adds to concern that Pyongyang's actions risk a major geopolitical miscalculation. Kim Jong Un's repeated nuclear and missile tests - most recently on Sunday - have caused unease both in the U.S. and China, and put Beijing in a difficult spot as North Korea's prime benefactor and ally.

While Kim Jong Nam was out of favor in Pyongyang for years before he was murdered - his brother reportedly had a standing order for his execution - he would have been a potential replacement for Kim Jong Un, and was an implicit point of leverage for China while he was alive.

"Kim Jong Un has been testing China's patience," said Deng Yuwen, a public affairs commentator in Beijing and a former deputy editor of a

China loses a friend - and leverage - with Kim's murder

journal of the Communist Party. "If Beijing wouldn't want to see the total collapse of the Kim regime, it would hope for the replacement of Kim Jong Un. This is why Kim was increasingly worried about his half-brother."

■ ■
If Beijing wouldn't want to see the total collapse of the Kim regime, it would hope for the replacement of Kim Jong Un.

Beijing provides most of North Korea's food and fuel. The nations had solid relations from the 1950s, when they fought together in the Korean War. Leaders from both countries often say they have a bond built with blood.

Still, ties became strained after Kim's ascension in 2011, a year before President Xi Jinping took power in China. The two have never met as leaders. High-level dialogue was also cut back after the 2013 execution of Kim's uncle Jang Song Thaek, who was an advocate for Chinese-style economic reform in North Korea and had been the major go-to person for leaders in Beijing. Kim Jong Nam was raised by Jang's wife.

China has watched North Korea's nuclear development with concern. Its leaders released a new list of items banned for export to North Korea in January, to comply with a new round of United Nations sanctions and address international criticism.

Trade data show that relations have cooled. Total commerce has fallen for two straight years to USD5.4 billion in 2016, according to numbers released by China's Ministry of Commerce.

Even so, it would be hard for China to totally abandon North Korea, which it has long seen as a geopolitical buffer to U.S. forces, said

Yang Xiyu, former director of the China Foreign Ministry's Office for Korean Peninsula Issues. China is wary that the U.S. and South Korea will view the murder as a sign of internal instability in North Korea and seek to challenge Kim further, he said.

Kim Jong Nam was seen in Beijing as an elite who envied the success of China's economic reforms, Yang said. The eldest son of former dictator Kim Jong Il reportedly traveled with his father in 2001 to Shanghai, a coastal city that spearheaded China's market reforms, and met with senior officials in information technology. **Bloomberg**



BEIJING FOLLOWING DEATH OF KIM JONG NAM

CHINA IS continuing to observe events following the death of Kim Jong Nam, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday. "We are aware of relevant reports and will continue to keep an eye on any developments," spokesperson Geng Shuang said at a daily press briefing when asked about the murder of Kim in Malaysia.

The DPRK Embassy in Malaysia confirmed that a 46-year-old man holding a DPRK passport under the name Kim Chol was Kim Jong Nam. Asked whether Kim's death would affect relations between China and the DPRK, Geng said that the two countries are friendly neighbors and have a tradition of friendly exchange.

Mystery deepens, questions build in North Korea princeling death

WHAT do we really know about the sudden death of an exiled North Korean princeling? Aside from heated media speculation and an instant "it's-gotta-be-Pyongyang" reaction from Seoul's spy agency, not much. South Korea's Na-

tional Intelligence Service - no friend to Pyongyang - and eager reporters across Asia have assembled a dramatic, almost cinematic profile of the last hour of Kim's life. But there's still a surfeit of unanswered questions. Here are a few:

WAS HE POISONED?

This one could be answered fairly soon. Kim complained of being sprayed in the face with some sort of chemical before he died. Presumably Malaysian authorities' autopsy, which has been completed, will determine whether poison killed Kim, and, if so, what kind.

A big question is how possible killers would have managed to quickly inflict a fatal chemical dose on someone in the middle of a busy airport.

South Korea's intelligence service says Kim almost certainly was poisoned, but it's unclear whether a needle or spray was used, and the spy agency didn't elaborate.

One possibility for the poison is neostigmine bromide, which South Korean officials said was contained in a pen-like

weapon used in a failed North Korean attempt to kill an anti-Pyongyang activist in 2011. Or it could have been cyanide or sarin gas, which was used in a deadly attack on Tokyo's subways in 1995.

WAS IT REALLY NORTH KOREA?

North Korea, of course, is the easy answer. South Korea's spy service considers the North the bogeyman and almost immediately, in a private briefing to lawmakers in Seoul, pointed the finger at North Korean agents for the death, saying that Kim Jong Nam had been targeted for five years because of Kim Jong Un's "paranoia."

WHO ARE THE ARRESTED WOMEN?

The two women arrested in connection with

Kim's death were spotted on surveillance video at the airport where Kim fell ill.

Both are reportedly in their 20s. One held an Indonesian passport. The other had Vietnamese travel documents and was seen in grainy photos waiting for a cab while wearing a white jumper emblazoned with "LOL" - internet-speak for Laugh Out Loud.

But their possible involvement in Kim's death is still unclear. Were they simply in the wrong place at the wrong time? Were they North Korean agents, maybe even North Korean nationals using false passports? Kim Jong Nam, in one of his lowest moments, was humiliated while trying to sneak into Japan to visit Disneyland - with a Dominican passport.

Police are trying to verify if the women's travel documents are genuine, according to the Malaysian minister. Police said they have also arrested a third suspect, a Malaysian man thought to be

the boyfriend of the suspect with an Indonesian passport.

ARE OTHER EXILED NORTH KOREANS IN DANGER?

South Korea's government said it was boosting security for high-profile defectors in the South, many of whom already have police protection.

Kim Jong Nam was long protected in his Macau base by China, according to Seoul's spy service. South Korean officials say he leaves behind two sons and a daughter between two different women living in Beijing and Macau.

Ha Taekeung, a South Korean lawmaker and North Korea human rights activist, said in a radio interview yesterday that Kim Jong Nam's son, Kim Han Sol, could be in danger because he knows sensitive secrets about Kim Jong Un's personal life. Kim Han Sol, who lived with his father in Macau, referred to Kim Jong Un as a "dictator" in a 2012 interview. **AP**

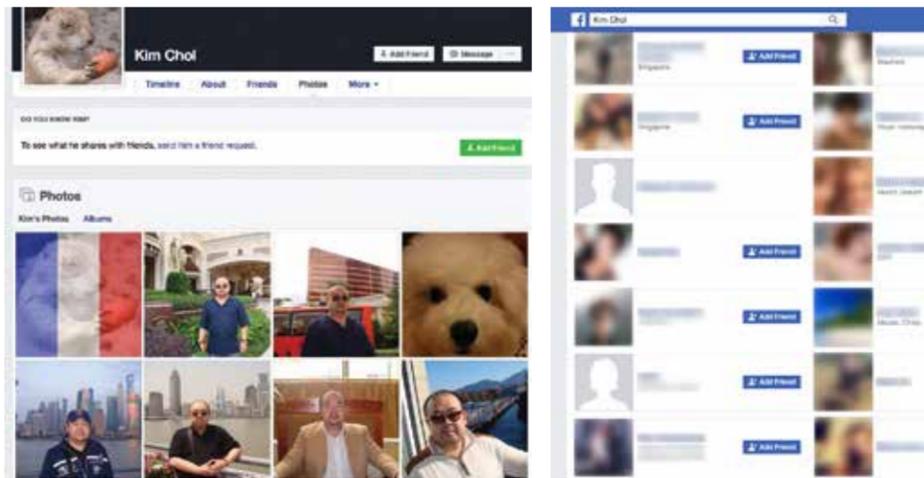
2 WOMEN, 1 MAN ARRESTED

TWO WOMEN and a man have been arrested in the killing of Kim Jong Nam, the North Korean leader's half brother who was reportedly poisoned this week by a pair of female assassins as he waited for a flight in Malaysia, police said yesterday. The suspects were picked up separately Wednesday and yesterday. The female suspects were identified using surveillance footage from Kuala Lum-

pur International Airport, where Kim Jong Nam suddenly fell ill Monday morning before dying on the way to the hospital. One of the women had Vietnamese travel documents and the other held an Indonesian passport. There was no immediate way to determine if the IDs were genuine or if the women, both apparently in their 20s, were believed to be the alleged assassins.

KIM JONG NAM

Alias Facebook account shut down



Two screenshots of the personal Facebook page of Kim Chol as viewed by MDT around 8pm yesterday, showing selfies in Macau and another page of over 100 of his "friends" (we blurred the people for privacy)

A Facebook account that appears to be owned by the recently assassinated half-brother of the North Korean leader has surfaced under the alias confirmed by Malaysian authorities, Kim Chol. The account contains around a dozen pictures of the self-exiled eldest son of Kim Jong Il, which were publicly accessible to the public. The pictures, dated from between 2008 and 2010, depict him at several locations in Macau, including outside easily identifiable integrated resorts. Others show him in Shanghai and Geneva. However, the account had been closed down or made unavailable by

9 p.m. last night, with only a warning posted: "Sorry, this content isn't available at the moment." According to information on the Facebook account, Kim studied at the International School of Geneva in Switzerland and Russia's Lycée Français Alexandre Dumas de Moscou. He was also a friend of Macau lawmaker Chan Meng Kam on the social media platform. Kim Jong Nam was regularly spotted in Macau but accounts of his lifestyle vary. While some report having seen him with a "heavy security presence" in VIP rooms at a popular bar in Taipa in 2011, others claim that he lived a

mostly "low-key" lifestyle that was "far from luxurious." Kim Jong Nam used numerous aliases to protect his identity, including Kim Chol. Malaysian authorities confirm that the man who was assassinated in Kuala Lumpur airport on Monday carried the passport of a North Korean with the same name. A source told the South China Morning Post yesterday that some Macau-based friends of Kim Jong Nam had called him "John". The friends were due to meet him in Macau for dinner on Tuesday, however received news late that night of the alleged assassination. **DB**

Diplomats meet with woman arrested

NinieK Karmini

INDONESIAN diplomats have met with a woman arrested in Malaysia for suspected involvement in the killing of the North Korean leader's half brother and confirmed she is an Indonesian citizen, officials said yesterday. Authorities have identified her as Siti Aisyah, 25, originally from Serang in Banten, a province that neighbors the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. She was arrested by Malaysian police early yesterday. Indonesian Immigration Office spokesman Agung Sampurno said that officials from the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur met with the woman in Selangor state, where she has been imprisoned, and ensured she was safe. "They were allowed to see her but cannot make any questions," said Sampurno. "However, the team can confirm that Aisyah is Indonesian." He said a passport ID page published by Indonesian media is "the same as the passport held by her." Lalu Muhammad Iqbal, director of Indonesian Citizen Protection at the Foreign Ministry, said Indonesia would ensure Aisyah's rights are protected and that she has legal assistance. Malaysian police have now arrested two women and one man in the death

of Kim Jong Nam, who was reportedly poisoned on Monday by a pair of female assassins as he waited for a flight at the Kuala Lumpur airport. Malaysian police said the first woman they arrested had Vietnamese travel documents. Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's Deputy Spokeswoman Nguyen Phuong Tra said in a statement that Vietnamese authorities were closely coordinating with Malaysia on the case. Kumparan, an Indonesian news portal, said Aisyah lived in the Tambora neighborhood in western Jakarta for about 10 years before moving to Malaysia in 2013 along with her husband and children. It cited interviews with former neighbors and said she had returned to Indonesia in 2014 to arrange a divorce. Sampurno said immigration data showed that Aisyah had visited Indonesia earlier this year and returned by ferry to Johor, Malaysia, from the nearby Indonesian island of Batam on Feb. 2. Several million Indonesians work in Malaysia as maids and construction and plantation workers. Investigators in Malaysia are trying to shed light on the death of Kim, which has set off waves of speculation over whether North Korea dispatched a hit squad to kill him. **AP**

MINISTER: 'I THINK HE HAS TWO DIFFERENT IDENTITIES'



The North Korean who was killed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 on Monday has been officially confirmed as Kim Jong Nam. Malaysian Deputy Home

Minister Zahid Hamidi said the confirmation was made based on the passport held by the victim as well as documents provided by the North Korean Embassy for verification. He also stated that Kim Jong Nam had travelled using the "undercover" identity of Kim Chol. "We have looked into the possibility that he travelled using a fake passport. I think he has two different identities. Probably this is an undercover document. But it is an authentic passport," he mentioned.

'Go-slow' protest to be held tomorrow

THE "Go-slow" protest will be held tomorrow, but organizers are not satisfied with the routes proposed by authorities. The protest - which was organized by several associations and supported by the office of Pereira Coutinho and fellow lawmaker Leong Veng Chai - was recently postponed due to a lack of consensus with the authorities in relation to proposed routes. The "Go-slow" protest was previously scheduled to be held on February 12 in protest against the government's proposed fee hike for several services offered by the Traffic Affairs Bureau (DSAT), especially those concerning vehicle removal and deposit in cases of irregular parking. The demonstration also calls for the resignation of Secretary for Transport and Public Works Rai-

undo do Rosário. According to the latest proposed route, the protest would begin at the Legislative Assembly, then head to Sai Van Lake and the Ocean Gardens Road before ending at the government headquarters. Lawmaker Leong Veng Chai told the press yesterday that he accepted the proposed route as the protest was a matter of public interest. He also added that they would not want to postpone the demonstration again. Coutinho, who was absent from yesterday's press conference, sought Macau residents' understanding regarding potential traffic congestion on the day of the protest, and advised them to "find alternative solutions to go to work." He noted that the parties involved are protesting as a last resort. **LV**

Local youth associations visiting startups in Portugal



A delegation led by the Macau Economic Services (DSE), composed mainly of representatives from local youth associations, is currently touring Portugal in order to visit several startup centers, the DSE informed in a statement. The purpose of the visit is to foster cooperation between organizations and associations of young en-

trepreneurs from Macau, mainland China and Portugal. According to the statement, the visit aims to contribute towards building the Platform of Services for Commercial Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries and promote the territory's creation of the Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center between China and Portuguese-speaking

countries. The tour will enable participants to acquire a deeper knowledge of the mode of operation and development orientation of Portugal's innovation and entrepreneurship institutions, and learn from their successful experiences. The 22-member delegation also includes government representatives from China's Liaison Office in Macau, as well as representatives from two Chinese business creation centers that will study opportunities for future bilateral cooperation. These centers are located in Nansha and Hengqin and are specially oriented towards the youth. The delegation visited several startup and incubator centers in Lisbon, as well as met China's ambassador to Portugal. The tour to Portugal ends today.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Common misconceptions about renting a property in Macau - Part 4

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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JULIET RISDON

After many years of handling rental transactions we would have to be completely blind not to see some recurring patterns amongst tenants, especially when people first arrive in Macau. This list of common misconceptions may look innocent enough, but the difference in expectation is usually the source of major rental conflicts, and one that could be easily avoided with a little more clarity up front.

When you consider the rental process usually involves at least two different languages (sometimes three), its not surprising that misunderstandings are commonplace.

Bearing this mind, it is wise to get all agreements in writing prior to signing a final contract.

Carrying on from last week, we continue with some of the most common misconceptions...

I can paint the apartment any colour I want

You may assume the answer is "yes, of course!" because "This is MY apartment!" But you'd be wrong.

Most leases stipulate that when you move out, the apartment must be restored to the same condition you got it in. If you painted the walls purple, you could be expected to repaint them to their original white. And covering purple paint isn't such an easy task.

Some agreements state that written permission is required before painting or decorating.

Putting up pictures, driving nails into the walls to hang artwork, changing the colour scheme etc are all things that need to be pre-approved and/or reversed when you move out.

Basically, the landlord will accept normal wear-and-tear in the apartment, and everything else is on the tenant.

Before moving in it is important to do a walk-through with photos to record the actual condition of the property. Don't forget that damages to the apartment will be deducted from your security deposit. Do you still want deep purple walls?

Pets are welcome

Many owners simply forbid any cats or dogs.

Those that do allow pets usually have a clause to say the apartment must undergo a deep clean upon termination of the agreement, and funds will be withheld to take care of this (a deep clean typically costs around MOP2,000).

Check your landlord's policies, and while not all landlords refuse to allow pets, many say they do for financial reasons. Dogs can scratch doors and hardwood floors, and not every pet can handle long hours left alone in an apartment while their human is at work.

Barking also disturbs neighbours, and accidents can stain carpets, cause hygiene issues and wreck flooring.

If the landlord and the building management allow pets, you may be asked to pay an extra pet security deposit. And of course pet owners are absolutely expected to clean up after their animals.

The landlord cannot throw me out of the apartment...

Yes, you can be evicted under certain circumstances. These include;

If a tenant does not pay rent at the appropriate time;

If a tenant uses the property for illegal purposes;

If all or part of the property is sub-leased without the express permission of the landlord;

If the usage of the property is different from the original purpose, for example

if the apartment is used as an office or workshop space; If alteration work on the apartment is carried out without the express permission of the landlord.

There is a maximum that the landlord can increase the rent...

There have been calls from residents to try to 'cap' rent increases. However, it is likely that interference in the market would have a reverse effect as we have seen many times in the past.

For example, if rent increases were capped at 15 percent, many owners would not rent properties. As supply falls and demand grows, this would push rental prices even higher in the mid and long term.

The Macau Government is discussing a rental cap increase, but it is not yet effective. According to Macau Law, the rental amount paid by a tenant is in agreement with both parties.

Macau law states that a rent increase must be 'reasonable'. By definition this means that as long as both parties agree to it, it is deemed reasonable.

The landlord is responsible for handling emergency repairs

No one wants to deal with a burst pipe at midnight on a Tuesday, but it's a repair that has to be handled ASAP.

You need to know how the owner wants you to respond in a genuine emergency: Fixing a running toilet on your own because it was driving you nuts and the owner didn't respond quickly enough may leave you stuck with the bill.

Before choosing an apartment it's important to know how all kinds of repairs are handled as mentioned in this article, but particularly the emergencies.

Continued next week...

SSGKC LaunchPad 2016 DCIC Delta Creativity & Innovation Celebration. Includes QR codes for registration and presentation, and logos of sponsors like San Jiao Ling and Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

C&C LAWYERS advertisement featuring a list of partners and associates, including Rui José da Cunha, Álvaro Rodrigues, and others. Includes office photos and contact information.

MACAU LITERARY FESTIVAL advertisement featuring the 'Rota das Letras' logo, festival dates (March 4-19), and location (Old Court Building, Macau). Includes an illustration of an open book with a landscape inside.

China casino crackdown infects Sydney as Star VIP turnover hit

BLOOMBERG



Sydney's Star Casino

Angus Whitley

CHINA'S clampdown on overseas casino operators is being felt in Sydney as Star Entertainment Group Ltd. reported a slump in its international high-rollers business after the detention of employees at rival Crown Resorts Ltd.

Turnover from international VIP clients slumped 27 percent in November and December, the company said in a statement yesterday. Star, which operates Sydney's only licensed casino, said the October detentions on the mainland have created "uncertainty" and "caution" and it's looking to Southeast Asia to generate more high-roller income to reduce its reliance on China.

"We continue to assess the

North Asian VIP business as the China situation develops," Chief Executive Officer Matt Bekier said in the statement. "We are executing our strategy of diversifying our international revenues."

Star fell 0.2 percent to AUD5.01 at 11:11 a.m. in Sydney, valuing the company at

“We are executing our strategy of diversifying our international revenues.”

MATT BEKIER
SYDNEY'S CEO

AUD4.1 billion.

The detention of 18 Crown workers triggered concern of a renewed crackdown on casinos that woo Chinese citizens to gamble overseas. Melbourne-based Crown, controlled by billionaire James Packer, said in December that turnover from its high-wagering, top-priority customers at its Australian resorts slumped 45 percent from a year earlier in the most recent 23-week period.

Star's earnings from the VIP business were also hurt from the sales and marketing costs tied to the diversification, it said yesterday. Net income after tax in the six months ended Dec. 31 more than doubled to AUD141.8 million (USD109 million), partly because a higher win rate against VIP gamblers.

Historically, 80 percent of Star's VIP business comes from Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China, Bekier said on a call with investors. "We're being a lot more cautious" about which high-rolling clients Star picks, he said. "We're not taking any risks." **Bloomberg**

MACAU'S water distributor Macao Water Supply Co Ltd has reduced the land size of its Seac Pai Van water plant, whose construction is expected to begin in the second half of the year.

The land size of the water plant was initially planned to be 27,000 square meters, but it has now been reduced to 17,000 square meters.

During a media luncheon this week, Macao Water executive director Nacky Kuan said that the plant is slated for completion by

Seac Pai Van's water plant size trimmed

the end of 2019.

"[With] our original planning, the total capacity of this treatment plant will be 200mld and divided into two phases [but] due to the reduction of land, the capacity of water treatment plant [would be] 130mld and completed in one phase only," Kuan informed the press on the sidelines of the company's media spring lunch yesterday.

Meanwhile in terms of profit, the director admitted that its 2016 preliminary financial result showed a six percent reduction in revenue, noting that water demand did not meet the firm's target.

Macao Water is expecting some MOP65 million in its 2016 profit.

"We [also] have some revenue reduction [due to] the construction activity

income, the piling work [... which is] why our profit dropped compared to 2015," the director explained.

Kuan is confident that the water demand in Coloane will increase by 2019, citing the growing entertainment facilities in Cotai.

According to the firm's statistics, the growth rate of water demand in the

Macao peninsula is nearly zero, but saw an approximate 7 percent growth in Taipa, Cotai and Coloane.

"Regarding the [water demand] in Cotai city, they have a two digit growth rate, which is around 12 percent. The result [is due to] the large entertainment facility," she noted.

Kuan affirmed that there are still no plans to increase the region's water tariff. **LV**



Nacky Kuan

MGM CHINA

Gaming market has 'stabilized'

GMGM operator MGM China reported a total revenue of HKD14.9 billion for the 2016 financial year.

In the year under review, MGM China recorded adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of HKD4.5 billion, a slight dip from HKD4.7 billion in 2015. It posted a net profit of HKD3 billion (2015: 3.1 billion). Basic earnings per share was HKD0.80 (2015: HKD0.82).

In a statement, the company said the Macau gaming market had

stabilized during 2016. MGM's net profit margin grew 230 by basis points, or by 20.4 percent. Contribution from MGM's main floor business continued to grow, comprising approximately 80 percent of profit for the year. VIP table win was down 26 percent year-on-year. Furthermore, MGM Macau occupancy rate was 95.4 percent for the year.

MGM Cotai is expected to open in the second half of this year. "The majority of all building enclosure works for the tower and the podium have completed including exterior



signage on the towers and the erection of the MGM Lion at the north end of the property. Principal efforts across both the podium and the hotel towers continue to be building systems testing and commissioning in parallel with fit-out activities related interior finishes," the company said in its statement.

MELCO CROWN

Q4 revenue up 13 percent

MELCO Crown Entertainment Ltd. yesterday reported its unaudited financial results for the fourth quarter and for the full year ending December 31, 2016.

The results showed that net revenue during the fourth quarter of last year grew about 13 percent year-on-year from USD1,058 million to almost USD1,193.

The increase in net revenue was attributed by Melco Crown Entertainment to the revenue generated by a "fully-operating" Studio City resort and the increase in casino revenues at City of Dreams Manila.



However, the growth was dampened by lower casino revenues at City of Dreams in Macau and at Altira Macau.

For the full year, the company reported net revenues of USD4.5 billion versus some USD0.5 billion less in the prior year. The in-

crease was attributed to the same causes as that in the fourth quarter, namely the strengthening in the performance of Studio City.

Commenting on Studio City's turnaround during the last quarter, Lawrence Ho, chairman and chief executive officer at Melco Crown Entertainment said: "Mass table games revenues [at the resort] continued to expand, increasing almost 10 percent from the prior quarter which [...] delivered a strong improvement in underlying earnings."

"Studio City's core focus remains on its mass market offerings which are ideally aligned to the demand landscape in Macau," he added according to a statement from the company.

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

DRUGS

Carfentanil ban a 'game-changer' for opioid epidemic

So deadly it's considered a terrorist threat, carfentanil has been legal in China — until now. Beijing is banning carfentanil and three similar drugs as of March 1, China's Ministry of Public Security said yesterday, closing a major regulatory loophole in the fight to end America's opioid epidemic.

"It shows China's attitude as a responsible big country," Yu Haibin, the director of the Office of the National Narcotics Control Committee, told the Associated Press. "It will be a strong deterrent."

He added that China is actively considering other substances for sanction, including U-47700, an opioid marketed as an alternative to banned fentanyl. China said the March 1 ban will also apply to carfentanil's less-potent cousins furanyl fentanyl, acryl fentanyl and valeryl fentanyl.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration called China's move a potential "game-changer" that is likely to have a big impact in the U.S., where opioid demand has driven the proliferation of a new class of deadly drugs made by nimble chemists to stay one step ahead of new rules like this one. After China controlled 116 synthetic drugs in October 2015, seizures in the United States of compounds on that list plunged.

"It's a substantial step in the fight against opioids here in the United States," said Russell Baer, a DEA special agent in Washington. "We're persuaded it will have a definite impact."

Legally used as an anesthetic for elephants and other large animals, carfentanil burst into the North American drug supply last summer, causing hundreds of unsuspecting drug users to overdose. The DEA confirmed more than 400 seizures of carfentanil across eight U.S. states from July through October. So lethal an amount smaller than a poppy seed can kill a person,



In this photo released by the US Drug Enforcement Agency, a sample of carfentanil is being analyzed at the DEA's Special Testing and Research Laboratory in Virginia

carfentanil was researched for years as a chemical weapon and used by Russian forces to subdue Chechen separatists at a Moscow theater in 2002.

New data from DEA laboratories suggests the supply of furanyl fentanyl is now surging. DEA labs identified 44 samples of furanyl fentanyl in the last

three months of 2016, up threefold from the prior quarter.

Though Beijing has said U.S. assertions that China is the top source of fentanyls lack evidence, the two countries have deepened cooperation as the U.S. opioid epidemic intensifies. Beijing already regulates fentanyl and 18 related compou-

nds, even though they are not widely abused domestically. Since 2016, China has arrested dozens of synthetic drug exporters, destroyed eight illegal labs and seized around 2 tons of new psychoactive substances, according to the Office of the National Narcotics Control Committee.

But the battle against rapidly evolving synthetic drugs is complicated by the deeply global nature of the narcotics trade and the deeply national nature of law enforcement. Some online drug vendors host their websites on servers abroad to thwart police. All benefit by submerging their illicit packages in the vast tides of legitimate commerce shipped or sent by courier from China.

One example of the kind of global coordination needed to take down synthetic drug barons is the case of Zhang Lei, whom the U.S. Treasury Department designated a drug kingpin in 2014. China shared 4,221 clues with 58 countries and areas in the hunt for Zhang, Chinese drug control authorities said. Zhang was sentenced to 14 years in Chinese prison last year, according to one of his lawyers, Fan Renzhong.

In October, the AP identified 12 Chinese companies willing to export carfentanil around the world for a few thousand dollars a kilogram (2.2 pounds), no questions asked. That same month China began evaluating whether to ban carfentanil and the three other drugs. Usually, the process can take nine months. This time, it took just four. Good international cooperation and effective early warning systems to track the emergence of

novel drugs helped speed the process, Chinese drug control officials said.

China's action is "a hopeful sign of political and strategic law enforcement cooperation," said Jeremy Douglas, a regional

■ The US Drug Enforcement Administration called China's move a potential 'game-changer' that is likely to have a big impact in the US

representative for the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime in Bangkok. "But having legislation is a first step. The law will need to be enforced effectively."

Offers for carfentanil from Chinese vendors were scarce yesterday, but the AP quickly secured five offers to export furanyl fentanyl to the United States. Some vendors also pushed U-47700.

"One news I just got is that the carfentanil and furanyl fentanyl etc opioid analogs will be controlled in China on March 1 effective," one vendor called Ete wrote in an email. "So if you need them pls make it before that day. After that day it will be unavailable."

The vendor did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AP. AP

January bird flu deaths hit 79, most since at least 2013

AN outbreak of H7N9 bird flu in China killed 79 people in January, the most in a single month in at least three years, the country's national health authority said.

More than 250 cases of H7N9 have been reported to the National Health and Family Planning Commission from 16 provinces and regions. State media said yesterday that most of the illnesses occurred in and around China's eastern and southern coast, from Shanghai to Hong Kong.

At least six more deaths have been reported thus far in February, raising concerns China faces a public health crisis more severe than the 2013 outbreak that killed at least 40 people and devastated the poultry industry.

January's death toll was the highest for any month since at least November 2013, according to the health commission's website.

Local authorities have ordered temporary shutdowns of some poultry markets and ramped up

testing. In Guangzhou, China's third-largest city, more than 30 percent of the live poultry markets were recently found to be contaminated with H7N9.

H7N9 is considered to be less virulent than the H5N1 strain that the World Health Organization has linked to hundreds of deaths worldwide over the last decade. H7N9 is not believed to be transmitted between humans, but rather by infected poultry.

The WHO issued a Feb. 10 alert linking an increa-

se in cases to the Lunar New Year, China's biggest holiday, with feasts and parties throughout a weeklong celebration. This year's Lunar New Year was Jan. 28.

"As traditionally the consumption of poultry among the general population increases during the Chinese New Year celebrations, the movement, trade and slaughter of poultry during this period may subsequently increase human exposure," the WHO alert said. AP



HUMAN RIGHTS

Report says lawyers beaten, arrested



security and social order. Chinese Internet censors already exercise tight control with the so-called "Great Firewall" that blocks many foreign news sites and social media platforms.

Prominent activists have frequently been taken into custody without notice to their family or legal teams. One was Liu Feiyue, the founder of a website that detailed local corruption cases, veterans' issues, and allegations that perceived troublemakers were being detained in mental hospitals. After his disappearance in November, Liu's family was told he was charged with subversion.

Despite its well-publicized record, China was re-elected last year to the United Nations' Human Rights Council. But even as China reported its membership on the council through state media, it refused to let banned activists attend United Nations events, the report said.

When Philip Alston, the UN's special rapporteur for human rights, visited China in August, authorities forbade him from meeting several activists and tightly controlled his schedule. One activist who did meet with him, lawyer Jiang Tianyong, was arrested three months later and charged with inciting subversion of state power.

Eve, the researcher for Chinese Human Rights Defenders, said some activists believed after Xi became president in 2013 that they might find common cause over his stated goals of rooting out government corruption. But those limited hopes have not come to fruition, she said.

"It's gone completely the opposite direction," she said. "And it's a tragedy, because those are the kinds of alliances that can make real impact."

The Chinese foreign ministry did not respond to faxed questions. **AP**

Nomaan Merchant, Beijing

LAWYERS who defend human rights activists and dissidents targeted by China's communist government have increasingly themselves become subject to political prosecutions, violence and other means of suppression, according to a report released yesterday.

The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders, a coalition of groups working within and outside China, identified six occasions last year that lawyers were beaten by plaintiffs, police officers or assailants likely hired by authorities. In more than a dozen cases, the report found, detainees were pressured to fire their own lawyers and accept government-supplied attorneys.

"The government is trying to give this impression that it's abiding by the rule of law," said Frances Eve, a researcher for the

network. "In fact, it's just legalizing repressive measures."

Under President Xi Jinping, China has widely suppressed

Ordinary Chinese who share audio or video of a protest may be detained, and authorities can shut down phone and Web networks in response to perceived threats

independent organizations and dissenters, as well as lawyers defending people caught in its crackdown. The report says 22 people have been convicted since 2014 of subversion or other crimes against state security, including 16 last year alone.

Dozens of lawyers have been questioned or detained in an ongoing campaign against dissident lawyers known as the 709 crackdown launched in July 2015.

Wang Quanzhang, who defended members of the Falun Gong meditation sect banned by China, was charged with subversion of state power in January 2016 after previously being beaten and detained. His wife, Li Wenzu, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Wang is now under indictment and being held without access to family or lawyers. "We have to wait until the sentencing to see him in jail," she said.

Four people associated with

Wang's law firm, Fengrui, were convicted in August of charges that they incited protests and took funding from foreign groups.

China last year also passed a law tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organizations by subjecting them to close police supervision, a move critics called a new attempt by authorities to clamp down on perceived threats to the ruling Communist Party's control.

NGOs can be blacklisted if they commit violations ranging from illegally obtaining unspecified state secrets to "spreading rumors, slandering or otherwise expressing or disseminating harmful information that endangers state security."

Ordinary Chinese who share audio or video of a protest or other news event may be detained, and authorities can shut down phone and Web networks in response to perceived threats to national

POLICE and protesters opposed to the construction of a massive aluminum plant clashed in a northern Chinese city yesterday despite the local government's announcement that it was suspending the project.

Several dozen protesters gathered outside government offices in Daqing, pushing up against a large contingent of police, including some with dogs.

At least two people were taken away and a woman was carried off after collapsing in the street,

Police, pollution protesters clash in Daqing

according to footage obtained by the AP. It was unclear whether she had been injured by police.

The protest over the plant planned by aluminum producer Zhongwang Holdings Ltd. took place despite a city government pledge Wednesday to put it on hold.

Local governments in

China often announce suspensions of projects following protests, only to quietly restart them months later.

Such environmental protests are becoming increasingly common as China's middle-class demands a cleaner environment and becomes more aware of health risks po-

sed by heavily polluting industries blamed for the choking smog that smothers Beijing and other cities.

Responding to the protests, Hong Kong-listed Zhongwang earlier issued a statement saying that its production processes met international environmental standards. **AP**



THAILAND

Police raid temple belonging to Buddhist sect

Dow Kaewjinda, &
Dake Kang, Pathum Thani

THAI police raided the head temple of a controversial Buddhist sect yesterday but failed to find and arrest the abbot, who faces criminal charges over accepting USD40 million in embezzled money.

The action followed several earlier failed attempts to seize Phra Dhammajayo, 72, head of the Dhammakaya sect. Police were previously thwarted when crowds of monks and followers blocked the way, risking a violent confrontation.

The prime minister of Thailand's military government, Prayuth Chan-ocha, this time invoked an emergency order declaring the area around the temple a temporary "restricted area" to stop people from entering.

Police deployed about 3,000 personnel to surround the temple before dawn, blocking hundreds of monks and followers who sat outside the compound's gates, chanting Buddhist texts in protest.

The temple's senior monks agreed around noon to admit some police. Several hundred officers swept the grounds, honing in on an inner residence compound where intelligence suggested the abbot resided, but he was nowhere to be found.

"We found nothing illegal, we couldn't find him," said Kol-

vit Bunnag, director of special operations at the Department of Special Investigation, Thailand's FBI. "We expected to find him, but the news spread around. He could [have] run away."

■ About 3,000 police officers were deployed to surround the temple before dawn, blocking hundreds of monks and followers chanting Buddhist texts in protest

Some devotees believe the raids are politically motivated because the temple and its followers are seen as supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed in a 2006 military coup.

The Dhammakaya sect is controversial for fusing Buddhism theology with what critics call a bourgeois, money-friendly ideology. It appeals to Thailand's burgeoning middle class.

Temple spokesmen claim they

haven't seen Dhammajayo for months at the temple, which is known for its vast golden dome that appears to hover over the grounds like a gilded UFO.

"(The police) tried to make it as smooth and peaceful as possible," said Phra Pasura Dantamano, a Dhammakaya spokesman. However, he said it was an "excessive use of force for nearly 4,000 police to come and block the road just because someone did not appear for a summons."

Pasura said Dhammajayo was innocent and estimated that 10,000 followers came to support him at the vast compound, which covers an area almost 10 times the size of Vatican City.

One of Dhammajayo's followers, the head of a credit union, was convicted of embezzling money to donate to the temple, and was sentenced to 16 years in prison. Dhammajayo was charged with money-laundering and receiving stolen property. The sect says he did not know the money was tainted.

In an evident effort to put pressure on him, three unrelated charges of land encroachment were later filed against him.

The sect was founded in 1970 and ballooned in Thailand's 1980s economic boom. Dhammajayo was forced to temporarily step down as the temple's abbot following embezzlement accusations in



Buddhist monks stand in front of policemen outside Wat Dhammakaya temple in Pathum Thani province

1999 and 2002. He resumed his post in 2006 after clearing his name.

The DSI first summoned Dhammajayo last March in connection with the money-laundering charges. After he repeatedly failed to show up for questioning, saying he was ill, a criminal court issued an arrest warrant last May, prompting police to try to raid the temple several times.

The raids have been complicated by a law which forbids the arrest of a monk in his robes, for fear that would mar-

the sanctity of the clergy. Buddhism is the national religion and a core pillar of Thai society.

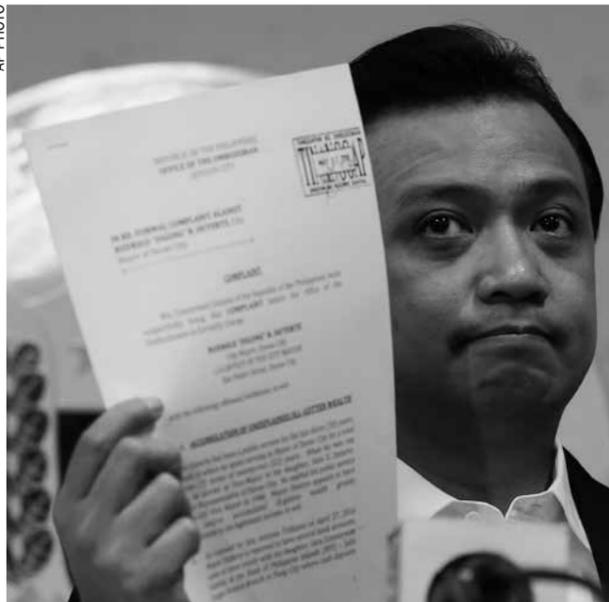
Police said they would be back today and tomorrow to continue the hunt, after which their search agreement with the monks will expire.

The temple's supporters, too, will be back.

"Lots of things happened to the temple, it's not fair," said Tiparaphan Up-prakan, a decades-long Dhammakaya devotee from Bangkok. "I think Dhammakaya will be OK. We will fight for that." AP

PHILIPPINES

Duterte asked to release bank account details



Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV shows documents as he speaks at a news conference at the Philippine Senate yesterday, in Manila

AN opposition senator pressed Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday to publicly release details of his bank accounts to disprove allegations that he had large sums of undeclared money.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV first alleged Duterte had unexplained wealth during the presidential campaign last year. He told a news conference he was raising the issue again because Duterte has not yet bared details of the more than 2 billion pesos (USD40 million) he allegedly kept in bank accounts as a former city mayor.

Trillanes, one of Duterte's

harshest critics and a navy officer once detained for a failed coup plot against a former president, said he would resign if Duterte can disprove the allegations.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Duterte would not release those bank details "in response to grandstanding," but suggested the president may do so as part of a legal process.

Duterte, who took office in June, has denied amassing ill-gotten wealth. His daughter, Mayor Inday Sara Duterte of southern Davao city, reacted to the allegations by saying if Trillanes could show where her alleged unexplained

wealth "is right now and how it became illegal, let's get it and I'll give it to all of you."

"I know he will not release and he will not accept my challenge because it will be proven that he is really a corrupt official," Trillanes said.

In May, Trillanes released documents he said were handed to him by a concerned citizen purportedly showing 2.4 billion pesos (\$48 million) flowed into Duterte's various bank accounts from 2006 to 2015, representing alleged unexplained wealth the mayor failed to declare as required by law.

Trillanes and Duter-

te's lawyer then went to a branch of the Bank of the Philippines Islands, where Duterte and his daughter allegedly had an undeclared deposit of more than 200 million pesos (\$4 million) in a joint account.

Lawyer Salvador Panelo said that Duterte had authorized him to request the bank to open the account but that bank officials told him it would take seven days to study the request. Trillanes said the account has not been opened to scrutiny.

Duterte has projected himself as a politician who rose from poverty and still lives a modest life in a rundown house in Davao city, where he served as a longtime mayor. He has faced criticism for his brutal crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of mostly poor suspected drug users dead. AP

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EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

'No room for complacency' on recovery

TOP European Central Bank officials saw "no room for complacency" when it came to supporting the economic recovery with continued stimulus at least through the end of the year.

That was the view contained in the written account of the Jan. 19 meeting of the bank's 25-member governing council.

The officials decided it was too early to even think about easing off their stimulus measures and instead stressed their determination to keep pumping newly printed money into the economy. That supports lending to businesses and economic growth, helping shield the recovery against possible disruption, such as from unexpected political developments.

While some economic signs have pointed up, officials decided that "the fundamental picture remained largely unaltered and there was no room for complacency, as risks and uncertainties had not receded substantially," the account read.

Europe faces elections in France, the Netherlands, Germany and possibly Italy this year. In each case, right-wing or radical

parties opposed to the European Union and the euro itself will have a chance to test their support with voters. Britain will also be giving notice that it is leaving the EU, starting talks on the U.K.'s future trade relationship with the EU. The election of Donald Trump in the United States has raised questions about U.S. trade policy with China and other countries, a key factor in the global economy.

The 19 countries that use the euro are enjoying a moderate economic recovery. The economy grew 0.4 percent in the last three months of 2016, and unemployment has gradually fallen to 9.7 percent. Uncertainty ahead of elections could make businesses leery of new investment until the situation becomes clearer.

ECB officials viewed a recent spike in inflation as "transient" and agreed they shouldn't overreact to inflation jumping to an annual 1.8 percent in January. On paper, that meets the bank's goal of just under 2 percent — its basic benchmark to measure whether it is carrying out its



The sun rises on a field in Eschborn near Frankfurt, Germany

mission of price stability, and the figure considered consistent with a healthy economy.

But the increase was mainly fed by higher oil prices, not by fundamental pressures such as wage increases for workers —

which remain subdued.

The officials decided they would "look through the volatility in short-term data if judged transient."

The board decided to stress the bank would keep pushing

newly created money in to the economy through bond purchases at least until the end of this year — 80 billion euros (USD84 billion) per month through March and 60 billion euros per month after that. **AP**

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USA

Trump house wrestles with a crush of crises

Jonathan Lemire, Washington

LESS than a month into his tenure, Donald Trump's White House is beset by a crush of crises.

Divisions, dysfunction and high-profile exits have left the young administration nearly paralyzed and allies wondering how it will reboot. The bold policy moves that marked Trump's first days in office have slowed to a crawl, a tacit admission that he and his team had not thoroughly prepared an agenda.

Nearly a week after the administration's travel ban was struck down by a federal court, the White House is still struggling to regroup and outline its next move on that signature issue. It's been six days since Trump — who promised unprecedented levels of immediate action — has announced a major new policy directive or legislative plan.

His team is riven by division and plagued by distractions. This week alone, controversy has forced out both his top national security aide and his pick for labor secretary.

"Another day in paradise," Trump quipped yesterday [Macau time] after his meeting with retailers was interrupted by reporters' questions about links between his campaign staff and Russian officials.

Fellow Republicans have begun voicing their frustration and open anxiety that the Trump White House will derail their high hopes for legislative action.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota demanded that the White House "get past the launch stage."

"There are things we want to get done here, and we want to have a clear-eyed focus on our agenda, and this constant disruption and drumbeat with these questions that keep being raised is a distraction," said Thune.

Sen. John McCain of Arizona blasted the White House's approach to national security as "dysfunctional," asking: "Who is in charge? I don't know of anyone outside of the White House who knows."

Such criticism from political allies is rare during what is often viewed as a honeymoon period for a new president. But Trump, an outsider who campaigned almost as much against his party as for it, has only a tiny reservoir of goodwill to protect him within the GOP. His administration has



Donald Trump accompanied by Reince Priebus (center) and Mike Pence (right)

made uneven attempts to work closely with lawmakers and its own agencies.

Officials have begun trying to change some tactics, and some scenery, with the hope of steadying the ship. The White House announced yesterday that Trump, who has often mentioned how much he loves adoring crowds and affirmation from his supporters, would hold a campaign-style rally in Florida on Saturday, the first of his term.

The event, according to White House press secretary Sean Spicer, was being "run by the campaign" and it is listed on Trump's largely dormant 2016 campaign website. No other details were offered.

To be sure, pinballing from one crisis to the next is not unprecedented, particularly for a White House still finding its footing. But the disruptions that have swirled around Trump achieved hurricane force early and have not let up.

His choice for labor secretary, fast food CEO Andy Puzder, withdrew his nomination while the administration continued

to navigate the fallout from the forced resignation of national security adviser Michael Flynn. Flynn was ousted on grounds that he misled the vice president about his contacts with a Russian ambassador.

Flynn's departure marked the return of an issue Trump is not likely to move past quickly. The president's relationship with Moscow will continue to be scrutinized and investigated, sometimes apparently fueled by leaks from within his own administration.

Trump yesterday blasted what he called "illegal leaked" information.

Not just leaks, but also legal woes, have derailed Trump's early efforts.

After the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected his immigration ban last week, Trump emphatically tweeted "SEE YOU IN COURT!" and the administration vowed that it would re-appeal the block and either revise its original executive order or write a new one from scratch.

But confusion soon followed.

After first indicating they would not take a temporary restraining order request to the Supreme Court, administration staffers squabbled audibly, behind closed doors, over the accounts emerging in news reports.

When the dust settled, a new statement was printed out and handed to journalists, stating, "to clarify," that all options were still on the table. But despite Trump's vow to have a plan in place by Tuesday, one has not emerged.

The collapse of the ban, which poured fuel on simmering staff rivalries, was followed by a period of stark inaction by a White House suddenly put on the defensive. Trump did sign legislation that rolled back a financial regulation, but his administration has not issued any executive orders in days.

House Republicans have been nudging the White House to get behind Speaker Paul Ryan's tax overhaul, which includes a border adjustability plan of which Trump has been skeptical. GOP aides believed they were making progress, but the mat-

ter has been overshadowed by the flood of controversies.

Other possible executive actions have been bandied about, from a task force on allegations of voter fraud to steps to strengthen cybersecurity, but have yet to be released. Key legislative items such as a massive plan to rebuild roads and bridges and an overhaul of the tax law remain works in progress.

■ **'Another day in paradise,' Trump quipped after his meeting with retailers was interrupted by reporters' questions about links between his campaign staff and Russian officials**

"He's a one-man band for all practical purposes, it's how he ran his business," said Bill Daley, a former White House chief of staff under Obama. "When you try to take that and everything revolves around that and he is the beginning, middle and end of everything, that is a tough model. His campaign was the same way."

Trump's new administration has also been plagued by ethics brushfires that are taking up the time and energy of communications and legal staff members.

In one incident that sparked bipartisan condemnation and calls for ethics investigations, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said on TV that people should "go buy Ivanka's stuff" — an endorsement that came after the president disparaged Nordstrom for dropping his daughter Ivanka Trump's fashion line. And congressional Republicans also are demanding to know more about the security measures in place at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's weekend White House in Palm Beach, Florida, where resort members photographed him during a dinnertime national security strategy session after North Korea conducted a missile test.

"When you are the White House, every day is a crisis. Crisis is routine," said Ari Fleischer, who was President George W. Bush's first press secretary. "But when they all come right on top of each other, particularly at the start of an administration, it starts to create the feeling that they don't know how to run the place." AP

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:50	Criminal Minds S.8
17:30	Castle S6 (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Next in Line
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europa League Highlights
23:50	Portuguese Movie
02:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:55	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:05	Blaze Riders
11:30	Documentary Serie
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Soap Opera
18:35	Documentary Series
19:05	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Drama
22:00	Revenge S.4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Musical
00:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:45	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:10	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:25	Documentary Serie
17:15	Miscellaneous
18:30	Documentary Serie
19:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	World War Three - Inside the War Room
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
23:50	Documentary Series
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeat)
00:55	RTPi Live

Offbeat

NEW JERSEY GIRL DONATES 1,300 BOOKS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

A 12-year-old New Jersey girl spent Valentine's Day delivering over 1,300 books donated to a children's hospital. Charlotte Olson tells the Courier-Post (on.cpsj.com/210TagL) her original goal was to collect 1,000 children's books as a way to give back to her town of Voorhees. She started the book drive before Christmas, using social media, her family and church to help spread the word. This week, she brought boxes full of books to Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper's outpatient Voorhees site. She also gave USD220 to go toward more book purchases. The books were presented to physicians and staff, who'll distribute them to patients at sites throughout the year as part of Cooper's Reach Out and Read program. The hospital says it's the largest book donation they've ever received.

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 FEB -22 FEB

LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Liu Guonan

Starring: Sammi Cheng, Joseph Chang

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 98min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1

7:45pm

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose

Language: English

Duration: 103min



JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Gore Verbinski

Starring: Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 146min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Chris McKay

Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

16 FEB - 22 FEB



KUNG-FU YOGA

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Stanley Tong

Starring: Jackie Chan, Disha Patani, Amyra Dastur

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

this day in history



1979 CHINA INVADES VIETNAM

China has sent hundreds of troops into Vietnam after weeks of tension and a military build-up along the border.

Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister Nguyen Ko Tach has told ambassadors in Hanoi the Chinese troops have occupied nearly all Vietnamese border positions and are advancing southwards.

He did not give any idea of casualties or whether he would be calling on the assistance of the Soviet Union.

Vietnam and the USSR signed an alliance last year, but military analysts think it unlikely the nine Russian ships in Indochinese waters would be of much value in a land campaign.

An official statement from China has expressed a willingness to negotiate peace "after counter-attacking the Vietnamese aggressors as they deserve."

The assault follows months of exchanges between Chinese and Vietnamese authorities about illegal occupation of the ill-defined frontier territory.

Foreign observers have reported a quadrupling of the Chinese force there, numbering up to 150,000 troops and 300 aircraft, in the past three weeks.

Vietnam appears to have fewer soldiers as up to 100,000 of their troops are currently serving in Cambodia and another 25,000 are in Laos.

The Chinese Government in Peking (later Beijing) claimed the Vietnamese had made over 700 armed incursions into China and killed or wounded over 300 Chinese soldiers and civilians over the last six months.

The official Chinese Hsinhua News Agency said: "We do not want a single inch of Vietnamese territory. All we want is a peaceful and stable border."

Chinese vice-premier Deng Xiaoping has also threatened the Vietnamese Government in Hanoi with "punishment" for its engagement in Cambodia.

Hostilities between Hanoi and the Chinese-backed Cambodian Government broke out last year and culminated in the Vietnamese invasion on Christmas Day and collapse of Pol Pot's regime.

Vietnam has appealed to the United Nations and has not cut off diplomatic relations with China.

Courtesy of BBC

IN CONTEXT

The next day Radio Hanoi reported the strategic border towns of Lao Cai and Mon Cai had fallen to the Chinese, along with smaller townships.

The broadcast suggested Vietnam had left much of the fighting to local militias rather than professional soldiers.

The only support offered by the USSR was strong verbal condemnation.

China's invasion prompted British MPs to lobby the Labour Government to reconsider its decision to supply China with Harrier jump jets.

The Chinese continued their invasion until early March, taking several major towns.

The invasion led to many more Vietnamese refugee "boat people".

The Chinese Army's withdrawal was completed by 16 March. Vietnamese troops stayed in Cambodia until 1989.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
It won't be a boring day. Startling, for sure - shocking, maybe. But definitely not boring, humdrum or run-of-the-mill. Your first surprise will likely arrive via either a coworker or someone else.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
For the past couple of weeks, you've been thinking that you might have a secret admirer, and you're absolutely right. Your mystery suitor will let those feelings slip today, in a very minor way.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
If it's not at all what you should be doing - and especially if it will aggravate an authority figure who you personally love to aggravate - well, needless to say, you're probably on your way to doing it right now.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your dear ones had no idea this was coming - what just tumbled out of your mouth, that is. Before you continue along the path you've started, you might want to warn them that they'd better sit down.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You've had it with this financial roller-coaster ride, but you're not exactly sure what you should do about it. The best thing you can think of is to do something that's completely and totally startling.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
There's a difference - a big one - between being understanding and being naive. If you feel that someone out there has been doing their best to work you, don't take it for a single second longer.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You definitely need time to devote to your work, there's no doubt about it. You could even end up doing some unexpected overtime for the next day or so, thanks to someone else's willingness to blow off their own workload.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If anyone can deal with tough times, it's you. So when a dear one mentions a last-minute problem that's really got them floored, you'll do for them what you'd do for yourself under similar circumstances.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
One of the best traits anyone can possibly possess, especially in times like these, is adaptability. You have that quality down pat, and it's certainly going to come in handy.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
It's not usually tough to get along with you. To dear ones, you're downright predictable - not in a bad way, but because you're so grounded, stable and solid. Those traits won't apply to you now.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
This is fine astrological weather to be you. The unpredictability you relish is everywhere. You're starting to seem almost 'normal.' Of course, once the times become so startling that you seem ordinary.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
When it comes to relationships, you'll be anything but predictable now. In fact, if there's a different, unusual way to do it - if there's any way to push the envelope - you'll find it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	-3	5	clear
Harbin	-18	-10	cloudy
Tianjin	-2	6	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	-9	5	clear
Xi'an	4	13	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	-6	12	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	7	18	cloudy/clear
Chongqing	11	16	cloudy/overcast
Kunming	6	21	clear
Nanjing	7	14	overcast
Shanghai	8	13	cloudy/drizzle
Wuhan	10	16	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	10	15	cloudy/drizzle
Taipei	14	24	clear
Guangzhou	13	26	clear
Hong Kong	17	22	cloudy

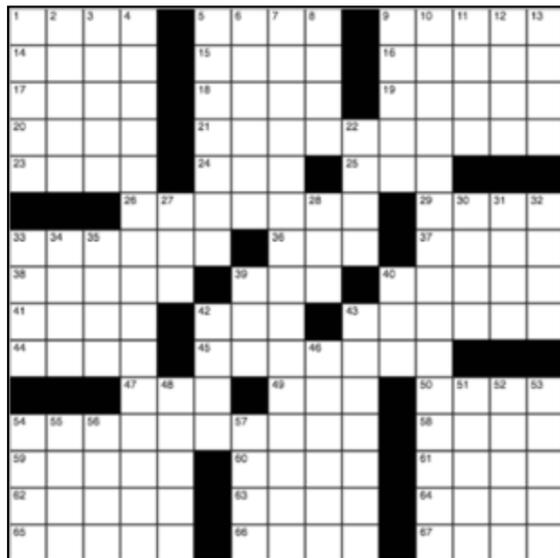
WORLD

Moscow	-2	0	flurry
Frankfurt	0	6	sleet/drizzle
Paris	3	13	drizzle
London	4	12	overcast/cloudy
New York	-2	3	flurry/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Zoologist Fossey; 5- Ovid, e.g.; 9- Deceive; 14- River of Tuscany; 15- Begrudge; 16- Speed skater; Anton Ohno; 17- Of the highest quality; 18- Will of "The Waltons"; 19- Cut into small pieces; 20- Once again; 21- Gymnastics; 23- Actress Garr; 24- For instance; 25- Tree used to make baseball bats; 26- Open, for example; 29- Look ____, I'm Sandra Dee; 33- Island greetings; 36- Mantric syllables; 37- Property claim; 38- Perch; 39- Tango need; 40- Refine; 41- Parent's sister; 42- The Altar; 43- Hulled cracked grain; 44- Movie-rating org.; 45- Not limited to one class; 47- Code-breaking org.; 49- Rap's Dr. ____; 50- Gumbo ingredient; 54- Idolization of Shakespeare; 58- Diver Louganis; 59- Thin as ____; 60- Ayatollah's predecessor; 61- Kansas city; 62- Spiritual sustenance; 63- Head of France?; 64- Foul mood; 65- Set straight; 66- ____ instant; 67- London art gallery;

DOWN: 1- Sponge gently; 2- "Goodnight" girl; 3- Goose genus; 4- In spite of; 5- Winged horse; 6- Like a small garage; 7- From time to time; 8- Beginner; 9- Durango dwellings; 10- Eye doctor; 11- Japanese sandal; 12- Util. bill; 13- Agrees tacitly; 22- Inlets; 27- Feedbag morsel; 28- Funnyman Philips; 30- ____ yellow ribbon...; 31- Thaw; 32- Tolkien tree creatures; 33- Composer Khachaturian; 34- Half-mask; 35- A Chaplin; 39- Uno + due; 40- Madrid Mrs.; 42- I've Got ____ in Kalamazoo; 43- Female black grouse; 46- List of corrections; 48- Gannet; 51- Basic monetary unit of Sweden; 52- Ignited again; 53- Playing marble; 54- Crimson Tide, for short; 55- Shrinking Asian sea; 56- Hindu princess; 57- Italian wine center;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid rallies to beat Napoli 3-1

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

THE Real Madrid players kept their cool despite conceding a stunning early goal in the Champions League, producing an outstanding performance that kept the defending champions on track for a seventh straight appearance in the quarterfinals.

Madrid rallied to defeat Napoli 3-1 in the first leg of the Round of 16 yesterday. Karim Benzema, Toni Kroos and Casemiro all scored after Lorenzo Insigne's extraordinary goal for Napoli less than 10 minutes into the match at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

The Italian forward struck an unexpected shot from way outside the area, catching Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas out of position. But the visitors couldn't hold on to their lead against a Madrid team that delivered one of its best performances for weeks.

"We played a great game," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "It was a shame about the Napoli goal, but we recovered, scored ourselves and turned the game around."

"I'm happy with the result," Zidane added, already looking ahead to the return match on March 7. "We'll go there to a difficult ground where we'll suffer. It's still an open game. We need to go there and finish it off."

Playing in the last 16 for only the second time, Napoli was one game short of equalling its unbeaten record of 19 matches in all competitions. It hadn't lost since a 2-1 defeat by Juventus in Serie A last October, a streak that included 12 victories.

"We faced the best team in the world, but it's a pity that we made so many mistakes with the ball because we usually don't do that," Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri said. "I think Madrid played their best game in three months, while we were not at our best tonight — We can compete with them if we play our best football."

Madrid, which won its 11th Champions League title last season, extended its streak without a home loss in the European competition to 12 matches.

With former great Diego Maradona supporting from

the tribunes, and nearly 5,000 fans loudly cheering from the stands, Napoli made an ideal start with Insigne opening the scoring with his superb long-range strike in the eighth minute.

He received a through-ball from captain Marek Hamsik and struck a first-time shot from about 30 meters out to catch Navas off-guard. The ball bounced once before hitting the net near the far post as Navas desperately tried to recover.

"Despite the result, I think we played a good game," Insigne said. "Now we have the return leg at the San Paolo Stadium and I'm sure that we will fight even more. Real Madrid are the world champions, a team with 18 phenomenal players in their squad, [but] I did not see such a huge difference as the result would suggest. Maybe we made too many mistakes — this will only push us to work even more."

Benzema leveled 10 minutes later with a header after a cross by Dani Carvajal

from the right flank, scoring his first goal in six games and surpassing Thierry Henry as the French player with the most goals in Champions League history with 51.

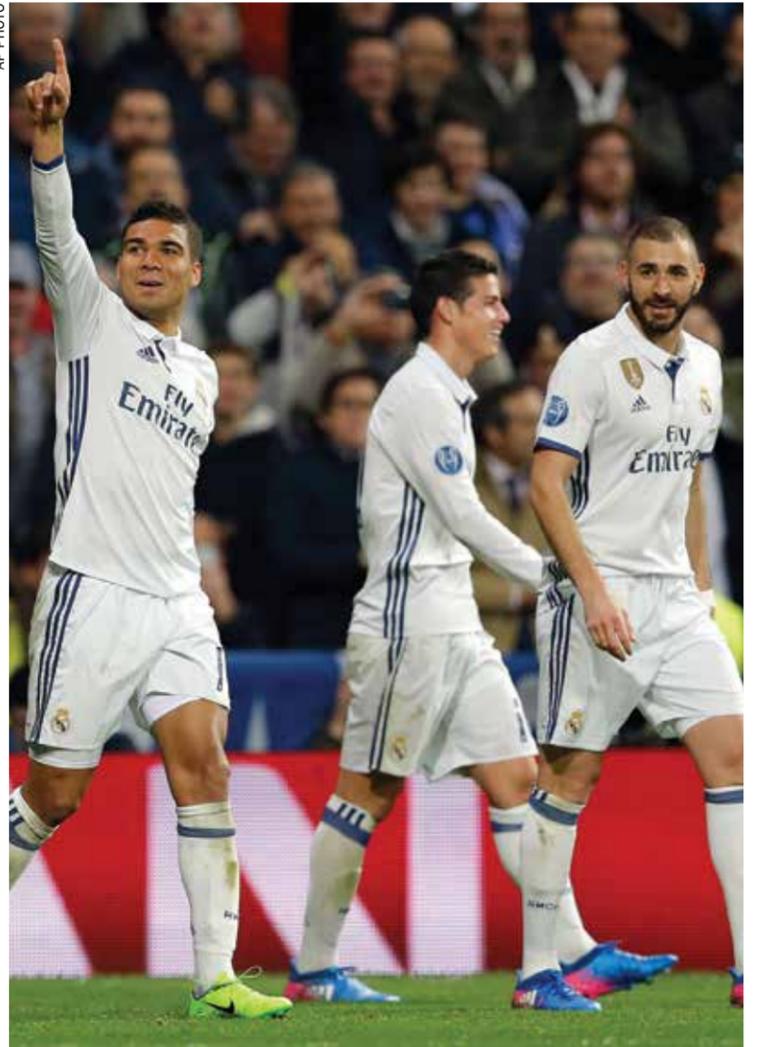
Benzema, Madrid's top scorer in this season's Champions League with five goals, almost added another in a breakaway just before half-time, but his attempt struck the post.

Kroos put Madrid ahead from just inside the area in the 49th minute after Cristiano Ronaldo cleared a defender to set up the German midfielder. Casemiro sealed the victory with his perfectly struck volley from outside the area in the 54th, hitting the far corner.

Napoli had a goal disallowed for offside in the 80th.

"There is still a lot left to do," Casemiro said. "We know that they are dangerous when playing at their stadium. We have to maintain our calm and our focus."

Ronaldo had a great chance to score in the 28th minute,



Madrid's Casemiro (left) celebrates after scoring his side's third goal during the Champions League round of 16, first leg

but his shot from close range sailed over the crossbar.

The star forward remains two goals short of becoming the first player to score 100

goals in European competitions. He is the Champions League's leading scorer with 95, two more than Messi. AP

Despite twilight years, Robben sparkles for Bayern in rout

BAYERN Munich officials must be dreading the day Arjen Robben decides to retire or leave.

The 33-year-old Dutch winger was at the heart of almost all of Bayern's attacking play in the 5-1 rout of Arsenal that put the Champions League quarterfinals within reach.

Robben was a constant threat to the Arsenal defense, his performance crowned early on with one of his trademark goals.

But it was his runs, his interplay, his movement and the danger he posed any time he faced a defender that earned a standing ovation from Bayern fans when coach Carlo Ancelotti took him off with just two minutes remaining.

Robben provided the breakthrough early on, cutting inside from the right to set his left foot, before letting fly with a shot that went in off the underside of the bar.

"It worked before a few times," he joked.

Defenders might know what's coming, but they seem helpless to stop it.

Robben almost did it again



minutes later, and he forced a corner with another effort shortly after that.

Despite his own outstanding contribution, Robben was keen to focus on a great team performance overall.

"In the second half, we really played some amazing football. We really killed the game," he said.

Altogether, Robben had three attempts on target apart from the goal, all blocked, while his interplay with Philipp Lahm and Thiago Alcantara helped make the Arsenal defense look

weak.

Nine passes went to Thiago, who scored two goals, and 20 to Lahm of 47 completed passes altogether. Almost nine out of every 10 attempted passes found their target.

"It worked very well today," Robben said. "I myself am a little surprised that we played so well. On the other hand, not so much, because I know that the team has a great character and the ability to always step up a level when it needs to."

Robben has a knack for scoring important goals. It was

his 89th-minute strike that gave Bayern its last Champions League title against Bundesliga rival Borussia Dortmund at Wembley Stadium in London in 2013.

Former Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who led the team to the Champions League title in 2001, has spoken of Bayern's problem when it comes to replacing Robben, with neither Douglas Costa nor Kingsley Coman at the Dutch star's level.

Since joining from Real Madrid in 2009, Robben has scored 84 goals and set up 50 more in 156 league games.

No wonder the club was so keen to extend his contract beyond this season, even if he's entering the twilight of his career. Robben signed a one-year extension to June 2018 last month.

"If Arjen has the feeling he can no longer compete at the highest level, then he'll stop," Robben's father Hans said last month after his son signed the contract extension.

From yesterday's showing, it doesn't look like he needs to stop any time soon. AP

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



THAT LUDICROUS STRAWBERRY

Ever since the widely publicised plastic flotsam in the Macau/Hong Kong ferry propeller incident last June which circuitously ushered me to the Plastic-Free July Challenge, I have continued progress towards zero-waste consumption. Single-use plastic has and continues to be the main item on my hit list as a major contributor of ocean pollutants, increasing toxin concentrations in the ocean-sourced food chain and our landfill woes.

The journey has been enlightening. Now that I know the resources used to produce the packaging, the said justifications for use and how they are disposed of, the extent of the risk of leakage from non-existent or imperfect waste-management systems, and how that leakage effects our waterways and clogs already overburdened landfill, I can mindfully make purchase decisions. If nothing else, shopping is now a feel-good activity. My personal goal? No rubbish bin in the house.

Seeking advice on ways to change consumption patterns, I have banded together with like-minded souls, both in the online global community seeking systemic supply-chain answers, and face-to-face meetings looking for local consumer solutions to removing wasteful everyday plastic packaging. Even in places like Hong Kong and Macau, there are means and ways: zerowastehongkong.com/tips/ has some valuable ideas for every part of the home.

Delving into this world initially felt almost-evangelical flower-power hippy, but one gets drawn into the positive drive towards common goals of cleaner living and a cleaner planet: all good stuff. When the extent of the pollution problem feels overwhelming and when the push-back from retailers, friends and family becomes energy sapping, the ready-at-the-fingertips source of support and encouragement helps to maintain momentum.

And the movement is indeed gaining momentum. Traditional media is taking note of the various campaigns and messages and last week was a big week for plastic packaging repudiators. It was the week of the strawberry.

CitySuper in Hong Kong was selling an over-packaged strawberry for HKD168 "fresh from Japan". One strawberry. One precious and precocious strawberry packed in a laminated cardboard box, tucked up in a foam sock on a bed of 'straw', covered with clear wrap.

On February 6, Hong Kong Free Press posted an article on the extravagance of both price and packaging of this strawberry and the exorbitance of other fruit. By the next day it was the strawberry again but this time the message segued into solutions for Hong Kong's plastic packaging at both the individual consumer level and through a truly cyclical economy. Over the next week, Time (US), The Times (London), Evening Standard (UK), SCMP, Metro (UK - tagged under 'weird China'), Mashable, Fox News and China Daily picked up the story, generally raising the price as the focus before the packaging issue: the environment's not as sexy as the money.

There are now a range of campaigns to turn the plastic tide. Hong Kong's Gary Stokes of Sea Shephard Global is pushing #trashthecheckout where customers leave behind with the retailer the unwanted foam socks, cling-wrap and plastic waste. 'Plastic-Free HK' has a petition to encourage supermarkets, particularly Wellcome and ParknShop, to cut the plastic wrap. In Sydney is Anita Horan's #PlasticFreeProduce awareness campaign which is reflected in calls for supermarkets in the UK and Australia to set up plastic-free aisles and to offer customers a choice of nude fresh produce.

Each social network campaign that has landed in traditional media has shone a light on how we and the food industry - particularly supermarkets and commercial kitchens - have normalized our unsustainable and wantonly profligate lifestyles for the sake of convenience, the pretence of hygiene and visually perfect produce. The Zero-Waste Warriors - those progressive conservatives who shop with the plastic footprint of your grandparents - are gaining traction. The message is starting to move mainstream. Halleluiah for that ludicrous strawberry.

THE GAME ON! ARCHDIOCESE LETS GIRLS BACK ON BOYS' CYO HOOP TEAM

Two girls have been cleared to rejoin a boys' Catholic youth basketball squad in New Jersey after church officials reversed an earlier decision that the fifth-grade team could not be coed.

Archdiocese of Newark Cardinal Joseph Tobin announced the change yesterday.

The boys on the St. John's team in Clark had decided to give up their season rather than play

a game without their female teammates. The rest of their season was then forfeited.

The archdiocese had said that Catholic Youth Organization rules state that teams should be boys or girls only. But archdiocese spokesman Jim Goodness says Tobin believes that the team shouldn't have been penalized for mistakes that adults responsible for following league rules might have made.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Good
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Good
Ambient	45-65 Good

SOURCE: D5M6

In eye of storm, N. Koreans fete leader's birthday

AP PHOTO



People cross Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, yesterday. Unaware of reports his eldest son - and current leader Kim Jong Un's half-brother - was killed just days ago

UNAWARE of reports his eldest son - and current leader Kim Jong Un's half brother - was killed just days ago in what appears to have been a carefully planned assassination, North Koreans marked the birthday of late leader Kim Jong Il yesterday as they do every year, with dancing, special treats for children and reverential bows and bouquets of flowers before bronze statues.

There has been no mention of half brother Kim Jong Nam's killing at the Kuala Lumpur airport in the North's official media.

In fact, Kim Jong Nam, who is believed to have lived most of the past decade in a kind of exile away from the North, may as well have never existed as far as most North Koreans are concerned.

Few have access to outside media sources and reports here are generally limited to the ruling line of Kims.

Other members of the family tree - especially problematic ones like Kim Jong Nam, who once suggested the North should do away with its hereditary succession - are rarely if ever mentioned.

On the surface, at least, normalcy was the word of the day.

North Korea's state media said Kim Jong Un paid his customary respects overnight at a palatial mausoleum in Pyongyang. He also reportedly attended a large meeting on Wednesday.

North Koreans across the country, meanwhile, observed as normal the "Day of the Shining Star," Kim

Jong Il's birthday and the second-most important holiday of the year. National founder and "eternal president" Kim Il Sung's birthday in April - the "Day of the Sun" - is the most important.

In central Pyongyang, from early morning thousands of people climbed Mansu Hill to lay flowers and bow below giant statues of Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung. North Koreans are expected to make a show of respect to their leaders on all major holidays and anniversaries and authorities are ensuring that Kim Jong Il's birthday is being celebrated in traditional fashion.

One aspect of that is the annual flower show featuring thousands of blossoms named Kimjongilia after the past leader. The Kimjongilia flower is a kind of begonia, originally bred by a Japanese botanist, according to North Korean authorities.

Apart from the rituals, it is also a public holiday. People can expect presents of cooking oil or other food and drink from their employers, and they get time off to spend with their families.

Yesterday, Pyongyang residents also took part in large public dances, filed through displays of ice sculptures.

The finale of the day was to be a fireworks show. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR's government says the military has ended its four-month counterinsurgency operation in troubled Rakhine state, where it had been accused of rape, torture and other abuses against Muslim Rohingya minority residents.

AP PHOTO



INDONESIA After months of campaigning dominated by religious and racial tensions, none of the three candidates vying to run Indonesia's biggest city of Jakarta secured the 50 percent needed for an outright win, setting the stage for a run-off election in April. An escalation of the violence, racial bigotry and huge protests that overshadowed campaigning is feared in the capital ahead of the April vote.

MONGOLIA Exceptionally cold weather in Mongolia is putting the livelihoods of more than 150,000 nomadic herders and family members at risk, just one year after another extreme winter killed more than 1 million animals, the Red Cross says as it launches an emergency appeal.

AP PHOTO



N. ZEALAND Firefighters in New Zealand's second-largest city were able to halt a wildfire's advance on suburban homes yesterday after it burned down 11 houses in the hill suburbs and forced hundreds of people to evacuate.

SYRIA A leader of the Russian delegation at talks on resolving the war in Syria says agreement has been reached to form a permanent contact group of Russia, Turkey and Iran to "preserve and strengthen the cessation of hostilities."

times square by rodrigo

