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CHINESE TRIAL

Taiwan democracy activist pleads guilty

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES Pro-democracy activists yesterday protested the Philippine president's declaration of a provincial holiday marking the birthday of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and other steps they said promote a political rehabilitation of his family. Marcos was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt and died in Hawaii three years later.

SOUTH KOREA A child-monitoring smartphone app that was removed from the market in 2015 after it was found to be riddled with security flaws has been reissued under a new name and still puts children at risk, researchers said yesterday.



MYANMAR's military has been accused of planting land mines in the path of Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in its western Rakhine state. More on p12

AFGHANISTAN-IRAN Afghanistan's foreign minister asked India yesterday to expedite the development of a strategic port in Iran to bolster a trade route for land-locked Central Asian countries that would bypass Pakistan.

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US marks 9/11 anniversary

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AL ELECTION

Angela Leong wants Macau propelled by a responsible gaming industry

Julie Zhu

NOVA União para Desenvolvimento de Macau, led by lawmaker Angela Leong, has proposed eight topics for their platform, ranging from economic to cultural development of Macau. Leong's team – listed as No. 14 – has heavily emphasized Macau's further development throughout their campaign.

The Times witnessed a recent campaign event by the candidate group in NAPE district, attended by Leong and other party members, including Leong's son Arnaldo Ho.

Speaking at the event, the lawmaker and gaming operator SJM's managing director stated that the diversified gaming industry and the full range tourism are the two new engines driving Macau's economy, with both carrying the potential of building a new development phase for Macau.

The group hopes that, propelled by a responsible gaming



Angela Leong (left)

industry, Macau can be shaped into a green, safe, and smart city with world-class living standards.

Leong's campaign also prio-

ritizes the younger generation, including "the development of apartments for the youth, the creation of new spaces for Macau's future, pushing forward

Macau's sports activities and creating Macau as a synergy capital."

Leong's group further echoes the call from various entities for free university education. The party states they hope to improve educational resources within primary and secondary education levels, and promote a "life-long learning city".

The group also emphasized their typical "Love the Country and Love Macau" slogan, stating that they intend to carry forward tradition, preserving Macau's cultural heritage and tourism gambling culture, as well as enhancing the merging of different cultures.

Leong's team also addressed healthcare, stating their desire to build a better healthcare system, as well as addressing the mental and physical health of the gaming sector's employees.

Like many other parties, Nova União para Desenvolvimento de Macau looks forward to

building a highly efficient and transparent anti-corruption system, as well as helping the government improve its administration and services.

The group also wishes to share the benefits of and pursue further regional cooperation with Guangdong province.

Leong's group emphasized the slogan 'Love the Country and Love Macau'

They also aim to contribute to the Belt and Road Initiative, the Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau Greater Bay Area cooperation and the China-Portuguese-speaking countries cooperation.

Apart from Leong, the party includes a total of 11 members, including Kuan Vai Lam, Arnaldo Ho, Siu Yu Hong and Jose Luis Pedruco Achiam.

Voters urged to pay attention to correct polling procedures

THE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) has urged voters to pay close attention to the correct polling procedures.

The president of the commission, Tong Hio Fong, issued the reminder yesterday as he toured a mock polling station set up at the Macau Forum building. The mock

station will remain open until Friday, and is being provided to inform the public about correct voting procedures to reduce the number of spoiled ballots.

The Legislative Assembly elections are to be held on Sunday. All forty-two polling stations – in aggregate covering the direct and indirect elections – will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. that day.

A valid ballot should feature a single "check" mark – by using the official chop provided at polling stations – affixed inside the blue box located between the number of the candidate lists and their respective names. Tong

reiterated that a ballot would be considered invalid if it were stamped in more than one place, or stamped in any box on the ballot paper reserved for any election team that had withdrawn from the election.

The CAEAL president reiterated that voting will be completely confidential. No recording devices will be set up inside voting booths and booths will be covered from top to bottom with translucent curtains. Voters are not permitted to use mobile phones and other recording devices inside the polling stations or to take photograph of ballot paper. It is also prohibi-



Tong Hio Fong (right) demonstrates voting procedures during a tour to a mock polling station set up at the Macau Forum building

ted to disclose one's vote or ask about another person's voting intentions within 100 meters of the polling station.

Election campaigning activities are prohibited during the compulsory cooling-off period set for Saturday and on Sunday. During the cooling-off period, the Legislative Assembly Election Law

also prohibits any public display of clothing containing numbers or symbols for any election team and any material in relation to any election team.

In addition, Mr Tong said the Commission had been paying close attention to the weather forecast for Sunday and had contingency plans in the event of adverse weather.

TONG: PRIVATE SCHOOLS TAKING SIDES ACCEPTABLE

ASKED TO comment on the fact that at least two local schools asked parents to vote for a candidate, Tong Hio Fong stated that the Legislative Assembly Election Law "only stipulates that public entities and specific organizations have to remain impartial in the election." According to the CAEAL head, private organizations, such as non-gov-

ernment-run schools, were not regulated in this aspect. However, Tong urged "such schools however to take this election as an opportunity to promote awareness of fair and just election practices and to educate students to fulfil their civic responsibilities," according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

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Emily Wang, Yueyang

Taiwan democracy activist pleads guilty in Chinese trial

A Taiwanese pro-democracy activist pleaded guilty yesterday in a Chinese court to subverting the power of the state, but his wife dismissed the trial as “a political show” and his supporters said he had been forced to confess to crimes he didn’t commit.

Lee Ming-che’s trial marked China’s first criminal prosecution of a nonprofit worker since Beijing passed a law tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organizations.

Lee told the court in the central Chinese city of Yueyang that he had “spread articles that maliciously attacked the Communist Party of China, China’s existing system and China’s government.” He said he had also organized people and wrote articles “intended to subvert the state’s power.”

Subversion of state power is a vaguely defined charge often used by authorities to muzzle dissent and imprison critics. The court has not yet announced a punishment for Lee.

Lee’s wife, Lee Ching-yu, who was in Yueyang for the trial, had warned that he might be pressured into pleading guilty. China’s wide-ranging crackdown on civil society has featured a string of televised “confessions” — believed to have been coerced — from human rights activists accused of plots to overthrow the political system.

“Today the whole world witnessed a political show with me,” Lee Ching-yu said after the trial, showing an arm tattoo proclaiming “I’m proud of you, Lee Ming-che.”

“We witnessed how different the core values are of Taiwan and China.”

LEE CHING-YU
LEE MING-CHE’S WIFE

“We also witnessed how different the core values are of Taiwan and China,” she added.

Lee’s supporters blasted the legal process.

“This trial is illegal,” said Hsiao I-Min, who traveled to Yueyang with Lee’s wife and is with the Taiwanese non-governmental organization Judicial Reform Foundation. Lee “was forced to confess a false truth.”



Lee Ching-yu (right) poses for a photo with Wang Li-ping, a former Democratic Progressive Party lawmaker, before entering the court

“Pursuing democracy and freedom is not a crime,” Hsiao continued.

Dozens of pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong marched to the China Liaison Office yesterday to protest Lee’s prosecution.

Security was tight at the Yueyang City Intermediate People’s Court, with barricades on the streets, dozens of security personnel patrolling the perimeter and reporters ordered to leave the area.

Lee, 42, has conducted online lectures on Taiwan’s democratization and managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China.

He cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 but never showed for a planned meeting with a friend later that day.

Amnesty International and other rights organizations have called for his immediate release.

The new law says foreign NGOs must not endanger China’s national security and ethnic unity, and subjects nonprofit groups to close police supervision. It is seen as an attempt to clamp down on perceived threats to the ruling Communist Party’s control.

Relations between Taiwan and China have been near an all-time

low since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, whose Democratic Progressive Party has advocated Taiwan’s formal independence. China cut off contacts with Taiwan’s government in June, five months after Tsai was elected.

Lee cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 but never showed for a planned meeting with a friend

Lee’s co-defendant, Peng Yuhua, who is from mainland China, also pleaded guilty. Peng said he had founded an organization called Palm Flower Co. to pressure China to accept a multiparty political system. Lee was his deputy in charge of education, Peng said. AP

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Vietnamese wife arrested after cutting husband's penis

A 46-year-old Vietnamese woman has been arrested after attempting to cut off her husband's penis, according to the Judiciary Police. The woman and her husband are both non-local workers in Macau. The couple had frequent quarrels, as the woman suspected her husband was cheating on her. Last Saturday, the couple reportedly had a fight. The following morning, the woman reportedly tied up her husband's arms and feet with shoelaces before cutting off his penis while he was sleeping. The man sustained a three centimeter cut on his penis.

Drill pieces fall from building and injure passerby

A female passerby was injured after being hit by a chuck from an electric drill and screws that fell from a building in the Areia Preta district. The victim, who is in her 40s, sustained injuries to her right eye after the debris fell from a unit where renovation works were being conducted on the fourth and fifth floors. The woman was sent to the hospital after being hit. This incident follows similar accidents, including an occasion in early July where a passerby was injured by a bamboo stick that fell from a building.

Court slams IACM for improper decision

The Court of Final Appeal has criticized the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) after it rejected an election list's request to hold campaigning events, allegedly on the basis that the request had improperly been made in the name of the bid, the New Macau Progressives. According to public broadcaster TDM, the court said that authorities that have "the power to deny the exercise of rights protected by the Basic Law, should only do so on solid reasoning and with at least some consistency." The New Macau Progressives has filed another request to hold campaigning events, but in the bureaucratic chokehold, claims to have been victim to sabotage. The group says it has lost three days of potential campaigning due to the IACM's decision.

Renato Marques

A man from the mainland was robbed of over RMB35,000 and his possessions, including a mobile phone, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed yesterday in a press conference.

The victim, aged 47, is said to have been attacked by other two men around 2 a.m. on September 10 as he was walking by himself around the Centro Internacional de Macau in the Outer Harbor area, according to the PJ spokesperson.

The victim said that both men came from behind and without any warning started to hit him. One of them grabbed him by the neck while the other punched him in the chest.

During the struggle, the man was reportedly stripped of RMB20,000 that was kept in the pockets of his pants, and also had his wallet stolen, which contained another RMB15,000. Afterwards he noticed that his mobile phone was missing but was uncertain if it had been stolen or lost during the fight.

After the assault, the victim told the authorities that the two culprits fled the scene in the direction of Casa Real Hotel.

The PJ currently have no clues as to the thieves' identities, and are investigating the case.

As for other incidents, the police released information stating two local men have been swindled, and suspect

CRIME

Robbery strips mainland man of over RMB35,000

that both crimes were committed by the same person.

Both cases occurred on the same night and using the same method. The first case reportedly happened around 1 a.m. at the Patane area, while the second occurred one and a half hours later near Ponte 16.

The PJ currently have no clues as to the thieves' identities

The accounts given by both victims (aged 24 and 30) to the PJ correspond to each other. While driving, they each found a man on the road with his both arms up waving and calling for help. When they stopped, the man entered their cars and said that he had lost all his money in the casino and needed help to return to mainland China.

He showed the victims a mobile phone that he claimed to be the latest model of the iPhone 7 and asked the vic-

tims to buy it for HKD3,000 so that he could have money to return home. In both cases, the victims accepted and he left with the money.

A closer inspection of the mobile phone revealed it to be a forged product, an imi-

tation of the real product, leading the men to file complaints.

Although the PJ suspects that the same person committed both crimes, they are still not certain on the whereabouts of such a man.

Toilet thief finally caught

THE man who stole HKD50,000 in gaming chips from a player in a casino toilet was finally caught after almost two months of investigation, the PJ revealed.

The 49 year-old man from mainland China was caught while trying to exit Macau via the Cotai Border Checkpoint (Flor de Lotus) on September 10, and then detained by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) who handed him to the PJ.

The case dates back to July 15 when a casino player fainted in a washroom while carrying a total of HKD60,000 in gaming chips. After regaining consciousness, the victim noticed that HKD50,000 had been stolen while he was unconscious and filed a complaint with the PJ. The victim was a 23-year-old man also from the mainland.

After reviewing the casino's security camera video footage and hearing the testimony of a witness, the PJ managed to identify the suspect and launched a search that has now ended with the culprit being found and taken into custody.

Questioned by the police, the man confessed to the crime and explained his motives, adding that he had already spent the stolen profit at the casino tables.

He was presented yesterday to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) where he was charged with aggravated theft. **RM**

Sunny Wang's glass art exhibition opens

THE art exhibition "Flow: Glass Art Exhibition by Sunny Wang" is now open to the public at the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau. The exhibition is organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau. Glass artist Sunny Wang has taught the art of glass crafting and other creative activities for many years. She is currently working as an assistant professor at Hong Kong Baptist University. Her artworks have been bestowed with an honorable mention at the "International Exhibition of Glass Kanazawa" in Japan and the First Prize in Single Material at the "Golden Glass Awards" in Taiwan. Wang's works have also been showcased in exhibitions in countries such

as Australia, Germany, France, Italy, Maldives, Singapore and South Korea, as well as in mainland China.

This exhibition features twenty pieces – called 'sets' – of Wang's glass installations, which are rich in oriental cultural elements. The work, "Poetic Stones," is inspired by the Buddhist ode of The Ten Ox-herding Pictures and ancient Chinese phonology. In this work, 28 black stone-shaped glass pieces of different shapes and sizes are displayed in four rows, with seven in each row, corresponding to the rhythm of quatrains made of seven-word lines.

She uses lines in her works, making large circles as the level tone, while small circles as the oblique tone. Each



circle refers to a moment, while a stone refers to a rhyme. There is no way to correct mistakes and no interval in the course of glassblowing, just like calligraphy writing. The creative process must be completed without interval or reversal, corresponding with the

artist's perception of "living in the moment".

Another work on display is the seven piece installation "Ru" 如, which refers to a cycle of seven days within a week, symbolizing the flow of life. It also symbolizes the seven treasures of Buddhism, referring to the seven

strengths – namely confidence, perseverance, understanding, cleanliness, consciousness, concentration and wisdom.

The exhibition will be held until November 19, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., including public holidays. Admission is free.



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CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On yesterday led a government delegation to the provincial capital of Guangdong to exchange views on flood prevention measures with the province's governor, Ma Xingrui and vice-governor, Deng Haiguang.

The visit is part of the government's concerted effort to hasten the construction of a cross-boundary system to prevent or mitigate flooding in Macau's low-lying areas, such as the Inner Harbor.

On the mainland side, a cross-border system would seek to protect low-lying areas in Zhuhai and Zhongshan.

But before detailed planning can begin, Chui requires the support of the Guangdong Provincial Government, just a week after Beijing approved in principle an intention to advance the project.

According to a statement from the government, the chief executive briefed Guangdong officials on the efforts and proposals made by the Macau government in recent years for flood control initiatives. He also expressed

FLOOD CONTROL

Chui advances cross-border system with Guangdong officials

his gratitude for Guangdong's prompt response and preparation for yesterday's meeting with the MSAR government.

■ On the mainland side, a cross-border system would seek to protect low-lying areas in Zhuhai and Zhongshan

The two delegations agreed to strengthen communication via the existing Guangdong-Macau

cooperation framework. The communication will focus on ways to coordinate the building of a flood prevention system, including the commencement of joint in-depth analysis for such a project.

The urgency of the cross-boundary anti-flooding system was renewed late last month after Typhoon Hato struck the city, bringing with it a 5.5-meter high tide and subsequently flooding parts of the city.

Hato, the strongest storm in Macau in more than half a century, killed 10 people, injured more than 200 and caused about MOP11.5 billion worth of economic damage, according to government estimates.

During the meeting, the Guangdong provincial gover-



The local delegation headed by Chui Sai On (center) pictured yesterday in Guangzhou

nor, Ma Xingrui, extended his sympathies over the damage caused by the weather phenomenon and commended the local government's search and rescue work in its aftermath.

Senior government officials accompanying Chui on his visit to

Guangzhou included Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, the director of the Marine and Water Bureau, Susana Wong, and the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau, Li Canfeng.

Asian trade fair report praises Macau

THE 13th annual report on the Trade Fair Industry in Asia featured the 26 business-to-business trade fairs held in Macau in 2016, with revenue from these exhibitions estimated at around USD53.55 million.

Published by The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI), the annual report analyzes the development of the trade fair market in Asia in 2016.

The trade fairs included in UFI statistics also showed that 215,250 square meters of net spaces were sold, amounting to a rise of 2.9 percent compared to 2015.

According to the report, Macau is one of the youngest trade fair markets and is also one of the smallest in



Asia. However, it demonstrated the best regional performance and largest growth in Asia over the past five years.

Comparing the overall growth of "Meetings, Incentive Travel, Conventions and Exhibitions" (MICE) industry in Asia, Macau's net spaces sold grew from 72,500 square meters in 2012 to

215,250m2 in 2016, an increase of almost 200 percent.

Although the economy has been affected by the external economic environment, the net exhibition spaces sold continued to grow, with an average revenue per exhibition recorded at approximately USD2.1 million.

According to the Macao

Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the report also indicated that government support for the MICE industry, along with the ancillary facilities, contributed to the stable development of the region's exhibition industry.

For instance, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, set to open at the end of this year, and the gradual expansion of the flight network of the Macau International Airport, will significantly improve regional transportation.

It is predicted that the exhibition industry will maintain an average growth rate of 5 percent in the region over the next two to three years.

Buses diverted from Border Gate terminal

THE twenty-four buses which formerly stopped at the Border Gate bus terminal have been diverted to ten different bus stops near the Border Gate. The route diversions follow the massive damage to the bus terminal caused by the passage of Typhoon Hato.

According to a media report by Macao Daily, the public has questioned why the transport authority did not instruct its buses to stop in the parking area reserved for tourism buses.

Cheang Cheong Hin, director of the transportation division of the transport management department of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), explained that based on a

traffic flow analysis, there were about three thousand buses per day at the Border Gate terminal. Eighteen out of the 24 bus routes must pass through the Pérola Oriental roundabout – one of the ten busiest spots in the Macau Peninsula – to reach the tourist bus parking area.

The parking spaces in the tourist bus parking areas are poorly designed, said Cheang, which would unduly lengthen the time required for buses to park and therefore would have a significant impact on the bus operations.

Some bus users say that the new arrangement close to the Border Gate is confusing.

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Amazon China hiring signals renewed ambitions in Alibaba battle

AMAZON.COM Inc. is hiring by the hundreds in China to fill jobs ranging from internet software engineers to designers for Alexa, positioning the company to recoup some of the market share it lost to Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. in the world's largest online shopping arena.

The online retail giant lists almost 400 Chinese-based openings on its careers website and more than 900 on LinkedIn. They include senior executives to manage and acquire content, a leader to expand its fledgling Amazon Lending program and a head for its storefront on Alibaba's Tmall. And it's hiring a hardware engineer to, among other things, evangelize for digital assistant Alexa, which works with third party products even though the Echo speaker isn't available in China.

While the Seattle-based company still sells goods from abroad to Chinese consumers and has local cloud computing customers, Amazon's been relegated to a bit player in a domestic e-commerce market dominated by Alibaba and JD.Com. But like fellow U.S. companies Facebook Inc. and Google, it isn't giving up on the world's most populous nation despite powerful domestic players and increasing government restrictions on foreign businesses.

China's limits on foreign companies, and the savvy of local operators, has given rise to an alternate web universe on the mainland. While Amazon strikes fear into rivals around the world, in China it's dwarfed by Alibaba. Facebook's reach stops at the border as Tencent Holdings Ltd. and WeChat rule social networking while Baidu Inc. is top

of the search pile in Google's absence.

Amazon wants to be seen as a global distribution network, not just a way to reach U.S. customers. The company is encouraging its more than 2 million merchants, many who only sell in the U.S., to use Amazon to reach international markets. It offers services for language translation, currency conversion and tariffs to streamline the process for merchants who think it's too cumbersome and costly to sell abroad.

■ In retail, Amazon is investing billions to ramp up its operations across Asia, particularly in India

Amazon's market share in China continues to shrink in the face of fierce competition. Its sales represented just 1.1 percent of China's online gross merchandise value in 2015, and by 2016 that figure had dropped to 0.8 percent, according to an ICBC note that cited iResearch.

But Amazon has used its global reputation to keep a foothold in the business of importing goods for China's rising middle class, who seek safe foods and authenticity. In the fourth quarter of 2016, Amazon controlled 7 percent of the country's cross-border commerce, according to ICBC. It



launched its Prime free-shipping service in late 2016.

"In this past two years, Amazon's recognized the trend of rising Chinese consumption and persisted in developing its cross-border business," said Chen Tao, a researcher with Analysys. "The addition of the Prime program propelled that and it's had fair success with the business."

In the first quarter, the company's cross-border sales were 11 times bigger than their level two years earlier. Ocean Audit, which tracks the global movement of goods, said Amazon imported 14,885 shipping containers' worth of goods in 2016. This year it's predicted to reach 20,000, according to Chief Executive Officer Steve Ferreira.

It's unclear whether the current talent hunt is significantly accelerated from previous years. Amazon didn't respond to an emailed request for comment.

This year, it started hiring HR executives to staff a new regional

"shared-services hub" in Beijing. A new office in Hangzhou – Alibaba's hometown – is hiring sales team leaders empowered to headhunt more staff. Joyo.com, a Chinese e-commerce platform acquired by Amazon in 2004, is hiring logistics and delivery partners.

Beyond e-commerce, it's building a Chinese content team to woo studio heads and negotiate deals for local movies and TV shows, including original content. But launching a domestic video service would be a bold step in a country where media is heavily censored by regulators. Netflix Inc. chose to sell content to local player iQiyi instead of entering the market directly, while Apple Inc.'s movie service has been blocked since 2016.

"Help create the future of Chinese digital entertainment with Amazon," one listing read.

A fraction of the Amazon listings on its website were first posted in 2016, and some specified roles

supporting its businesses beyond China. A large portion of the jobs were for Amazon Web Services, the cloud computing and hosting business in which it's the global leader against the likes of Google, Microsoft Corp. and Alibaba.

In retail, Amazon is investing billions to ramp up its operations across Asia, particularly in India. It entered Singapore this year, firing the first salvo in what could be a fierce battle with Alibaba and local players for Southeast Asia.

The battle's proven difficult in China, much as it has for its American technology counterparts. Facebook's main social networking service has been banned since 2009, yet it secretly launched an app under a different name with Colorful Balloons. The company, which is said to have scouted for office space, has made no secret of its interest and works with advertisers there keen to reach a global audience.

Google's parent, Alphabet Inc., is also hunting for workers even as its search and many other services remain blocked. At least 20 positions based in Beijing were advertised on the company's careers site, spanning engineering and marketing to product managers.

Despite rising competition from Chinese players, Analysys estimates Amazon's share of the Chinese cross-border e-commerce market rose slightly to 7.6 percent in the second quarter of 2017.

"As awareness grows and penetration improves, Amazon too can definitely rely on its own edge in global supply and logistics to invest further in cross-border commerce," Chen Tao said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS LIFESTYLE TO PRESENT CABARET SHOW IN NOVEMBER



For the first time in Macau, Sands Lifestyle will present a renowned erotic adult cabaret show at The Parisian Macao

between November 1-12. The "best of show," Crazy Horse Paris 'Forever Crazy', will run for a limited sea-

son and showcase music, dance and sensuality in true Parisian style, Sands China announced in a statement.

Featuring highlights from the legendary cabaret, the show is delivered by a multicultural cast of ten classically trained dancers clad only by textured lighting and projections.

'Forever Crazy' was conceived in 1951 as a tribute to Alain Bernardin, the founder of Crazy Horse, and is Paris' most glamorous and legendary burlesque show.

It preserves the cabaret's artistic heritage and sophistication while adding a touch of modernity and humour.

The show has been dedicated to celebrating "la Femme" since its creation more than 65 years ago, with performances that combine elements of haute couture, luxury and art.

CEM HOLDS 5TH EDITION OF SOLAR MODEL CAR RACES



CEM will hold the 5th edition of "Solar & Capacitance Model Car Races" at Coloane Power Station on

September 24, with a new record of 97 teams from 22 local secondary schools participating.

This year, the top three teams from the Solar Model Car Race in the HK TREE 2016 will come to Macau to represent Hong Kong in the race for the first time, the company said in a statement.

While the "Solar Model Car Race" targets F4 to F6 students, the "Capacitance Model Car Race" targets F1 to F3 students, who gathered last Saturday at CEM Main Building to participate in a workshop.

Consistent with previous editions of the race, CEM will continue to sponsor the top three winning teams of the 'Solar Model Car Race' and the 'Capacitance Model Car Race' to represent Macau in the HK TREE 2017 competition in November 2017.



GLM Co. Introduces G4 Concept Electric Vehicle

HONG KONG

Li Ka-shing expands investments in electric vehicles



HONG KONG billionaire Li Ka-shing agreed to buy an indirect stake in a Japanese maker of electric cars, expanding his investments in an area that's set to benefit from China's push to phase out gasoline and diesel vehicles.

Li and two other investors are buying a stake in O Luxe

Holdings Ltd., according to two company filings made in Hong Kong. O Luxe is a distributor of watches and jewelry that's in the midst of acquiring Japan's GLM Co., a maker of electric sports cars with plans to license its technology to manufacturers including those in China.

Sales of electric vehicles

have surged in the world's largest car market on the back of generous state support, prompting global manufacturers to boost their lineups of non-emission autos. The demand has attracted investments from a flock of startups as well as companies from outside the industry, including a failed attempt by

China's biggest air-conditioner maker.

Li's investment in O Luxe, and by extension GLM, gets him a place in the higher-end of the EV market, a segment that Chinese startups like NIO and Beijing CH-Auto Technology Co. are targeting and Tesla Inc. now dominates with its imported Model S.

The race to sell more EVs looks set to heat up further after China said Sept. 9 that it would set a deadline for automakers to end sales of vehicles powered by fossil fuels. The announcement follows the government's earmarking in 2010 of new-energy vehicles as a strategic emerging industry meriting state support.

News of Li's investment, via Ocean Dynasty Investments Ltd., helped send O Luxe shares surging as much as 6.1 percent to HKD1.74, the highest intraday price since June 2013.

This isn't the first time the Hong Kong tycoon, whose global business empire spans ports to retail to telecommunications, has invested in electric vehicles. In 2015, he bought a stake in FDG Electric Vehicles Ltd., a Chinese electric-van and bus maker.

Vivaldi International Ltd. and TCL Industries Holdings (H.K.) Ltd. are the other two investors subscribing for a total of 570.3 million shares in O Luxe. In addition, Ocean Dynasty and Vivaldi agreed to buy 234 million existing shares of the company, Hong Kong-based O Luxe said in a separate filing yesterday.

The share sales are subject to relevant approvals and the completion of the GLM acquisition. **Bloomberg**

The big HKD short is bruised, but not broken

HONG Kong dollar bears are down, not out. So say Credit Agricole CIB and DBS Hong Kong Ltd. after the biggest jump by the pegged currency in 19 months.

The main factors weighing down the exchange rate haven't gone away, with ample liquidity causing a wide interest-rate discount to that on the greenback. Low volatility due to a peg to the U.S. currency and cheap funding costs also make it an especially appealing short.

"Interest in shorting the Hong Kong dollar might have fallen slightly, but it's still there because it's not like there are expectations of a U.S. rate cut,"



said Tommy Ong, managing director for treasury and markets at DBS Hong Kong Ltd. "Although U.S. rates aren't going up, Hong Kong rates haven't caught

up on the short end."

The exchange rate extended its two-day jump to 0.4 percent on Friday, the biggest on an intraday basis since January

2016 as a tumble in the greenback forced investors to unwind short positions on the Asian currency. Traders were already shaken out of their

complacency once in August when the Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced additional debt sales, a move that pushes up rates.

Although the market is pricing in a slower pace of U.S. rate hikes, there are no signs that liquidity in Hong Kong will tighten significantly even after the debt issuance, as factors such as equity inflows from mainland China continue to hold. The premium of U.S. rates over Hong Kong reached the most since 2008 just last Thursday.

Twelve-month forward points - a reflection of expectations for the spread - plunged to a nine-year low last week, driving the

outright contracts to trade as strong as HKD7.7353, outside the spot rate's HKD7.75-HKD7.85 band against the greenback. This means being long the U.S. dollar via such forwards will be profitable as long as the peg doesn't break.

The Hong Kong dollar spot rate weakened 0.02 percent yesterday to HKD7.8150, after erasing gains of as much as 0.25 percent on Friday.

"Liquidity still remains quite flush," said Gary Yau, a strategist at Credit Agricole in Hong Kong. "If you look at the interest-rate differential, higher U.S. dollar against Hong Kong dollar still makes sense." **Bloomberg**

Gregory Viscusi & Kanga Kong

China, US divided on N. Korea sanctions before crucial UN vote

THE U.S. has watered down a proposal to punish North Korea for its sixth and most powerful nuclear test, omitting an oil embargo and a freeze of Kim Jong Un's assets that may have hindered passage by the United Nations Security Council.

The U.S., U.K. and France are united on the latest proposal, but it's unclear whether Russia and China - the other veto-holding members of the United Nations Security Council - will back the text as it stands, according to a European diplomat who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. A vote was scheduled for 6 a.m. New York time today [Macau time], according to a UN official.

Barring oil exports was always a long-shot. Still, the revised draft resolution would cap shipments of refined petroleum products at 2 million barrels a year while limiting crude oil exports to North Korea to current levels, the diplomat said. It would retain a proposed ban on textile exports, while diluting a ban on the use of guest workers from the isolated country and dropping proposals to freeze the assets of Kim and national airline Air Koryo, the diplomat said.

The latest draft also would step up an inspections program for cargo ships heading to or from North Korea, but wouldn't authorize the use of force to board ships on the high seas, as an earlier draft would. The resolution does say vessels that refuse to be inspected, either in the ocean or at port, may be subject to an asset freeze.

"The DPRK's ongoing nuclear- and ballistic missile-related activities have destabilized the region and beyond," according to the draft, using initials of North Korea's formal name. The proposal says

BLOOMBERG



the Security Council is committed to restarting six-party talks aimed at negotiating a complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Those talks - which included North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and the U.S. - broke off in 2009.

More changes could still take place before a final draft is ready for a vote. The negotiations reflect differences among world powers over the best way to halt Kim's push for a nuclear weapon that can

target the U.S. homeland. President Donald Trump wants China and Russia to use their economic leverage to rein in Kim, but both countries are skeptical that sanctions will work and have called for peace talks.

North Korea warned of retaliation if the UN approves the U.S. proposal for harsher sanctions.

"In case the U.S. eventually does rig up the illegal and unlawful 'resolution' on harsher sanctions, the DPRK

shall make absolutely sure that the U.S. pays a due price," its state-run Korean Central News Agency said, citing a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The forthcoming measures to be taken by the DPRK will cause the U.S. the greatest pain and suffering it had ever gone through in its entire history."

China supplies most of North Korea's crude oil, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, but it's hard to know exactly how

much: China hasn't reported any volumes in its published customs data since 2013. The agency estimates North Korea crude imports at about 10,000 barrels a day.

China also reported sending 6,000 barrels a day of oil products to North Korea last year, according to the EIA, citing UN customs data. While that's about 10 percent more than the maximum amount allowed in the draft resolution, the exact volume of products is hard to determine and the cap is near estimated levels reported elsewhere.

As many as 60,000 North Koreans are working in more than 50 countries, according to estimates from South Korea's foreign ministry. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has called on the international community to suspend the flow of North Korean guest workers, who earn an estimated USD1.5 billion to \$2.3 billion a year - much of which is sent back to the regime.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said North Koreans would "eat grass" rather than give up nuclear weapons, while China is wary about cutting off Kim's economic lifeline to the point it risks collapsing his regime. China is North Korea's main ally and by far its biggest trading partner, including for oil shipments.

China supports action by the Security Council in response to North Korea's nuclear test, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in a daily briefing yesterday.

"We hope that the members of the council will reach a consensus on the basis of full consultation and make a voice of solidarity," he said. **Bloomberg**

Chinese bank accused of helping money laundering in Spain

A Spanish judge is accusing the European branch of China's state-owned ICBC bank of aiding criminal organizations to launder more than 214 million euros (USD256 million).

National Court judge Ismael Moreno said that the Luxembourg-based Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

Europe should also be held responsible for the money allegedly laundered by its Spanish branch between 2011 and 2014.

Seven top executives tied to the bank's Madrid premises have already been under investigation since February 2016.

In a ruling released yesterday, the

judge said ICBC Europe had a degree of knowledge of the alleged laundering.

Moreno said that the bank's office in central Madrid proactively raised cash from illicit businesses and criminal gangs and then hid the deposits by making loans to overseas customers, mostly through transfers to China.

EDINBURGH ZOO

Panda Tian Tian won't give birth this year

EDINBURGH Zoo says giant panda Tian Tian won't give birth this year.

The zoo announced last month that Tian Tian was believed to be pregnant but that her due date was hard to predict.

Zoo panda director Iain Valentine said yesterday that "tests show that her hormone levels and behavior have returned to normal" as the year's breeding cycle ends.

Giant pandas have difficulty breeding and their pregnancies are notoriously difficult to follow. Their fetuses are tiny and hard to detect, and the animals also experience "pseudo-pregnancies" during which behavior and hormonal changes indicate they are pregnant when they are not.

Tian Tian and male panda Yang Guang,

both 14, arrived in Edinburgh on a decade-long loan from China in 2011 and are the only giant pandas in Britain.



AP PHOTO



In this combination of two images, at left, a photo provided by a local Buddhist Rakhine villager to prove an official narrative of Rohingya Muslim people setting fire to their own houses shows a woman wielding a machete with a group of people after setting fire to a home

FAKE NEWS?

'Proof' of Rohingya-set fires in Myanmar fails inspection

PPOINTING to the ashes of a destroyed village that was once home to dozens of Rohingya Muslim families, the abbot of a nearby Buddhist monastery insisted he knew who had set it ablaze. It was the Rohingya themselves, he said, and there was photographic evidence to prove it.

"I even tried to stop them," the abbot, Zawtika, told reporters who visited violence-torn northern Rakhine state last week after an explosion of communal violence that has so far compelled a staggering 300,000 Rohingya to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. "I told them not to do that, but it seemed like they wanted to."

Shortly afterward, a local Buddhist resident who is close to the monk, a man named Maung Maung Htwe, shared photos he said he had taken on his mobile phone that showed several people setting fire to the buildings.

The alleged perpetrators could be clearly seen — too clearly for anyone trying to advance the lie that Rohingya were responsible.

Journalists on the trip recognized two of the people in the photos as Hindus from a nearby public school the government officials had brought them to hours earlier. The school was filled with displaced Hindus who said their own

homes had been burned by Muslims. An Associated Press reporter interviewed one of them.

Like the monk, the country's government contends that Rohingya insurgents have been burning down their own villages in northern Rakhine as they attacked both majority Buddhists and minority Hindus. The Rohingya, meanwhile, say Myanmar security forces and Buddhist mobs have attacked them and razed their homes in a conflict that the government estimates killed close to 400 people.

The latest fighting began after Rohingya insurgents launched a series of attacks Aug. 25 that they have portrayed as an effort to protect their ethnic minority from persecution. The government insists the Rohingya are actually Bangladeshis, though many have lived in Myanmar for generations.

The attacks have triggered "clearance operations" by security forces who say they are trying to root out the insurgents, and stirred up a virulent spell of Buddhist nationalism directed against the Rohingya and their perceived supporters on social media.

The violence has also sparked a war pitting the truth against so-called "fake news," with Myanmar's government and its supporters taking a page right out of President Donald

Trump's war on the media.

Even if reporters had not met the two Hindus before viewing video of the fire, the images looked dubious. The women's hair appeared to be covered in something like tablecloths, in lieu of Muslim headwear.

After a Yangon-based news outlet, Eleven Media Group, published an article showing the burned Rohingya homes in Ka Nyin Tan last week, government spokesman Zaw Htay tweeted a link to it.

■ The government contends that Rohingya insurgents have been burning down their own villages

"Photos of Bengalis setting fire to their houses!" he said, using a term for the Rohingya often used in Myanmar because it implies they are all from Bangladesh.

After the images began stirring doubt, however, Zaw Htay said the following day that government was investigating the images and would take action against those who set the

fires. He also said police were interrogating the Rakhine man who took the images; the man could not be reached by phone yesterday.

The images showed several people torching the thatched roof of one home. In one of the images, a man in a green-and-blue plaid shirt reaches up to a rooftop, appearing to pour something from a bottle. In another, a woman in an orange-and-white shirt wields a machete.

It was unclear when those images were taken. But pictures recorded at the public school housing displaced Hindus clearly showed the same man and woman, in the same clothes.

The woman — a mother of six who goes by the single name of Hazuli — said before reporters viewed the video of the fire that her family had been attacked by Rohingya. She referred to them using a derogatory word for Muslim that is commonly used in Myanmar.

"When we were about to have our meal, the kalars entered our village and started burning our houses. They were holding machetes and spears and started shouting, 'We will shower with the Hindu's blood.' So we ran away from our houses," she said. "If there are Muslims, the problems will never end, but if kalars are not here anymore, it will be more peaceful."

Hazuli could not be reached after photos of the fire were released.

Misinformation has gone both ways. Earlier this month Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek, calling for an end to "ethnic cleansing" in Rakhine state, tweeted four photos allegedly from the conflict. He deleted the tweet after it was found most had nothing to do with Myanmar; one showed a Rwandan child crying.

Anti-Rohingya posters, Muslim nationalists in Myanmar tweeted a photo allegedly showing Rohingya militants conducting rifle training; the image was actually from 1971, and showed volunteers training during the nation's war for independence.

The claim that Rohingya had set fire to their own houses had taken another hit earlier in the same government-organized trip on which journalists met the monk and the Hindu villagers.

The reporters saw Rakhine men with swords walking out of a burning Rohingya village that had been abandoned days earlier. And while they saw smoke rising skyward across the fields in several other locations, they didn't see a single Rohingya in any of the five destroyed villages they visited.

Allegations that Rohingya are burning their homes have been made in Rakhine state by local Buddhists and government officials ever since a wave of bloody anti-Muslim rioting erupted in 2012. Well over 100,000 Rohingya fled that year, either into Myanmar displacement camps or out of the country, often via dangerous boat journeys.

Officials rarely have offered any explanation as to why an already miserable and impoverished group of people would destroy their own homes and exhaust their meager savings to take treacherous journeys to unknown lands for lives of extreme uncertainty.

Last week, however, Myanmar's Minister of Border Affairs, Col. Phone Tint, told journalists on the trip that Rohingya insurgents were burning villages because they are routing out informants. They "also want people to be afraid of them and to join them."

Refugees who have made it to Bangladesh, however, said they believe the fires are part of the military's effort to purge Rakhine state of Muslims.

More than 6,800 homes have been destroyed in this wave of violence, the government has said, and all but about 200 belonged to Rohingya.

That estimate, however, is from last week. A Rohingya man and a police officer reached yesterday in Rakhine said that in at least one village, the fires are still burning. **AP**

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

SINGAPORE

Only one candidate qualifies in presidential race

SINGAPORE is likely to have its first female president, with only one candidate qualifying yesterday for an election limited to members of the minority Malay community.

The Elections Department said former Speaker of Parliament Halimah Yacob was the only one of five hopefuls who qualified. It said the others had not satisfied stringent criteria, such as having held key public positions or running a company with at least 500 million Singapore dollars (USD370 million) in equity.

Yacob, a former member of the ruling People's Action Party, entered politics in 2001. She won four parliamentary elections before being chosen speaker. She resigned from the party last month.

Yacob is expected to be named Singapore's eighth president tomorrow without a vote. She is to take office at a later date.

"I can only say that I promise to do the best that I can to serve the people of Singapore, and that doesn't change whether there is an election or no election," she said.

The presidency is largely a ceremonial position. Singapore's Constitution allows the president to veto the use of the country's reserves and some public appointments, but doesn't give the post any executive authority.

Last year, lawmakers amended the constitution to include presidential elections limited to a particular race. This kicks in when a racial group has not held the pre-

sidency in five continuous terms, or 30 years.

The government has said that having a Malay hold office this time is important because the president plays a unifying role. Singapore's last Malay president, Yusof Ishak, died in office in 1970.

The city-state has a population of 5.6 million. It is 74.3 percent Chinese, 13.4 percent Malay, 9.1 percent Indian and 3.2 percent others.

Yacob is expected to be named the eighth president tomorrow without a vote

The rising threat of terrorism makes unity crucial, said outgoing President Tony Tan. "One of these days, an incident will happen. And when that happens, it's very important to ensure we do not allow it to destroy our cohesion, or to have tensions between the various communities," he was quoted as saying by The Straits Times newspaper.



Halimah Yacob (second from left) will likely be Singapore's first female president

"In that respect, reserving this next election for the Malays is appropriate — unfortunately, because of these circumstances around the world which Singapore is caught up in," Tan said.

Tan, a former deputy prime minister, was elected in a tight race

in 2011. He received 35 percent of around 2.1 million votes.

Analysts said Singaporeans may take time to accept such reserved elections. The country's first contested vote for president was held in 1993.

"It is not a surprise therefore

that there is unfamiliarity with it, a questioning of whether any of it is needed, and a sense of ambivalence about having only candidates of one racial group contest in it," said Gillian Koh, a senior research fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. **AP**



New Zealand Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern

NEW ZEALAND

Advance voting begins in closely fought election

ADVANCE voting began yesterday for New Zealand's general election, which could see a change of government in the South Pacific nation for the first time in

nine years. Election officials say just over 3 million voters are enrolled for the Sept. 23 election, in the country of nearly 5 million people.

Opinion polls indica-

te it will be a close race between the conservative National Party, led by Prime Minister Bill English, and the liberal Labour Party, led by Jacinda Ardern. Six weeks ago the

conservatives were comfortably ahead in the polls and appeared to be coasting to a fourth consecutive victory. But then the Labour Party leader quit and 37-year-old Ardern took the reins, sparking a rapid rise in the party's fortunes that some are calling "Jacindamania."

Both parties have made some expensive campaign promises. The National Party says it will reduce taxes and spend more on infrastructure. The Labour Party says it will make university free for students for the first three years.

Either of the two main parties will likely need to form alliances with smaller parties in order to govern under New Zealand's proportional voting system.

New Zealand is benefiting from a relatively healthy economy and government budget surpluses. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Shark bites surfer's board in half off east coast

A 35-year-old surfer was taken to a hospital after a shark snapped his board, tore his hip and flung him into the air Sunday off the Australian east coast.

Abe McGrath was surfing at Iluka on the north coast of New South Wales state this weekend when what he described as a 3.5-meter great white shark attacked the board from underneath, a police statement said.

"As a result of the impact, the board has snapped. The injured victim has gone into the air and then re-entered the water," the statement said.

"He has told police the shark began to circle and then turned away," police said.

McGrath grabbed half his board and surfed to shore, police said. Mc-

Grath's friends drove him to Ballina Hospital. He was then flown to Lismore Hospital for further treatment and discharged Sunday night.

The shark's teeth tore McGrath's wetsuit and left a gash on his right hip.

McGrath's friend Bryce Cameron was on the beach during the attack. If McGrath had been sitting on the board instead of lying on it when the shark struck, he would have lost his leg, Cameron said.

"The board has snapped in half straight away and that is when the shark's teeth hit his leg," Cameron told Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"He is pretty much the luckiest man on Earth right now," Cameron added.

Jennifer Peltz, New York

HOLDING photos and reading names of loved ones lost 16 years ago, 9/11 victims' relatives marked the anniversary of the attacks at ground zero yesterday with a solemn and personal ceremony.

About a thousand 9/11 family members, survivors, rescuers and officials were gathered as the ceremony at the World Trade Center began with a moment of silence and tolling bells. Then relatives began reading out the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the deadliest terror attack on American soil.

"I know you're looking down at me with a big, big smile on your face," Connor Murphy said through tears. He lost his father, Kevin James Murphy.

Sixteen years later, the quiet rhythms of commemoration have become customs: a recitation of all the names of the dead, moments of silence and tolling bells, and two powerful light beams that shine through the night.

Yet each ceremony also takes on personal touches. Over the years, some name-readers have added messages ranging from the universal ("the things we think separate us really don't — we're all part of this one Earth") to the personal ("I love you and miss you. Go Packers!").

The victims died when hijacked planes slammed into the trade center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 11,

AP PHOTO



TERRORISM

US commemorates 9/11; ceremony at ground zero

2001, hurling America into a new consciousness of the threat of global terrorism.

President Donald Trump, a native New Yorker observing the anniversary for the first time as the nation's leader,

observed a moment of silence at the White House with first lady Melania Trump.

The Trumps also planned to participate in a 9/11 observance at the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis

and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are hosting a private observance for victims' relatives there at 9:11 a.m. After the names are read at that ceremony, there's a public

observance, with a wreath-laying and remarks.

Vice President Mike Pence and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke are scheduled to deliver remarks at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville. It's on the rural field where one of the airliners crashed after passengers and crew fought to wrest control away from the terrorists who'd hijacked it and were heading for Washington.

Construction continues at the Shanksville memorial, where ground was broken Sunday for a 93-foot 28 meters tall Tower of Voices to honor the 33 passengers and seven crew members who died.

The ceremony amid the waterfall pools and lines of trees on the National Sept. 11 Memorial plaza strives to be apolitical: Politicians can attend, but since 2011, they haven't been allowed to read names or deliver remarks.

Yet last year's 15th-anniversary ceremony became entangled in the narrative of a fractious presidential campaign when Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton left abruptly, stumbled into a van and ultimately revealed she'd been diagnosed days earlier with pneumonia.

The episode fed into questions that then-Republican nominee Trump had repeatedly raised about Clinton's stamina and transparency. She took three days off to recover, and Trump used footage of her stagger in a campaign ad. **AP**

IRMA

UK defends hurricane response as critics say it's too slow

THE U.K. government defended its response to Hurricane Irma yesterday, amid claims it has been slow to help British overseas territories devastated by the storm.

The British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and the Turks and Caicos islands were all pummeled by the hurricane last week, leaving thousands without electricity or water and reducing homes to splinters. At least five people died in the British territories.

The U.K. has dispatched a naval ship, Mounts Bay, and almost 500 troops including medics and engineers to the islands. The Royal

AP PHOTO



In this undated photo provided on Sunday by the British Ministry of Defence, some of the damage to The British Virgin Isles, seen from the air

Navy flagship HMS Ocean is on the way from the Mediterranean to help with reconstruction,

and more than 50 British police officers have been being sent to help keep order.

The Ministry of Defence said British troops in Anguilla have already delivered emergen-

cy aid, restored power to the hospital, cleared roads and reopened the airport's runway.

But some residents say they have seen little help, and some British tourists on other hurricane-hit islands complain that they have remain stranded while other countries have already flown their citizens home.

Opposition politicians have compared Britain's response unfavorably to that of France, which has sent more than 1,000 troops, police and emergency workers to its territories of St. Martin and St. Barts, and had two frigates positioned in the area ahead of the storm.

"The French and American governments clearly get the scale of the crisis in a way that the British government seems slow to grasp," said U.K. Liberal Demo-

crat leader Vince Cable.

But Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson insisted that Britain was responding strongly to an "unprecedented catastrophe." He said the Conservative government has already pledged 32 million pounds (USD42 million) to the relief effort and more will be announced in the next few days.

The French government has also faced criticism from political opponents and from islanders who say they feel abandoned amid the post-hurricane chaos. French President Emmanuel Macron is due to visit St. Martin on Tuesday.

Kate Osamor of the U.K. opposition Labour Party said Prime Minister Theresa May or Johnson should follow Macron's lead and "visit those most affected [and] look them in the eye." **AP**

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what's ON



MACAU GUIA CIRCUIT FOR UNESCO HERITAGE SITE - 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MGCPDA JOINT EXHIBITION
TIME: 9am-6pm
UNTIL: September 14, 2017
VENUE: Ritz Gallery, Largo do Senado
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8397 1116

MONKEY KING
TIME: 4pm & 8pm Daily (Except on Thursdays)
VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre
ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680, MOP880, MOP1080
COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818
KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

FLOAT INTO THE FLOW - THE EXHIBITION OF SOU CHON KIT
TIME: 1pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: September 17, 2017
VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association, Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 3, 2017
VENUE: Archives of Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE
TIME: 10am-9pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: October 8, 2017
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery
ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

OREGON TOWN SEEKS SOLUTIONS TO WILD TURKEYS, THEIR DROPPINGS



A small Oregon city is asking the state for advice on how to handle a flock of wild turkeys that are ruining gardens and leaving droppings just about everywhere.

Officials in Pilot Rock, a city of 1,500 people about 370 kilometers east of Portland, say there are dozens of turkeys roaming the area, the East Oregonian reported (bit.ly/2f7HLHp).

City Councilor Bob Deno complained he has 15 birds frequenting a tree on his property.

Resident Mary Ann Low told a city council meeting Tuesday that she once counted 68 turkeys in her mother's yard.

"I love wildlife, but this is getting to the point where it's just ridiculous," Low said. "They dust bathe in the soil. They eat whatever is there."

City officials considered several options, including a spay-and-sterilize program, but they decided to ask the state for advice.

Greg Rimbach, a wildlife biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, had six recommendations, ranging from a ban on feeding the birds to killing them and donating the meat to a food bank.

The whole community will need to work together on any effort, he said.

"No matter what we do, we're never going to get rid of all of them," Rimbach said. "We'll always have a few turkeys."

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|--|
| 12:50 | AL Elections Campaign |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | AL Elections Campaign |
| 15:00 | RTPi Live |
| 17:40 | NOS League: Feirense - Sporting (Repeated) |
| 19:25 | The Cariocas (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | AL Elections Campaign |
| 21:10 | Miscellaneous |
| 22:10 | The Cariocas - Premier |
| 22:50 | AL Elections Campaign |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |
| 02:45 | Champions League: Benfica - CSKA (Live) |
| 04:50 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

7 SEP - 13 SEP



OBERDRIVE

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30pm

ROOM 2

7:30pm

Director: Antonio Negret

Starring: Scott Eastwood, Freddie Thorp, Ana de Armas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



WOLF WARRIOR II

ROOM 1

7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Jason Wu

Starring: Jason Wu, Qian Yu, Nan Yu

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 126min



IT

ROOM 2

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

Director: Andres Muschietti

Starring: Bill Skarsgård, Jaeden Lieberher, Finn Wolfhard

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



DANGAL

ROOM 3

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

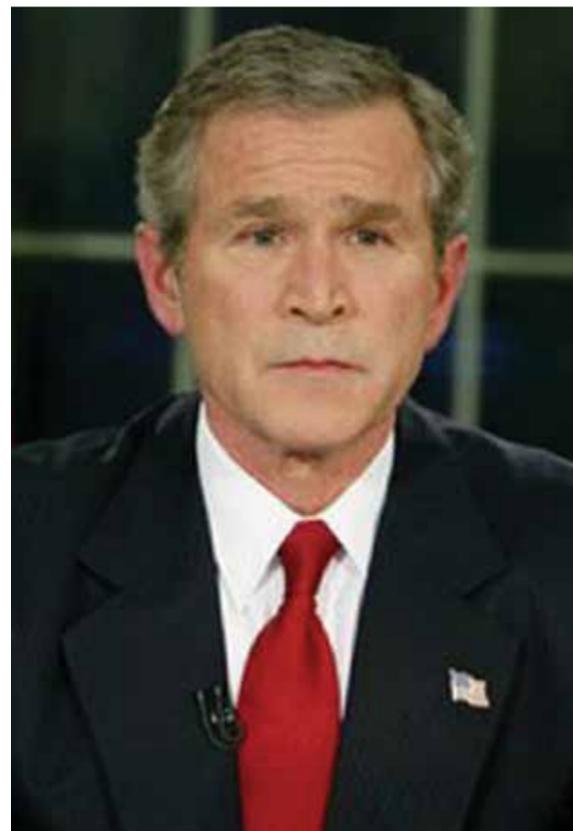
Director: Nitesh Tiwari

Starring: Aamir Khan, Sakshi Tanwar, Fatima Sana Shaikh

Language: Hindi (Chinese & English)

Duration: 164min

this day in history



2001 US DECLARES WAR ON TERROR

The President of the United States has described the destruction caused in New York and Washington as an act of war against all freedom-loving people.

In a statement broadcast at 1053 local time (1553 BST), George Bush vowed the US would use all its resources to avenge the worst-ever attacks on American soil.

But he warned an angry and wounded nation they would have to be patient and said any action could be a monumental struggle.

The president has also been seeking the backing of world leaders for an international campaign against terrorism.

As the estimated number of dead rose into the thousands the day after the tragedy, members of the US government began talking openly of war.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said: "It isn't going to be solved with a single counter-attack against one individual, it's going to be a long term conflict."

Expressions of support have come quickly from American allies, and also from countries not known for their sympathy with the US - the leaders of Libya and Palestine both condemned the attacks in the strongest terms.

Only Iraq has endorsed the atrocity, saying the attacks were a "lesson for all tyrants and oppressors" and the fruit of American crimes.

Tony Blair offered the unequivocal backing of the UK, echoing President Bush's words in his press conference announcing the recall of Parliament.

"I don't think there is any doubt at all that this threat is aimed at the whole democratic world," the prime minister told reporters.

"The US has been singled out... But these terrorists will regard us all as targets."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The criminal investigation quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by the Afghanistan-based Osama Bin Laden.

President Bush's "War on Terror" began on 8 October 2001 with an air bombardment of Afghanistan by US and UK forces.

With the help of the Northern Alliance opposition group, the Taliban leaders of the country were quickly toppled.

Many alleged members of al-Qaeda were caught and flown to a US base on Cuba, but Bin Laden proved to be more elusive and the hunt for him took almost 10 years.

In April 2011, President Obama ordered a covert operation to kill or capture Bin Laden. On May 2, 2011, the White House announced that U.S. Navy SEALs had successfully carried out the operation, killing Bin Laden in his Abbottabad compound in Pakistan.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
That emotional mood you were in yesterday hasn't gone anywhere just yet. You want to sit down with the person you love best and tell them all about it. So what's the problem?

Taurus
April 20-May 20
So if you're ready to stop thinking and get down to some actual work on the project, it's time to have a chat with your sweetheart. Your antennae are notoriously flawless.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Just this once, though, you might want to have someone go over the details with you. Truth may be stranger than fiction, but an unbiased third party will be able to tell you if it really is all that strange.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Tricky situations are your specialty. You have a magical way of making everything that seemed destined to fail work out so well you'd swear it was previously arranged. Call on that talent now.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
All of a sudden - with the emphasis on sudden - you're thinking about a long-term thing. It's not your style, and no one who knows you will believe it for a second. You, however, are believing it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Now you're being asked to lend your support to someone with a similar track record. Forget what anyone tries to tell you about logic, statistics or typical behavior and don't feel obligated one way or the other.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
You've never turned your back on anyone who needed you, no matter when, why or how, so it stands to reason you won't be starting any time soon - even if you really don't have time when they ask.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you're ready for anything, it's sitting down, talking things out and making some promises. You, of course, are an expert at making promises and keeping them. But you've learned that others aren't quite so skilled at it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You feel completely in tune with each and every person you meet. It's almost as if you can read their minds. Your friends might kid you about it, but you'll soon discover your feelings were right on the money.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Feeling this good doesn't happen often, and you won't want to jeopardize it, but you should at least think about talking it over with a friend. At times like this, nothing is more valuable than an objective viewpoint.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
No matter how much you care for them or how benevolent you are, being kind to someone can only go so far. If you're sure they've taken advantage of you, trust your intuition and don't let this continue any longer.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
It's all good, on both sides of that romantic candlelit table. Don't be afraid to bring up the topic of what tomorrow might bring. You're on the same page, so if you're with someone and it all feels right, don't worry.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--|-----|-----|-----------|
|--|-----|-----|-----------|

CHINA

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------------------|
| Beijing | 16 | 29 | clear |
| Harbin | 6 | 17 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | 18 | 30 | clear |
| Urumqi | 17 | 27 | clear/cloudy |
| Xi'an | 17 | 29 | clear |
| Lhasa | 9 | 22 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 17 | 28 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 22 | 31 | cloudy/clear |
| Kunming | 17 | 25 | cloudy |
| Nanjing | 19 | 28 | cloudy/clear |
| Shanghai | 23 | 29 | drizzle/cloudy |
| Wuhan | 20 | 30 | clear |
| Hangzhou | 22 | 27 | drizzle/overcast |
| Taipei | 27 | 35 | clear |
| Guangzhou | 26 | 35 | cloudy/clear |
| Hong Kong | 27 | 32 | cloudy |

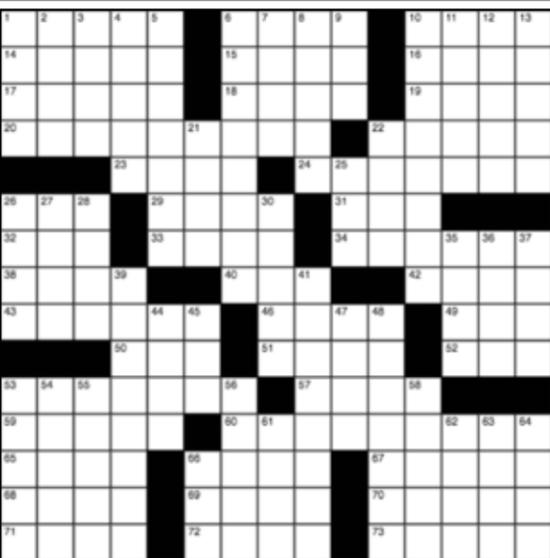
WORLD

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----------------|
| Moscow | 16 | 29 | drizzle/clear |
| Frankfurt | 12 | 17 | drizzle |
| Paris | 12 | 17 | drizzle |
| London | 11 | 16 | drizzle/cloudy |
| New York | 12 | 24 | clear/overcast |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Jane Goodall subject; 6- Ear-related; 10- Skater Lipinski; 14- Where Hercules slew the lion; 15- Lama land; 16- Pennsylvania port; 17- "John Brown's Body" poet; 18- Dies ___; 19- Swedish soprano Jenny; 20- Tightly united; 22- Pee Wee of the Dodgers; 23- K-12, in the ed biz; 24- Goes by; 26- Recipe abbr.; 29- Neighbor of Cambodia; 31- Give ___ rest; 32- Siouan speaker; 33- Diarist Frank; 34- Woman's shoe style; 38- Ohio nine; 40- Sun. delivery; 42- Jumps on one leg; 43- In and of ___; 46- Hindu discipline; 49- John ___ Passos; 50- Not for a Scot; 51- Controversial orchard spray; 52- Concorde, e.g.; 53- Blighted; 57- Capital city of Peru; 59- Fasten again; 60- Adam Smith or Alan Greenspan; 65- Captain of the Pequod; 66- Tel ___; 67- Big name in copiers; 68- Void's partner; 69- ___ dancing is popular with cowboys; 70- Actress Verdugo; 71- Roy's "singin' partner"; 72- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 73- Discourage;

DOWN: 1- "Power Lunch" network; 2- Back part of the foot; 3- ___ expert, but...; 4- 1980s attorney general; 5- Kneecap; 6- Estimations; 7- Hatcher of "Lois and Clark"; 8- Angry; 9- Billiards rod; 10- Mind reader; 11- Spring sign; 12- Washer cycle; 13- Yellow-fever mosquito; 21- Asian prince; 22- Phoeey!; 25- Three sheets to the wind; 26- Amos or Spelling; 27- Keep it, to an editor; 28- Seed containers; 30- Later, dudet!; 35- Staffs; 36- Mil. addresses; 37- Over here!; 39- Aware; 41- Reinvestment of funds; 44- Behind schedule; 45- Charge; 47- Profit; 48- Like a Humvee in Baghdad?; 53- Stigma; 54- Tree with red flowers; 55- In the least; 56- Satan; 58- Miss by ___; 61- Movie theater; 62- "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 63- Unit of loudness; 64- ___ she blows!; 66- Clay today;



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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News At Hand



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TENNIS

Anderson falls short at US Open in first Grand Slam final

Brian Mahoney

KEVIN Anderson walked outside to greet his South African supporters, some having already climbed to the top of their sport.

There were golfers Charl Schwartzel and Louis Oosthuizen, who have won major championships. And Johan Kriek, the last South African to win a Grand Slam tennis title who traveled two days in hopes of seeing another.

Anderson will have to hope for a second chance to join their club.

His first appearance in a Grand Slam final ended yesterday [Macau time] with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 loss to Rafael Nadal, who handled the big serve and forehands that were the catalysts of the No. 28 seed's surprising run.

"I definitely felt I was playing good enough tennis to give myself a chance tonight," Anderson said. "It didn't work out that way, up against a very tough opponent."

Anderson managed just 10 aces — about half what he averaged in his previous six matches — and was in trouble in many service games starting early in the match. Once Nadal locked in on the 6-foot-8 Anderson's serve, it was



clear Anderson would have to get into Nadal's, but he never even got a break point.

"It was definitely difficult," Anderson said, "and I think he had a pretty good read on my serve, and he was getting my serve games and he was holding quite comfortably."

But his success this summer, including another finals appearance

in Washington, has the 31-year-old Anderson's career headed back in the right direction.

His ranking had tumbled to No. 80 in January, its lowest in 6 1/2 years, during a difficult start to his year that included a hip injury that forced him to miss the Australian Open. Anderson was hurt again in June, forced to retire from his fourth-round match at the French

Open against Marin Cilic with another leg injury that slowed his Wimbledon preparation.

But after coming into New York at No. 32 — he would have been the lowest-ranked U.S. Open champion — Anderson will be back to the top 15 after his performance in Flushing Meadows. He's eyeing a return to the top 10, where he was in October 2015.

"It's great to sit back at the end of the week and see the jump that I have made and the spots I have been able to climb, something I can be very proud of," he said.

Kriek, like Anderson, now lives in Florida, and worked hard to get from Palm Beach to New York in hopes of seeing another South African title, driving out of the state Saturday morning — along with thousands of people evacuating ahead of Hurricane Irma — and eventually all the way to Nashville to hop a flight. Kriek blew a two-set lead and to lost to Bjorn Borg in the 1980 U.S. semifinals, then captured the Australian Open the next year, so he believes Anderson can also bounce back — especially the way 30-somethings are dominating men's tennis.

"I think this is a learning experience for Kevin," Kriek said. "I think he's been out there for a long time, but tennis has changed dramatically. [...] You can play well into your 30s."

Anderson and Nadal played as 12-year-olds, but their careers went in different directions. Anderson went to college, winning an NCAA doubles title at Illinois, so it's taken him a while to catch up.

But he's seen the way that South Africans love their sports champions and he won't give up hopes of being one.

"So I'd love to build on these two weeks," Anderson said. "Obviously it was very difficult, but I was able to find my way all the way in the finals. I'd love to, I mean, work very hard to hopefully give myself another opportunity." AP

CRYSTAL Palace fired manager Frank de Boer yesterday after the team opened the Premier League season with four straight losses.

Palace announced the end of De Boer's 77-day stint in charge in a short statement, without announcing a replacement. British media reported that former England coach Roy Hodgson, who is 70, was in line to take over.

In terms of games played, De Boer's tenure is the shortest of any permanent manager in Premier League history.

De Boer, a former Netherlands center back, took over at Palace in June as a replacement for Sam Allardyce and tried to implement a more expansive style of play.

His players have struggled to adapt. Palace is the first team since 1924 to lose its first four English top-flight games without scoring, the latest defeat coming

FOOTBALL

Crystal Palace fires De Boer after four Premier League losses



Frank de Boer

at Burnley over the weekend.

De Boer only lasted 84 days in his previous job at Inter Milan. Before that, he won four straight Dutch league titles at Ajax.

"We would like to

thank Frank for his dedication and hard work during his time at the club," Palace said in its statement.

On Sunday, Palace chairman Steve Parish had called for "some sense" amid a string of

posts on Twitter.

"We are 4 games in," he tweeted, "it's a terri-

ble start but we have to stick together."

De Boer arrived on

a three-year deal and with ambitions of making the team entertaining to watch and integrating more youth-team players. He said his primary objective was to turn a team that regularly battles relegation into a stable Premier League force.

CHINESE SUPER LEAGUE

Poyet quits as Shenhua head coach

FORMER Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Gus Poyet has quit as head coach of struggling Chinese Super League team Shanghai Shenhua after the club's fourth consecutive loss.

Poyet stepped down after the loss at home on Sunday to Henan Jianye left the ambitious club languishing seven points above the relegation zone with seven games of the season remaining.

"The club has agreed to accept Mr. Poyet's resignation," Shanghai Shenhua said in a statement which thanked the 49-year-old Uruguayan and wished him well. Former head coach and current technical director Wu Jingui will take over as interim boss until the end of the season.

Shanghai placed fourth in 2016 and

hopes were high for the 2017 campaign after the appointment in November of Poyet, who has coached in the English Premier League and Spain's La Liga.

The following month, Shanghai signed Argentine star Carlos Tevez, whose reported weekly salary of around USD800,000 made him the highest-paid player in the world at the time.

Yet in China, Tevez has struggled to reach the standards he set for previous clubs Manchester United, City and Juventus.

An early defeat in qualification for the Asian Champions League in February started Poyet's tenure on a negative note and just three wins in the last 18 league games had fans calling for changes.

opinion

Our Desk
Lynzy Valles



ON AL ELECTIONS, WHO IS WHO?

Political groups have been taking it up a gear in their current election campaigns, as it is just four days shy of the city's Legislative Assembly (AL) elections.

The official campaign period kicked off last Saturday and when the clock struck 12, candidates and their supporters chanted in Tap Seac Square, with some lists stealing the limelight with the number of supporters they gathered at the square.

However, embarrassingly, some supporters were not fully familiar with the members of the lists they were campaigning for, and were merely present to wear a designated shirt color without knowing much about their list's policies.

Some supporters, when interviewed by public broadcaster TDM, did not know the reasons behind why they chose to support certain candidates, and some were unfamiliar with candidates' full names.

It just goes to show that a significant number of residents are still suffering from political unawareness - despite their presence in multiple campaign events.

To be able to participate in these kinds of political events provides residents with a sense of dignity, value and responsibility - supposedly, very good feelings.

Presumably it would feel like you are a part of a 'change' that was happening in the city.

Yet it is still a shame that many who were there during the official kick-off of the campaign period were clueless about whom they were supporting - or even what was happening.

A resident even referred to a member of their chosen list as "Kei something..." when asked who he was supporting.

Thus, who knows whether these groups of voters are politically aware and relate to the principles that the party lists present.

In this case, some are depriving themselves of the right to be immersed in the city's governance to a certain degree.

For sure, there are still several thousands of informed citizens who have the intention of taking part in the improvement of the infamous issues of the city: housing and transport schemes, and of course the wealth partaking scheme.

But what I have also noticed is that one must take part in different associations to be fully informed and persuaded by the groups' leaders who are legislators.

On another note, candidates have been touring around town distributing pamphlets and freebies, holding their own sessions to discuss their political stances in public places.

However, residents, particularly those who are not involved in any political associations, could be quite passive, as they are likely to be uninformed and politically apathetic.

When having conversations among those I know who are English-speaking registered voters, they seem to always have only one - and in fact, the same - candidate in mind.

When asked why, their reasons always include the fact that the candidate is the only English-speaking lawmaker they know of, without being too concerned with the candidates' political leanings, and instead being more influenced by the candidates' previous works.

The official data shows that a total of 25,138 new voters are registered to cast their ballots for the first time, thus increasing this year's number of registered voters to 308,020.

With the election just four days away, candidates are doing all they can to promote themselves, while the electoral committee is also doing all they can to uphold their heavily criticized laws.

After all, even before the elections started, political analysts and residents interested in politics felt they already knew who would win the seats for the next four years. Till then, we'll have to imagine that this election is unpredictable.

THE POPE BLASTS CLIMATE SKEPTICS, BUZZ CITES 'MORAL' DUTY TO ACT

Pope Francis has sharply criticized climate change skeptics, saying history will judge those who failed to take the necessary decisions to curb heat-trapping emissions blamed for the warming of the Earth.

Francis was asked about climate change and the spate of hurricanes that have pummeled the U.S., Mexico and the Caribbean recently as his charter plane left Colombia and flew over some

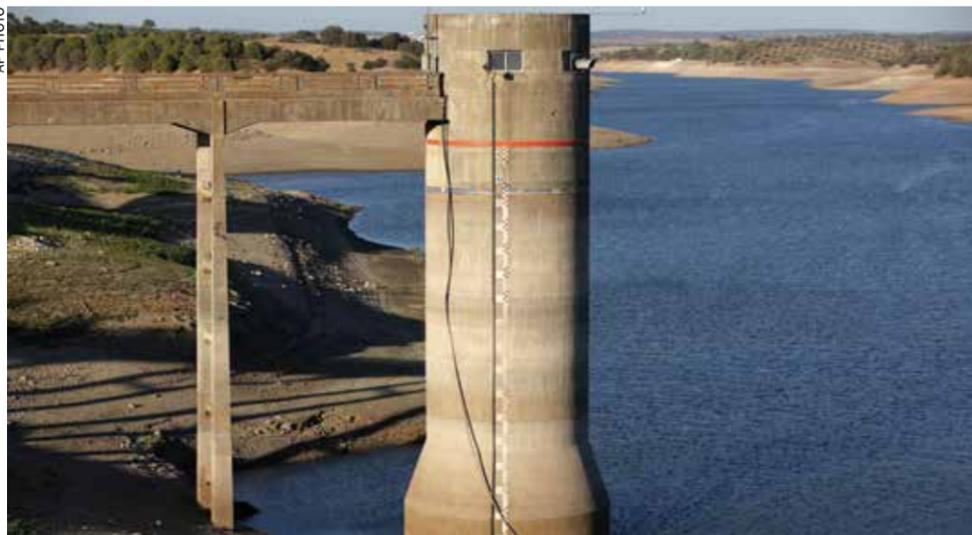
of the devastated areas.

He said: "Those who deny this must go to the scientists and ask them. They speak very clearly" - referring to experts who blame global warming on man-made activities.

Francis said scientists have clearly charted what needed to be done to reverse course on global warming and said individuals and politicians had a "moral responsibility" to do their part.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Portugal faces dire drought, the worst in more than 20 years



A tower stands nearly completely out of the water of the dam of the Vale do Gaio reservoir, southern Portugal

Barry Hatton, Santa Susana

PORTUGAL'S Pego do Altar reservoir looks like disused quarry now, its bare, exposed slopes rising up steeply on each side and shimmering in the sun as it holds barely 11 percent of the water it was designed for.

The huge lake where people used to swim, boat and fish has shrunk to a slither of water, surrounded by baked, cracked earth and a handful of white fish carcasses. It is a desolate and disturbing sight - and one that has become increasingly common in southern Portugal.

While parts of the United States and the Caribbean are drowning in water amid ferocious hurricanes, a drought is tightening its grip on wide areas of Portugal. More than 80 percent of the country is officially classified as enduring "severe" or "extreme" drought - conditions among the country's worst in more than 20 years.

Water has sporadically been scarce in this part of southern Europe for centuries. But Portuguese Environment Secretary Carlos Martins tells The Associated Press that "it has gotten worse with climate change."

The prolonged dry spell is most acute in the Alentejo region, south and east of Lisbon, the capital. Here, the essential river is the Sado, Portugal's seventh-largest. As its flow has dwindled, so the reservoirs in the river basin, such as Pego do Altar,

are drying up. In some places now, the Sado is a thin, knee-deep flow.

The receding water at Pego do Altar has exposed a small, 18th-century stone bridge which was last seen in 1999. Locals have been coming to take photos of themselves next to it.

The dead fish in Pego do Altar's dried mud are the canary in the mine for authorities. Large numbers of fish dying due to depleted oxygen levels would contaminate the area's public drinking water, so a program to scoop out the doomed fish from four Sado basin reservoirs is now underway. It's a race against the clock.

"It's a preventive measure," says Carlos Silva, a spokesman for EDIA, a state company that helps manage the Alentejo's water supply. "It would be a catastrophe if the fish started dying off" in large quantities.

As gray herons watch from the bank and birds of prey glide silently by, fishermen Tomaz Silva, 25, and Miguel Farias, 29, nudge their boat toward silver nets buoyed by empty plastic water bottles that they had strung across the reservoir the previous day. Chatting in a strong Alentejo accent, they throw the fish into a box where they flap around. Some weigh 5 or 6 kilograms and are as long as an adult's arm. Many, however, are skinny due to the fierce competition for diminishing food.

With the water level so low,

it's a bit like shooting fish in a barrel.

Silva and Farias catch on average between 1 and 1.5 metric tons a day. Their haul is taken away to be turned into fishmeal. Over about six weeks, officials expect to harvest more than 100 metric tons from the four Sado reservoirs.

Martins, the environment secretary, said a government drought monitoring committee is working to reconcile the conflicting demands placed on the region's scarce water resources. Making sure there's enough water for drinking faucets is the top priority, he says.

That could end up bringing a ban on the irrigation of farmland, which uses up 80 percent of the region's available water. Farmers are fretting over their parched pasture land and wilting cereal crops. Cattle breeders are demanding drinking water for their livestock. And energy companies want water to flow to keep up their hydroelectric production at dams.

The Alentejo is a famously pretty part of Portugal, with groves of olive trees, stone pines and cork oaks - native varieties resilient enough to survive its weather extremes. But it's also one of the European Union's poorest regions - sparsely populated, covering 34 percent of the country but containing only 7 percent of its population. Almost half of its residents are more than 65 years old. **AP**

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Roadside | 20-40 Good |
| High Density Residential Area | 20-40 Good |
| Ambient | 20-40 Good |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

SYRIA Saudi Arabia has assured Russia that it supports a gradual process of negotiating local cease-fires and setting up "de-escalation zones" in Syria, Russia's foreign minister said yesterday, a day after meeting with Saudi leaders.

EGYPT Islamic State militants ambushed a police convoy in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula yesterday, killing 18 police and wounding seven others in one of the deadliest attacks this year in the restive region bordering Israel and the Gaza Strip.



TURKEY A media advocacy group yesterday accused Turkey's president of trying to silence the country's main opposition newspaper and the free press generally, as the second hearing in the trial of staff members of the paper began yesterday.

POLAND The government is abandoning a plan to illustrate Polish passports with images of landmarks that are today within the borders of Ukraine and Lithuania. The plan had angered both of the neighboring countries, with the Ukrainian government calling it an "unfriendly step."

BRITAIN The U.K. government defended its response to Hurricane Irma yesterday, amid claims it has been slow to help British overseas territories devastated by the storm.

More on p15



VENEZUELA-ALGERIA President Nicolas Maduro is visiting Algeria to talk about the oil market and boosting relations, as his country faces international pressure and political crisis.

BRAZIL Police are searching the homes of former and current executives of the world's largest meatpacker whose plea bargain testimony has implicated the president in corruption.