



IACM TO BE ABOLISHED

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau will be replaced by a non-political municipal organization

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SUSPECTS VISIT CRIME SCENE

Kim Jong Nam's murder trial moved from the courtroom to the Malaysian airport for a three-hour inspection tour

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA A security consultancy says at least 5,600 people from 33 countries have returned home after spending time in territory controlled by militant groups in Syria and Iraq. The Soufan Group said in a report released yesterday that the potential return of unknown numbers of foreign fighters represents a huge challenge for law enforcement agencies.

PHILIPPINES The Islamic State group sent at least USD1.5 million to finance the recently ended siege of the southern Philippine city of Marawi, with the assault leaders using the 2014 IS seizure of the Iraqi city of Mosul as a blueprint, the Philippine military chief said. *More on p13*

PAPUA NEW GUINEA More than 600 asylum seekers are refusing to leave an immigration camp on Papua New Guinea that Australia wants to close next week, Australian officials said.



INDONESIA's parliament yesterday endorsed a presidential decree that gives officials sweeping powers to ban organizations deemed as threats to national unity. The decree has already been used to ban Hizbut Tahrir, an Islamic organization that advocates for a global caliphate. It required parliamentary approval to become permanent law.

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MACAU GP

Seven manufacturers line-up for GT race

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HONG KONG

Activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law freed on bail pending appeal

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Julie Zhu

CRIME

MANY drug trafficking crimes have taken place recently, the authorities announced this week.

During a press conference, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said that Macau and Guangdong anti-drugs joint operations resulted in the arrest of 43 people in total, with six of them arrested in Macau.

For the past six months, Macau and Guangdong police authorities have been investigating a criminal group based in Zhuhai. The group reportedly sells drugs to customers in Zhuhai and Macau.

On October 21, the mainland police force informed the Macau police authority that one of the core members of the group, surnamed Su, had travelled to Macau. With the information provided by the Guangdong police, Macau authorities followed Su, catching him just as he was selling drugs to a mainland customer.

At the same time, the police arrested another mainland resident who was responsible for transferring money to the mainland on Su's behalf.

On the same day, the Zhuhai police also arrested eight drug dealers in the city, aged between 21 and 30 years of age.

According to the PJ, the chance that more people connected to the drug trafficking incident will be arrested has not been excluded.

43 drug dealers arrested in joint regional operations

■ **Authorities have been investigating a Zhuhai-based criminal group selling drugs in Macau**

In another independent case, a Hong Kong resident was arrested for drug consumption. The man was arrested after being seen climbing the exterior of a 30-story tall building

On October 21, a woman, who lives in an apartment located in the vicinity of Areia Preta, reported to the police that she had seen a man sneaking into her building illegally.

The police then went to the building for inspection. While there, many of the buildings' residents told the police that they had witnessed an unknown man climbing up the

PHOTO ARCHIVE



windows of the building.

The police later found the man on a platform located on the building's second floor, while he was still affected by the drugs he had taken.

The man was also found to have been a frequent drug user. The police went to the man's apartment, where they found some drugs as well as equipment associated with the consumption drugs.

ANOTHER PHONE SCAM ADDED TO THE RECORD

A LOCAL woman fell victim to a phone scam and lost RMB30,000, according to the PSP. According to the police, the victim received a call from an unknown man, in September, who claimed to be the victim's previous co-worker. He told the victim that he had been arrested in the mainland, and needed RMB10,000 for

bail. The victim then transferred RMB10,000 to a mainland bank account upon the criminal's request. The following day, the criminal asked the victim to transfer a further RMB20,000 to the same account, which she did. Upon realizing that she was a victim of a phone scam, the woman reported the incident to the police.

LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Isolda Brasil*

THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE NEW NON-MANDATORY CENTRAL PENSION SCHEME: A TOOL TO RETAIN LOCAL TALENT?

Aiming to complement the existing social security regime and to offer more protection to the elderly in the MSAR, Law 7/2017 on the Non-Mandatory Central Pension Scheme was approved in June, but will only come into effect on January 1, 2018.

Though the ground rules of the new regime are laid down in the new regulation, Law 7/2017 is supposed to be further regulated by other complementary diplomas, which are still yet to come. Regardless, even without the particulars that the complementary diplomas are supposed to add, it seems clear that this new regime offers Macau's residents a way to plan their retirement and to look into old age with more confidence.

The first aspect of the terms that stands out in this new law is the fact that it only applies to permanent residents of Macau (regardless of the type of employment con-

tract they have) who are older than 18 years or permanent residents who are not older than 18 years, but are already registered for the Social Security Fund. Non-permanent Macau residents and blue card holders are, therefore, excluded from this new regime.

Another important aspect of this new regime is the fact that it is not mandatory, so individuals and employers only adhere to it if they choose to. This allows for contributions to be made on an individual or joint basis, which means that if the employer decides not to join the employees, who qualify for the conditions, they can still do it on their own. Also, if the employer constitutes a joint contribution plan, the employees are free to join it.

The good news for employers who already have private pension schemes in place is that the new joint pension plans can be articulated with private pension funds. This means that an employer who previous-

sly constituted a private pension fund can constitute a joint pension fund and maintain both in force simultaneously or cancel the private pension fund without prejudice to its employees.

When it comes to the value of the contributions, the law establishes that contributions will be 5 percent of the employee's base salary (5 percent deducted from the employee and 5 percent deducted from the employer). However, if after the deduction of the contribution the employee's salary is less than MOP 6,240, the employee (but not the employer) is exempted from making its contribution. If the base salary of the employee is more than MOP31,200, both employer and employee are not required to contribute more than MOP1,560 per month each. Regardless, the employer and the employee can agree on a higher contribution rate or contribute above the MOP31,200 threshold set in the law.

One aspect that stands out in the new regime, though frequently seen in private pension fund policies, is that contributions made by the employers to joint pension funds only revert to the employees upon termination of the work relationship if the employees stay with the company for more than three years. In fact, the reversion rates of the contributions made by the employers increase in accordance with the seniority of the employee, which means that workers who stay longer with a company get higher benefits upon leaving their jobs.

So, in practical terms, the implementation of these plans might be the right tool to help Macau's employers with the retention of local talent, as employees might feel compelled to stay longer in their jobs in light of these benefits, which are lost if they change jobs frequently.

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

ARTS

Exhibition shows painting, calligraphy

THE exhibition “Determined Spirit – Calligraphy and Painting of Fu Shen”, which was inaugurated on Monday at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM), features 68 painting and calligraphy works by renowned academic Professor Fu Shen.

Fu Shen is a renowned art historian and connoisseur of calligraphy and painting, according to a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Born in Shanghai, the scholar graduated from the Department of Fine Arts at the Taiwan Normal University and studied his masters program under professionals such as Huang Junbi and Pu Ru.

Following his work at the Palace Museum in Taipei, he furthered his studies in the United States and obtained a PhD from Princeton University.

The artist was also an associate professor at Yale University for four years



and later on worked as the Director of the Chinese Art Department at the Freer and Sackler Galleries in Washington D.C. for 14 years.

His artistic style has been strongly influenced by his in-depth studies, his work in painting and calligraphy authentication and his private research.

The artist uses a variety of techniques in his works, such as semi-cursive and seal script, giving each technique a unique character, the statement added.

He advocates that art

should reflect the spirit of its time, and his works use not only traditional patterns but also experimental techniques to form new and different characteristics.

This exhibition features painting and calligraphy works by Fu Shen created in different periods of time throughout his life, encapsulating his acquired wisdom in the last decades through his work in art history research and the authentication of painting and calligraphy works.

The art exhibition is held until November 19.

Regulation of cultural venues stirs controversy



Some local theater troupes have its headquarters based in industrial buildings

THE Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAL)'s latest proposal suggests that theaters and cinemas should only be permitted to operate in hotels or licensed commercial places. The suggestion has been met with fierce opposition from the art sector.

Currently, Macau has numerous arts groups based in industrial buildings. However, according to the provisions of the current policy, these groups will likely have to cease operations.

The art sector has criticized

the proposed restrictions on performance venues as an act that would suffocate the industry.

DSAL held a public consultation meeting last Friday. Some participants suggested that the government can supervise theaters and cinemas by regulating the safety of these sites and the number of people accommodated in each venue.

Other participants commented that the suggestion is an unnecessary blanket option and does not apply equally to all situations.

situations.

DSAL's deputy director Carmen Maria Chung responded that the ordinance needs to have a broader scope because it is now necessary to consider regulations for small theaters. She added that industrial buildings are only for businesses in the manufacturing industry.

“Performance [...] should not be that kind of activity which should be carried out on industrial premises. The existing laws also have such regulations,” said Chung.

FSS transferred payment to 21,000 recipients

THE Social Security Fund (FSS) says that it has received more than 50,000 applications for the withdrawal of funds from provident fund individual accounts as of October 20.

From this amount, 21,474 applications were approved. These applications were submitted by three categories of people: elderly residents aged 75 or older, individuals receiving disability pension from the FSS for more than one year, and those currently receiving special disability subsidies from the Social Welfare Bureau. According to the FSS, the funds were transferred to these peoples' bank accounts yesterday, accompanied by a mail or mobile text message notification.

Elderly residents aged between 65 and 74 who have already submitted the applications in the second phase and have received approval from the FSS, will receive the funds on November 23 at the earliest.

Under the relevant law, the provident fund individual account owners eligible



RENATO MARQUES

for withdrawal of funds can withdraw funds from their individual accounts only once a year.

A statement from the FSS noted that several applications made to the provident fund were incorrectly completed or still require additional documents. In the case of these applications, the FSS will process the requests as soon as all of the required documents are provided.

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Pun Weng Kun (left) and Chong Coc Veng



GP merchandise showcase

MACAU GP

Seven manufacturers line-up for 3rd edition of GT World Cup

Renato Marques

SEVEN car manufacturing teams will race the challenging Guia Circuit in this year's edition of the Macau GT World Cup, a race included in the Macau Grand Prix.

The teams representing well-known factories such as Audi, BMW, Ferrari, Honda, Lamborghini, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche have battled to secure the best line-up of drivers for a race that aligns with the new rule of "professional-racers" only.

Consequently, the races held in Macau next month will involve a large number of famous drivers from around the world.

Marking his presence once

more is two-time Macau F3 winner Felix Rosenqvist. The Swede will be attempting to become the second driver after "Mr Macau" Edoardo Mortara to win both F3 and GT races at the 6.2km street circuit.

Rosenqvist will be making his Macau GT racing debut behind the driving wheel of the only Ferrari listed, a 488 GT3 entered by American-based team Scuderia Corsa.

In addition, Mortara, an Italian, will be pairing with another former Guia Winner, the Spaniard Daniel Juncadella, with both taking the seats of the two Mercedes-AMG GT3 from AMG Racing Academy.

The highlights are not complete without the two first cup

winner, Germany's Maro Engel and Belgium's Laurens Vanthoor, who will be driving a Porsche 911 GT3R from Hong-Kong based Craft Bamboo Racing.

This year's event also marks the start of a two-year agreement with the local importer and distributor of BMW, who will be supplying the Safety, Medical and Rescue official vehicles, informed Chong Coc Veng, Coordinator Sporting Subcommittee of the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) during yesterday's press conference, which was held to announce the event's program.

Chong also noted the strong field that will comprise the second edition of the FIA F3 Wor-

ld Cup. The field includes names such as Lando Norris, Joel Eriksson, Maximilian Gunther, and Callum Iloft, among others [see box]. "We hope this gathering of talent will give audiences a truly exciting race," said Chong. However, the entry list for the F3 race includes only 22 cars in a "depleted entry list," Autosport reported. "The field is a record low for Macau since it switched to F3 rules in 1983 - in that first year, 25 cars were hastily scrambled together, but in the 33 years since then, there have always been at least 28 entries," the specialized media outlet reported.

The program will count a total of six racing series that will include, as previously announced by the Times, the return of the World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) after two years of being away from the streets of Macau.

Adding to the list of series participants, the field will also include Hong Kong's Wong Po Wah, who will be driving a Campos Racing Chevrolet Cruze and Macau's Mak Ka Lok, driving the Lada Vesta from RC

Motorsport team.

The 51st edition of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix will begin with 2015 and 2016's champion Peter Hickman who will be trying to achieve a hat-trick (three consecutive wins) in the competition where he faces eight-time winner and last year's runner-up Michael Rutter and second-runner up Martin Jessop.

Among other front-runners returning to join the grid are Conor Cummins, Horst Saiger and Gary Johnson.

André Pires will be riding a Kawasaki ZX10R for Team Portugal and represent Portugal in this race while Macau will also continue to be represented by CF Racing Team 32 that partners with Lekka Racing Team to field the South African Allann-Jon Venter in a Yamaha R1.

As for the local races that have been announced previously their participation will be shortened and merged into one race only, instead of two.

In this way, the former Macau Touring Car Cup and Macau Road Sport Challenge will race only under the name of Macau Touring Car Cup, and will include a combination of cars from different specifications ranging between 1.6 and 2.0 turbocharged engines. This is a strange solution for including both local and regional racers, who might face some problems on track due to the great number of cars and difference in performance.

To minimize the potential problems, Chong noted that a pre-selection would be done through qualifying races, limiting the field to 25 participating cars from each category.

"Each group of 25 participating cars is divided for practice and qualifying. The fastest 18 in each group will enter the Sunday race," Chong explained.

Continuing in its own race separately is the Chinese Racing Cup, a former one-brand series that aims to bring track drivers from China, Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan together. This race has evolved as it has adopted the TCR (Touring Car Series) specifications, allowing the inclusion of several Volkswagen Golf GTI, Audi RS3 LMS and one Seat Leon, besides the Baic D50 cars.

In total, this race has listed 36 drivers, including a representative from South Korea.

Pun Weng Kun stresses more moveable barrier gates

The president of the Sports Bureau (ID) and Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) Coordinator Pun Weng Kun, said in his opening speech during yesterday's press conference, that the event will have an additional five moveable barrier gates, bringing the number of these structures to 145.

According to Pun, "these additional gates will help improve the effectiveness of opening up the track to traffic after racing ends each day."

The purpose, he added, is to ease congestion and minimize the inconvenience to Macau citizens in terms of transportation during the Grand Prix event.

Adding to the novelty, Pun also noted that this year, the MGPOC will continue to support the cultural and creative industries through the creation of a series of merchandizing for the Grand Prix.

Another of the new additions to the side programs is the announcement of the creation of a Macau GP Club program that will allow residents aged six and above to join and participate in several activities that include a contest for the creation of a Grand Prix mascot.

Questioned on the sidelines of the event, Pun also reaffirmed that this year's Grand Prix will have a "similar budget [as in the] previous edition," of about MOP200 million.

The MGPOC Coordinator also noted that a similar number of spectators to previous editions is expected; approximately 81,000, resulting in a direct income of about MOP12 million.

Questioned on the status of the ongoing repair works, namely regarding the facility that accommodates cars and teams, Pun said, "I can say that the works are almost done, I would say that they are about 98 percent [finished] and will be concluded on time."

SCHUMACHER, PIQUET TO DEBUT IN MACAU GP

MICK SCHUMACHER, aged 18, carries the obvious legacy of his family name. The son of the former seven-time formula one world champion Michael Schumacher, Mick is currently in his rookie year in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship with Prema Powerteam. The team will make its debut on the Guia Circuit racing under the Macau colors of SJM Theodore Racing by Prema

that will once more field a four-car lineup. Besides Schumacher, the team comprises the already experienced Maximilian Günther and Callum Iloft, as well as the new Chinese talent Zhou Guan Yu. On the list is also a member of another famous family name, Piquet. Pedro Piquet is a Brazilian racing driver and the youngest son of three-time Formula One world champion Nelson Piquet.



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IACM to be replaced by municipal body

Julie Zhu

THE government announced yesterday during a press conference that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) will be abolished once the city establishes the new non-political municipal organization, which will be named the Municipal Institution.

Although the idea of establishing a municipal body without political power is not new, it has regained prominence since its inclusion in a proposal subject to public consultation, which starts today and goes on until November 23.

According to the proposal, the future Municipal Institution will basically succeed the functions which IACM currently performs. Only a few of IACM's current functions will be articulated and restructured through

the general functions of the Macau government, while being optimized with other functions of different competent services.

“The consultation text has already been accessed by the central government.”

IAO MAN LENG
SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION
AND JUSTICE

Most of IACM's present employees will be transferred to the new institution, and the rest will be transferred to other related governmental departments.

According to the information

released yesterday, the government ensures that the interests of IACM's employees will not be harmed because of the abolishment of IACM.

Within its functions, the Municipal Institution will provide consultations to the government. However, the proposal indicates that it does not have the nature of a secondary local government, nor is it a local autonomous organization or an institution formed through elections.

The Municipal Institution will be commissioned by the government to exercise selected public powers.

It is suggested to be an autonomous body with the nature of a legal person governed by public law. Its autonomy only means that its internal management and operation are different from other administrative services, although it will not appear to

ffer publicly.

Chief of Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice Iao Man Leng said “the consultation text has already been accessed by the central government, who will establish the municipal organization based strictly on the Basic Law.”

The consultation has suggested that the Municipal Institution should establish two internal councils; namely, the Municipal Administration Council and the Municipal Consultation Council.

The first council will consist of eight members, including one chairman and one vice-chairman, and all members shall be nominated by the Chief Executive (CE).

The second council should comprise less than 25 members, who are also suggested to be nominated by the CE.

Each term lasts five years, and reelection can only occur once.

The two councils are further suggested to elect the members of the CE election committee.

According to Iao, the Municipal Institution will provide services to the residents regarding culture, environmental hygiene and recreation. It will also engage in actions to promote the construction of a harmonized community and the formation of answers to the needs associated with the public's livelihood.

Regarding the non-political aspect and also the reasons why this institution cannot be formed with publically elected representatives, the director of the Administration and Civil Services Bureau, Kou Peng Kuan, said that the Basic Law didn't allow that option. However, when Macau was under the Portuguese administration, the municipal bureau (“Leal Senado”) was a political body.

According to Kou, the function of the IACM as a government body ended after Macau's handover to China, therefore the establishing of non-political organizations is in accordance with the Basic Law.

Chan Iek Lap opposes open committee meetings

Indirectly elected lawmaker Chan Iek Lap said that it is unnecessary to provide live streaming of Legislative Assembly (AL) standing committee meetings. Chan shared his opinion while he was attending a TDM radio show yesterday. Chan claimed to have found out that a few lawmakers acted differently in committee meetings and AL plenary meetings, and that these same lawmakers were objective and cautious in committee meetings, but they showed different opinions during plenary meetings. Chan believes that rationality is more helpful to legal discussions. He also thinks that having the committee's chairman explaining the meeting's details to the media is sufficient.

New bureau framework expected in November

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, hopes that the legal framework regarding the soon to be established Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau will be completed in November. Upon completion, the security force will apply to the Chief Executive in order to initiate the legal procedures necessary for the new bureau's establishment. The budget regarding this last step has not been included in the next year's budget of the security force. “About the budget, [we] try [our] best to do the most with the least money possible,” said Wong, adding that the government hopes to use the security force's current employees in the future bureau.

Estate shows more signs of deterioration

The five-year-old affordable housing estate Edifício do Lago has recorded ceiling cracks. These most recent cracks follow several other signs of disrepair, such as floor cracks, that have been reported in previous years, according to a report by Macao Daily News. This time, the cracks were seen last month on the parking lots' ceilings. Residents now hope that the government can dispatch a professional inspection to the buildings in order to put an end to the residents' doubts regarding safety issues stemming from the cracks. Edifício do Lago welcomed its first batch of residents in 2012, and, ever since then, issues concerning the building's quality have been present; they have included falling wall tiles and floor cracks in the parking lots.

Number of overnight tourists increasing

AROUND 2.48 million tourists visited Macau in September, up by 2.4 percent year-on-year but down by 13.3 percent month-to-month.

According to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), overnight visitors in September (1,382,026) increased by 5.4 percent year-on-year, while same-day visitors (1,104,357) decreased by 1 percent. The average length of visitors' stays (1.3 days) held steady year-on-year, with that of overnight visitors and same-

day visitors remaining unchanged at 2.2 days and 0.2 days, respectively.

Also in September, visitors from mainland China increased by 9.2 percent year-on-year to 1,721,858. The number of visitors travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme rose by 3.8 percent to 714,960. Mainland visitors came mainly from Guangdong Province (642,184), Hunan Province (85,110) and Fujian Province (72,723). Visitors from the Republic of Korea (60,940) recorded a 10.6

percent growth, while those from Hong Kong (451,307) and Taiwan (86,183) went down by 14.3 percent and 5.8 percent, respectively. Long-haul visitors from the United States (12,269), Australia (7,186), Canada (5,044) and the United Kingdom (4,077) registered decreases.

For the first nine months of 2017, visitor arrivals totaled around 23.83 million, up by 4.2 percent year-on-year. The number of overnight visitors (12,636,728) rose by 10.8 percent while same-day visitors



(11,198,311) dropped by 2.3 percent. Visitors from mainland China (16,087,866) and the Republic of Korea (644,109) registered year-on-year increases

of 6.3 percent and 34.9 percent, respectively; those from Hong Kong (4,655,990) and Taiwan (802,238) decreased by 2.9 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively.

SETBACK AT TOP COURT

Facebook risks EU-wide privacy fights

Stephanie Bodoni

FACEBOOK Inc. could be in the firing line of data privacy regulators across the European Union if the bloc's top court follows the opinion of an adviser who said the social media giant may be policed by authorities in the country where users are based.

Yves Bot, an advocate general of the EU Court of Justice, said yesterday that national watchdogs spread across the 28-nation bloc could in some cases have power to take direct action against Facebook when they suspect illegal data processing has taken place - even though its EU base is in Ireland.

The case, which concerns a German dispute over a "fan page" set up on Facebook by a local user, could end up having wide effects and refute the U.S. company's long-held view that the Irish privacy regulator is the only watchdog with a say over its data processing in Europe.

The German case is one of many



clashes between the Menlo Park, California-based and national authorities. Belgium's privacy regulator told a court this month that the company was engaged in "unprecedented in monitoring the browsing habits" of millions of people.

Facebook said in a statement that "we respectfully disagree with the Advocate General and await the European Court's decision."

The Luxembourg-based court's ruling, which usually comes 4 to 6 months after an opinion, would

be binding and become law across the EU.

A new EU privacy law that will take effect in May 2018 will give national regulators the power to fine companies as much as 4 percent of their global annual sales for violations. It will also put some regulators in charge of companies having a base in their territory.

The Advocate General in his opinion yesterday said the court should disregard this law change as far as the case at issue was concerned, given that the changes aren't yet in force. **Bloomberg**



Caterpillar profit surges on equipment demand

Caterpillar Inc.'s third-quarter profit surged on demand for construction equipment, topping Wall Street expectations.

The Peoria, Illinois-based company boosted its guidance, citing strong oil and gas markets in North America along with construction in China. Shares surged in premarket trading, jumping USD8.79, or 6.6 percent, to \$140.32.

Profit nearly quadrupled to \$1.06 billion, or \$1.77 per share. Earnings, adjusted for restructuring costs, came to \$1.95 per share. The average estimate of eight analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for earnings of \$1.22 per share.

Revenue surged 25 percent to

\$11.41 billion while six analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$10.61 billion.

Construction equipment revenue rose 37 percent to \$4.85 billion, followed by energy and transportation equipment rising 12 percent to \$3.96 billion. Those segments were the key revenue drivers during the quarter.

Caterpillar now expects full-year adjusted earnings to be \$6.25 per share, up from a previous estimate of \$5 per share. It expects revenue of \$44 billion.

Caterpillar shares have risen 42 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has risen 15 percent. The stock has climbed 53 percent in the last 12 months. **AP**

AD



BBAM
澳門英國商會
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Business Luncheon
Thursday 9th November
Guest Speaker: **Christopher Law, Architect**
Founder and Director of The Oval Partnership

"From Heritage to Narratives to Sustainable Urban Future"

Christopher Law is Director and Founder of the Oval Partnership in Hong Kong and London.

Christopher Law's design projects have received awards from institutions around the world including the Royal Academy of Arts, the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and the American Institute of Architects

Venue Oasis Private Room, 2/F
Galaxy Macau, Cotai
12.30: Drinks
1 pm: Lunch
1.45 pm: Presentation by Christopher Law
2.30 pm: Close

BBAM Members – MOP/HKD 380 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 580
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ANGOLA

Banking sector grows by 16pct in 2016, Deloitte says

THE value of total assets of banks operating in Angola increased by 16 percent to 8.70 trillion kwanzas in 2016, compared to 2015, according to a study on the Angolan banking sector presented last week in Luanda by consulting firm Deloitte.

The study entitled "Banking under analysis, new era, new ways" said that the state-owned Banco de Poupança e Crédito continued to lead the list with total assets of 1.69 trillion kwanzas.

The value of the assets of five banks – Poupança e Crédito (BPC), Angolano de Investimentos (BAI), de Fomento Angola (BFA), BIC and Millennium Atlântico – grew by 23 percent compared to 2015, and in 2016 accounting for around 73 percent of the sector's total assets.

The study of the 25 banks operating in Angola in 2016 also reported that net income amounted to 174 billion kwanzas, an increase of around 55 percent over 2015.

The study reported that the weight of deposits in Angolan currency maintained the growth trend, to the detriment of foreign currency, now



A bank branch in Malanje, Angola

accounting for 67 percent of total deposits.

The total value of customer deposits in the national banking sector reached 7.04 trillion kwanzas in that year, representing growth of 16 percent over 2015, including the effect of the appreciation of deposits in foreign currency at the official exchange rate.

In relation to net lending to cus-

tomers, there was also an increase compared to 2015, which amounted to 3.06 trillion kwanzas, or growth of 12 percent over 2015.

Budget Secretary Aia-Eza da Silva said during the presentation of the study that the assets of commercial banks operating in Angola in 2016 were the equivalent of around 63 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Deck of Maputo-Catembe bridge laid earlier than expected

THE last section of deck of the bridge between Maputo and Catembe will be laid today, ahead of schedule by about three weeks, reported. The assembly of the 57 metal modules on the bridge's main deck took just 22 days, compared to an initial forecast was 45 days.

The deck, which will cover a 600-metre suspension span, is estimated to weigh more than 7,000 tones. Each module is 12 meters wide, 26 meters long and 3 meters thick.

The deck links the towers built over the bay, in Maputo and Catembe, which are 135 and 137 meters tall, respectively.

The metal cables that support the modules weigh about 2,000 tones each, and are over 1 kilometer long.

The company responsible for the work has given assurances that nothing will compromise the completion of the works in December, as scheduled in the initial phase of the project.

The bridge will be 3 kilometers long and its two access viaducts will be 2.3 kilometers long.

Construction of the bridge, by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CBRC), will cost USD725 million and was funded by the Export Import Bank of China (ExIm). **MDT/Macauhub**

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HONG KONG

Activist Joshua Wong freed on bail pending appeal

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG Kong's highest court freed pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law on bail yesterday pending an appeal of their prison sentences after they were convicted of sparking massive protests in 2014.

The pair were imprisoned after the justice secretary succeeded in getting an earlier, more lenient sentence overturned, raising concerns about political interference in the courts and dealing a setback to the movement for full democracy in the Chinese-controlled city.

The decision to release Wong, Hong Kong's most famous activist, and Law, a disqualified lawmaker, coincidentally came the same day China's Communist Party was ending a twice-a-decade congress in Beijing that expanded President Xi Jinping's power.

Though the events were unrelated, they highlighted the widening rift between mainland China and semiautonomous Hong Kong.

Wong, 21, and Law, 24, told reporters outside the Court of Final Appeal that they were granted bail until their appeals are heard on Nov. 7.

They said they were looking forward to having meals with their families after what Law said were some "uncomfortable times" during their two months in prison.

Even though they've been bai-



Pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong (center left) and Nathan Law (center right) walk out of the Court of Final Appeal Hong Kong, yesterday

led, they said that it was unclear if their appeals will be successful and that they're prepared to go back to prison.

"There will be more occasions in the future when our group of young people will go to prison, but we will persist in keeping the faith and working together to fight for democracy," said Wong, who is also awaiting sentencing for a separate contempt case.

"The government can lock up our bodies but cannot lock up our minds," said Wong, who was sporting a prison-issued buzz cut. He added that their time in prison was a chance for them to strengthen their determination.

"The world is watching the result of the case," and what it means for rule of law and the "one country, two systems" principle that guarantees Hong Kong wide autonomy and civil liberties unseen in mainland China, Law said.

Broadcaster RTHK reported that Judge Geoffrey Ma required each to post HKD50,000 (USD6,400) for bail, surrender their travel documents and report to police once a week.

Wong and Law were originally given community service sentences that let them avoid prison after convictions for involvement in an unlawful assembly that

kicked off the "Umbrella Movement" protests.

Hong Kong's justice secretary, however, requested that the courts review those punishments. In August, Wong was given six months in prison and Law received eight months. The move sparked fears that authorities were undermining the city's independent judiciary.

Wong gained fame, including a starring role in a Netflix documentary, because he was still a teen when he helped spearhead the 2014 protests against Beijing's decision to restrict elections that brought major Hong Kong thoroughfares to a stand-

till for 79 days.

Law, also a former protest leader, was elected to the legislature last year, becoming the city's youngest-ever lawmaker, but was disqualified from office after a government legal challenge.

Wong had expressed a desire to run for office, but the prison sentence prevents him from doing so for five years.

A third student leader, Alex Chow, didn't request bail in the same case.

Also Tuesday, Sweden's Foreign Ministry said it was informed by Chinese authorities that a China-born Hong Kong bookseller with Swedish citizenship was released from Chinese detention, though his daughter disputed the news.

Ministry spokesman Patric Nilsson said the information about Gui Minhai came "overnight," but he declined to give further details.

Gui disappeared from his Thai holiday home in late 2015, one of five Hong Kong booksellers believed to have been abducted and spirited to mainland China for selling gossipy titles about elite Chinese politics to Chinese readers.

His daughter Angela Gui said in a statement that her father was supposed to have been released Oct. 17 after serving a two-year sentence for an alleged traffic offense dating from 2003.

However, she said her father's whereabouts were still unknown, adding that on Monday she "received a strange phone call from someone claiming to be my father" saying he intended to apply for a Swedish passport but first wanted to spend time with his ill mother.

"To my knowledge, my grandmother is not ill. My father is not in fact with her. It is still very unclear where he is. I am deeply concerned for his wellbeing," she said. AP

China, US open to joint sea drills with Asean

THE U.S. and China were both open to joining separate maritime drills with Southeast Asian nations as early as next year, Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers meeting in the Philippines, Ng said yesterday that China Defense Minister Chang Wanquan and U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis both welcomed the chance to participate, Ng said after meeting separately with Chang and Mattis.

"We'll work out the details," Ng said. "We

will find a suitable area that Asean and China navies can exercise together."

Singapore, which has long tried to balance the interests of the U.S. and China in the South China Sea, expects to be at the forefront of the region's relations with both countries next year when it takes over from the Philippines as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong warned in March that his island nation risked being "coerced" into choosing between the two.

"From Singapore's

point of view, the more exercises we have with countries, the better for confidence-building," Ng said.

Ng said his Chinese counterpart hoped to "turn a new page" by conducting maritime exercises with the region where China's South China Sea claims overlap with the territorial claims of five Asean countries - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Brunei.

An international court ruling last year rejected China's claims to the more than 80 percent of the South China Sea in a case brought by the former Philippine Presi-

dent Benigno Aquino.

Malaysia's Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said his country was also considering allowing Singapore and Brunei join trilateral sea patrols currently involving Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to counter terrorism and piracy.

"There will be five," Hishammuddin told reporters on the sidelines of Asean defense ministers meeting. "That is the way forward for Asean if we want to make sure that this region remains relevant in facing the challenges and not allow anybody to divide us." Bloomberg



A member of the Royal Thai Navy stands guard at the conference hotel of the Asean summit in Phuket

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

19TH PARTY CONGRESS

China lifts Xi's status to most powerful leader since Mao

THE ruling Communist Party yesterday formally lifted Xi Jinping's status to China's most powerful ruler in decades, setting the stage for the authoritarian leader to tighten his grip over the country while pursuing an increasingly muscular foreign policy and military expansion.

The move to insert Xi's name and dogma into the party's constitution alongside the party's founders came at the close of a twice-a-decade congress that gathered the country's ruling elite alongside rank-and-file party members. It not only places him in the first rank, with past leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, but also effectively makes any act of opposing him tantamount to an attack on the party itself.

"The Chinese people and nation have a great and bright future ahead," Xi told party delegates as the meeting came to a close after delegates approved the addition of Xi's ideology of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" to the party charter.

"Living in such a great era, we are all the more confident and proud, and also feel the heavy weight of responsibility upon us," he said.

The concept Xi has touted is seen as marking a break from the stage of economic reform ushered in by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s and continued under his successors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao; Xi has spoken of China emerging into a "new normal" of slower, but higher quality economic growth. The placement of Xi's thought among the party's leading guidelines also comes five years into his term — earlier than

his predecessors.

"In every sense, the Xi Jinping era has begun in earnest," said Zhang Lifan, an independent political commentator in Beijing. "Only Mao's name was enshrined in the party ideology while he was still alive. We're opening something that hasn't been broached before."

For centuries, Chinese emperors were accorded ritual names that signaled either they were successors in a dynastic line or the founders of an entirely new dynasty. What Xi accomplished this week was a modern equivalent of the latter, Zhang said.

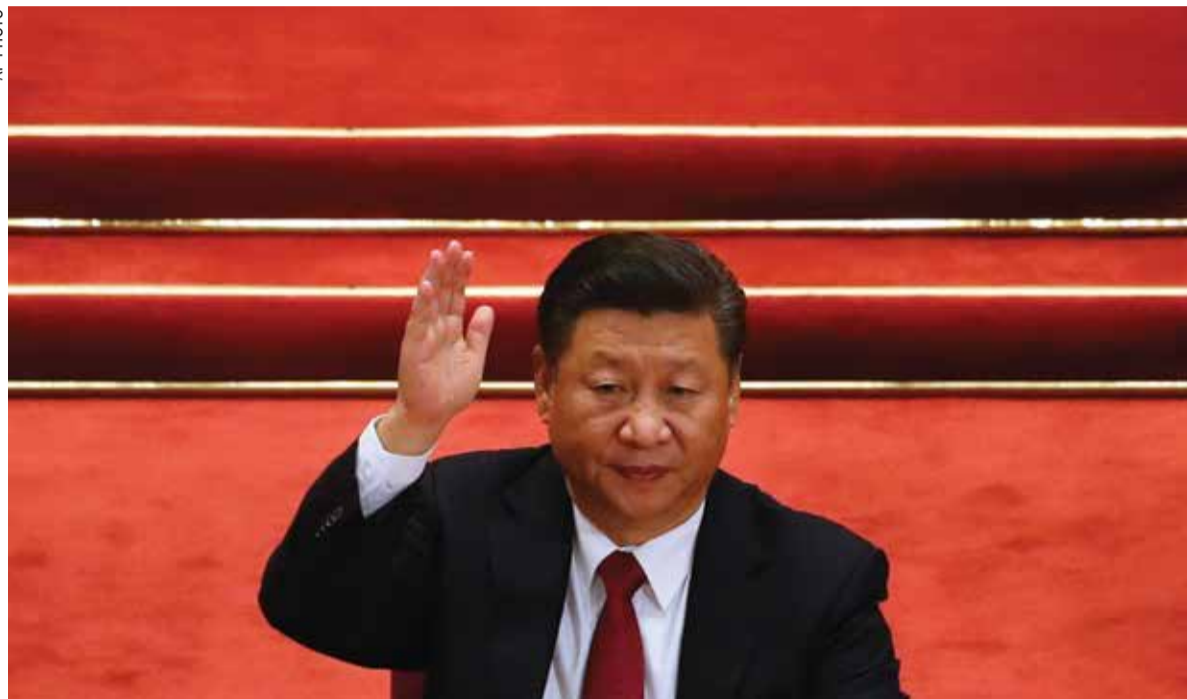
"He wants to join that pantheon of leaders," he said.

Despite being elevated to the status of both a political and theoretical authority in the party, Xi still lacks the broad popular support of the Chinese public that Mao had enjoyed, said Zhang Ming, a political analyst in Beijing who recently retired from a prestigious university.

"This [elevation] is a result of the party's political system and not of the sincere support of the people's hearts," Zhang Ming said. "If he can achieve that, he would become Mao."

Xi has described his concept as central to setting China on the path to becoming a "great modern socialist country" by midcentury.

AP PHOTO



This vision has at its core a ruling party that serves as the vanguard for everything from defending national security to providing moral guidance to ordinary Chinese.

He has set the target date of 2049, the People's Republic's centenary, for the establishment of a prosperous, modern society. China has the world's second-largest economy and legions of newly wealthy urban residents, but raising living standards for millions of people continues to be a challenge.

Zhang Ming, the retired professor, said the goals Xi laid out were lofty but mostly mere rhetoric. "These goals have nothing to do with the people but are just jargon that people shouldn't take seriously," Zhang said. "It is not important for him to achieve these goals, just as long as his power reaches its peak."

Delegates approved the addition of Xi's ideology of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era' to the party charter

The move came at the close of the 89 million-member party's national congress at Beijing's hulking Great Hall of the People, where nearly 2,300 delegates gathered to elect the party's leading bodies and hear reports.

Although the delegates nominally have the power to vote on candidates, all choices are carefully vetted and the outcomes decided by negotiations among the top leaders.

The constitution was also amended to include references to the party's "absolute" leadership over the armed forces, which have been modernizing rapidly under Xi, and a commitment to promote Xi's signature foreign policy and infrastructure initiative known as "One Belt, One Road." That initiative seeks to link China to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe

and beyond with a sprawling network of roads, railways, ports and other economic projects.

Delegates also elected a 204-member Central Committee, roughly 70 percent of whom are newcomers. The committee holds its first meeting Wednesday morning, after which the new 25-member politburo and its Standing Committee — the apex of Chinese political power — will be announced.

Five of the seven members of the current Standing Committee were left off the list of new Central Committee members, as was expected under the party's unwritten retirement age of 68.

That includes close Xi ally Wang Qishan, who led the party's much-feared anti-corruption agency that has investigated well over 1 million party members over the past years, bringing down two former top generals and a one-time member of the Standing Committee.

Wang's retirement ends a long career that saw him called on to help set up China's first investment bank, deal with the outbreak of SARS in Beijing and assist in organizing the 2008 Summer Olympics in the Chinese capital.

Along with civilian turnover, the military has also seen a considerable infusion of new blood. Seven of the 11 members of the Central Military Commission headed by Xi are expected to be newly appointed, including one of its two vice chairmen.

Meanwhile, the number of women on the Central Committee remains static at 10, though it's still not clear how many, if any, will make it onto the Politburo, where two have been sitting. No woman has ever made it onto the Standing Committee, a sharp contrast to elsewhere in the region such as Taiwan and Hong Kong where women have been elected leaders. **AP**

Party promotes three potential central bank leaders

CHINA'S ruling Communist Party has promoted three potential successors to long-serving central bank chief Zhou Xiaochuan, setting up a possible handover as Beijing tries to rein in surging debt and financial risks.

The three officials were among 204 people named to the party's Central Committee as the party closed a twice-a-decade congress.

Zhou has led the People's Bank of China since 2002 and at 69 is well beyond standard retirement age. He stayed on during the last leadership change in 2012 in what was seen as an effort to project stability as a new generation of leaders under President Xi Jinping took power.

The newly promoted officials were bank regulator Guo Shuqing, securities regulator Liu Shiyu and Jiang Chaoliang, party secretary of populous Hubei province, which surrounds Beijing.

Private sector analysts say all three have the experience to succeed Zhou.

Guo would be "well received" by foreign investors, who know his views, said Citigroup economists in a report. It might take longer to "fully digest" Jiang's thinking on monetary policy.

The Citigroup analysts noted Jiang's financial experience dates to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, when he helped to shut down a failed government-run investment trust in the southern province of Guangdong.

The next central bank governor will play a key role in efforts to cool surging bank lending that

AP PHOTO



People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan

has propelled debt to the equivalent of 270 percent of annual economic output.

Zhou warned last week that China's relatively robust economic growth could face dangers from an excessive debt and financial risk.

Speaking at the party congress, he warned "systemic financial risk may trigger a financial crisis." He said that could have a "severe impact on the whole economy and employment."

Zhou issued a similar warning about rising Chinese corporate debt at the Oct. 15 meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

The central bank is part of China's finance ministry. Official tradition suggests if a new bank governor is appointed, it would happen after the Chinese legislature appoints a new finance minister in March. **AP**



President Donald Trump (right) salutes retired Army Capt. Gary M. Rose (left) before bestowing him with the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor

VIETNAM-US

Ghosts of war stirring as Trump preps for Asia trip

Jonathan Lemire, New York

FOR more than 50 years, every American president has been forced to grapple, in one way or another, with the quagmire of the Vietnam War. Now it's Donald Trump's turn.

The ghosts of Vietnam are stirring anew, just as Trump prepares to visit the nation on his first presidential tour of Asia. Vietnam war hero Sen. John McCain, who spent more than five years in a prisoner of war camp after his plane was shot down, this week put an unwelcome spotlight on Trump's five draft deferments to avoid military service. And Trump's prolonged political tussle over the proper way for presidents to honor and grieve with the families of fallen soldiers has focused attention on his lack of military service as well.

Trump tried to set all that aside yesterday [Macau time] as he presented the Medal of Honor to retired Capt. Gary Rose, a Vietnam era medic who repeatedly ran into the line of enemy fire and ignored his own wounds to save his colleagues during a fierce firefight in enemy-controlled territory in September 1970.

"Mike, this is serious stuff," Trump said. "Your love for your fellow soldier, your devotion to your country inspires us all."

But the matter of Trump's lack of service wasn't far off stage.

McCain, the Arizona Republican who has frequently clashed with the president, made clear he had Trump in mind as he criticized the Vietnam draft system that forced low-income Americans to serve while the wealthy could avoid war with a doctor's note. Trump, the son of a millionaire developer, received draft deferments, one attained with a physician's letter stating that he suffered from bone spurs in his feet.

■ It has not been decided if Trump would visit any war sites, like the prison where Sen. McCain was held

"I don't consider him so much a draft dodger as I feel that the system was so wrong that certain Americans could evade their responsibilities to serve the country," McCain said on ABC's "The View." McCain was being pressed about earlier comments on C-SPAN in which he lamented that the military "drafted the lowest income level of America and the highest income level found a doctor that would say they had a bone spur."

When a host on the ABC show remarked that people thought McCain had been talking about Trump on C-SPAN because the president had sought a medical deferment, McCain interjected, "More than once, yes."

Over the decades, Vietnam has become shorthand for a bogged-down military conflict, a comparison invoked during more recent struggles in Afghanistan and Iraq. It has served as a cautionary lesson about the political peril for presidents ensnared in prolonged overseas military operations.

President Lyndon Johnson abandoned his re-election quest after an escalation in the war led to more American deaths, while President Richard Nixon took fierce criticism for expanding the conflict. President Bill Clinton's wartime deferment before he entered the Vietnam draft generated considerable heat during the 1992 presidential campaign.

More recently, questions about the service of George W. Bush and John Kerry were prominent in the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaigns. Bush served in the Texas Air National Guard but faced scrutiny over his status and why he was never deployed overseas. Kerry was a decorated veteran who threw away his medals and testified against the war before Congress. His service record was questioned in campaign ads.

Obama, the first post-Vietnam

president, positioned himself as the one who might heal the rift between those who served and those who didn't. Although he, too, was burdened with lessons of the war.

"Let us resolve that when America sends our sons and daughters into harm's way, we will always give them a clear mission; we will always give them a sound strategy; we will give them the equipment they need to get the job done," Obama said at a visit to the Vietnam Memorial in 2012. "We will have their backs."

Trump is slated to make his first presidential trip to Vietnam early next month as part of his 12-day, five-nation Asia tour. He will participate in an international summit in Da Nang before meeting the Viet-

namese president in Hanoi. The White House said it had not been decided if Trump would visit any war sites, like the prison where McCain was held.

Trump ignited a feud with McCain in July 2015 when he belittled the senator's time in captivity.

"He's not a war hero," said Trump. "He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured."

Trump once compared his ability to avoid sexually transmitted diseases in the Manhattan dating scene of the 1980s and 1990s to the perils of war-time that claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans in Vietnam.

"It is a dangerous world out there," Trump said in a 1997 interview with shock jock Howard Stern. "It's like Vietnam, sort of. It is my personal Vietnam. I feel like a great and very brave soldier."

The renewed focus on Trump's lack of service in Vietnam comes as he faces scrutiny over his treatment of the families of America's war dead.

Trump has been pushing back against criticism from the family of slain Army Sgt. La David Johnson, killed this month in Niger, that he was disrespectful in his condolence call to the new widow.

Trump has steadfastly denied the claim. But the Johnsons are not the only family of a slain soldier to be angry at Trump.

The family of Capt. Ben Cross of Bethel, Maine, who was one of three Marines killed in an MV-22 Osprey crash in August off the coast of Australia, received a condolence letter from Trump on Friday.

The family questioned the timing of the letter, which arrived via overnight mail after the controversy over Gold Star families had erupted.

"I think that anyone who received five deferrals in order to avoid military service is unfit to be commander in chief and even less qualified to console a grieving family who has lost a loved one defending our country," Cross' brother Ryan said. "He doesn't know the first thing about service or sacrifice." **AP**

DIPLOMAT SAYS US PLAYED KEY ROLE IN MARAWI SUCCESS

THE TOP U.S. diplomat in the Philippines said yesterday the U.S. has no credible reports of human rights violations by the Philippine armed forces or police during their five-month campaign to oust Islamist militants from the southern city of Marawi. "There were no credible reports or allegations that the armed forces of the Philippines engaged in any abuse or any activity that violated human rights of people of Marawi," Ambassador Sung Y. Kim, said in an interview with U.S. reporters, adding, "It's quite positive that the Philippines military

behaved in a responsible manner in a very difficult situation." Kim said the U.S. military provided surveillance aircraft and other equipment to help monitor and assess the militants' positions during the Marawi campaign. He said this assistance was critical to a successful outcome. Kim said the extent of the militants' infiltration of Marawi was a surprise to both the U.S. and Philippine governments. They overran the city in May, setting off alarms in Southeast Asia and the West because of their affiliation with the Islamic State group.

PHILIPPINES

Military chief says IS funded siege of Marawi

Jim Gomez, Clark

THE Islamic State group sent at least USD1.5 million to finance the recently ended siege of the southern Philippine city of Marawi, with the assault leaders using the 2014 IS seizure of the Iraqi city of Mosul as a blueprint, the Philippine military chief said.

The battle defeats of the brutal group in Syria and Iraq, and now the IS-aligned gunmen in Marawi, however, show a major vulnerability of the extremists: Their audacious territorial occupations tend to crumble over time as they're cornered in urban settings by the relentless firepower of U.S.-backed offensives, Gen. Eduardo Ano said in an interview with The Associated Press this week.

The counterterrorism victories have given governments confidence that IS — which shocked the world with its rise a few years ago — could be stopped and defeated, said Ano, who oversaw the military campaign that ended the five-month siege in Marawi this week.

"They underestimated the reaction of the different countries in the world, the alliances," he said.

"With what happened in Mosul, the Philippines and Raqqa, the different countries are now confident that if ever an ISIS siege would erupt [...] they now have the recipe or the formula to fight



Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Ano

it," Ano said, adding that the Philippine military is ready to share its battle experiences in mosque-studded Marawi.

The siege, which was launched on May 23, left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead, including more than 900 militants, and displaced some 400,000 residents, including the entire population of Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. Military airstrikes, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire turned the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities into a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings and bullet-pocked mosques and houses.

It was one of the most devastating urban fights the country has witnessed since World War II, the military chief said.

Like in Mosul, the black-flag waving militants plotted to launch the Marawi siege on the first day of Ramadan, the holy Muslim month of fasting, but they were forced to stage the attack prematurely after Philippine army troops raided the hideout of its leaders. They also took hundreds of hostages as human shields and employed snipers to slow the advance of the military, Ano said.

"Every day, they watched videos of ISIS in Mosul," Ano said of the Marawi siege leaders, including Isnilon Hapilon, a top Asian terrorist suspect who was killed by Fili-

pino troops last week.

"That was their blueprint, that was their pattern," he said, adding that troops recovered Islamic State group video discs of the Mosul violence in captured militant positions in Marawi.

It took about three weeks for thousands of government forces, which have been battling insurgents in jungle settings, to adopt to the urban fighting, Ano said. Two battalions of marines, for example, got stuck in a beach until a combat engineering battalion was quickly organized to clear mounds of debris that allowed them to move inland.

The massive offensive led to the killings of at least 10 key terror suspects from different extremist groups that have pledged allegiance to the IS, including Hapilon, four siblings belonging to the local Maute clan, and Indonesian and Malaysian militants, he said.

It would have taken five to 10 years for troops to hunt down and find all those militant leaders in the jungles of the south, where Ano said the extremists had mastery of the terrain and support from local clans.

The leaders of the bloody insurrection, who came from different ethnic backgrounds, were linked by their desire to be recognized by IS as its Southeast Asian branch and obtain funding from the Middle East-based group.

When the militants forged an alliance, IS sent USD1.5 million in batches to finance the attack, Ano said, citing intelligence information, including some provided by the U.S.

But Ano said the Marawi militants, like their Middle East counterparts, were blindsided by their ambition and miscalculated the response to their plot, which involved the seizure of a military camp in Marawi.

"They thought that they can get the helicopters and armored vehicles and the people of Marawi will protect them, and there will be a flag flying and they can all be their own, an enclave, and probably more foreign fighters will come," Ano said.

The Islamic State underestimated the reaction of the different countries in the world, the alliances.

GEN. EDUARDO ANO
ARMED FORCES CHIEF

Tens of thousands of Marawi residents, however, abandoned the city in panic and troops managed to secure Marawi's military camp and other vital areas. The United States and Australia later deployed surveillance aircraft that provided real-time images of militant positions, even at night — modern warfare technology that, coupled with the tenacity of Filipino troops, became a "game changer" in the massive effort to liberate the city, Ano said.

The military firepower was designed to push the militants to a coastal area where they could be overcome more easily, said the veteran combat general, who called the Marawi offensive the greatest battle of his military career. He retires on Thursday.

"We designed a very good campaign to flush them out and pressure them and canalize them into the chosen engagement areas," he said. "We call it constriction." AP

NEW ZEALAND

Ardern aims to go green with electricity, tree planting

NEW Zealand's incoming government is hoping to make the nation greener by planting 100 million trees each year, ensuring the electricity grid runs entirely from renewable energy, and spending more money on cycle ways and rail transport.

Jacinda Ardern, who takes over as prime minister this week, yesterday outlined agreements her Labour Party reached with other political parties joining them in the new government.

In addition to the environmental initiatives, Ardern also outlined plans to raise the minimum wage, stop foreigners from buying existing homes, and possibly change how New Zealand's Reserve

Bank operates.

The 37-year-old will be New Zealand's youngest leader in more than 150 years and hopes to take the country on a more liberal path following nine years of rule by the conservative National Party.

"I don't need to be influenced on climate change," she said. "It will sit at the heart of what this government does."

Ardern's plan is for New Zealand to reduce its net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by the year 2050.

Some of the targets will require only incremental changes. New Zealand already generates about 85 percent of its electricity from renewable sources including hydroelectric, geothermal and wind. Ar-

derne plans to increase that to 100 percent by 2035, in part by investigating whether solar panels can be used atop schools.

She said the country will need to double the amount of trees it plants each year, a goal she said was "absolutely achievable" by using land that was marginal for farming animals. Her plans also call for the government's vehicle fleet to be green within a decade.

Not everybody is happy with the plans. Many farmers are worried they will be required to pay more if they are absorbed into an emissions trading scheme.

"There is concern that if this should happen, New Zealand will become less competitive with other food-producing nations,"

said Katie Milne, the president of advocacy group Federated Farmers.

The government also plans to raise the minimum wage to 20 New Zealand dollars (USD14) per hour over the next few years, a 27 percent increase over its current level. And Ardern said a review of the way the Reserve Bank operates would take into account factors such as employment levels and price stability. Currently the bank primarily considers inflation when setting interest rates.

Ardern also outlined a plan to spend 1 billion New Zealand dollars (\$693 million) a year on the country's smaller towns and regions to improve rail and other infrastructure.



New Zealand First leader Winston Peters, (left) and Prime Minister-designate Jacinda Ardern sign a coalition agreement

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a region that hasn't experienced neglect," she said.

Ardern said she spoke to President Donald Trump for about five minutes on Monday after he called to congratulate her on her election win. She said Trump told her the election had received quite a

bit of coverage in Washington and throughout the East Coast, and that she talked to him about New Zealand's important role in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Our relationship with the U.S. is incredibly important," Ardern said when asked about Trump. "That has not changed and it will not change." AP

USA

Review to confirm Rohingya 'ethnic cleansing'

U.S. officials are preparing a recommendation for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to declare that "ethnic cleansing" is occurring against Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims. That assessment would raise pressure on the Trump administration and U.S. lawmakers to consider new sanctions on a country that had been lauded for its democratic transition.

Tillerson could receive the recommendation as early as this week, said officials familiar with the process. He will then decide whether to adopt the advice of his agency's policy experts and lawyers.

A declaration of "ethnic cleansing" by the top U.S. diplomat would mark a reversal of fortune in American relations with the country also known as Burma, whose civilian government has been under the leadership of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for more than a year. But Suu Kyi and her government allies have little control over Myanmar's still powerful

military, which is blamed for a brutal crackdown on Muslims in Rakhine State that has caused more than 600,000 refugees to flee to Bangladesh.

The State Department declined to comment.

The recommendation is being prepared as U.S. lawmakers urge fresh sanctions on Myanmar's military and are calling on the Trump administration to sever already restricted military ties. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee takes up the issue at a hearing on U.S. policy toward Myanmar early today [Macau time].

The U.S. officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the internal process and requested anonymity, said the State Department won't make a call yet on whether crimes against humanity in Myanmar have occurred. Such a determination would be even more detrimental to Myanmar's military, as it could force the U.S. to push for legal accountability.

Attacks by Rohingya insur-



Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

gents on security forces in late August triggered what human rights groups have called a scorched-earth campaign against Rohingya villages. Amnesty International has reported that hundreds of Rohingya men, women and children have been systematically killed.

Calls for a U.S. determination of "ethnic cleansing" have in-

tensified, as the United Nations and leading Western governments have used the term. Six weeks ago, U.N. human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini said it "seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing." French President Emmanuel Macron echoed that opinion, as have leaders of many in the Muslim world.

U.S. officials have been more

reticent. Tillerson, who last week said that perpetrators will be held to account for atrocities, has referred to the violence as "characterized by many as ethnic cleansing." U.N. envoy Nikki Haley told the Security Council last month it was "a brutal, sustained campaign to cleanse the country of an ethnic minority."

But that's as far as the administration has gone as it prepares for President Donald Trump's first trip to the region next month.

U.S. lawmakers have pushed for the administration to use the term without qualification. Earlier this month, Patrick Murphy, a senior U.S. diplomat for Southeast Asia, described it as a "human tragedy" as he was grilled by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He will testify again today.

According to the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, "ethnic cleansing" isn't recognized as an independent crime under international law, unlike crimes against humanity and genocide. It surfaced in the context of the 1990s conflict in the former Yugoslavia, when a U.N. commission defined it as "rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove persons of given groups from the area." AP

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PORTUGAL

Outrage after court quotes Bible on woman's assault

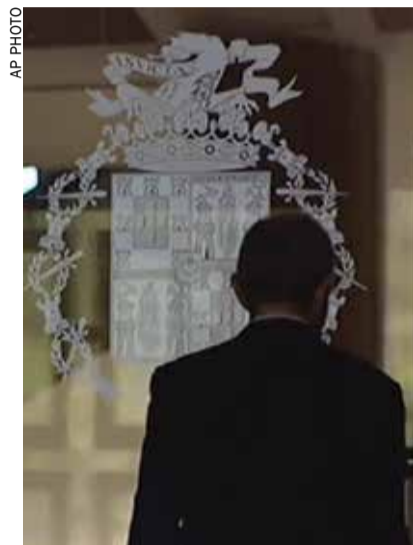
Barry Hatton, Lisbon

WOMEN'S rights groups in Portugal have reacted angrily to a court decision that quoted the Bible and a 19th-century law in justifying a suspended sentence for a man convicted of assaulting his ex-wife with a bat because she allegedly committed adultery.

The man was given a 15-month suspended sentence and a fine of 1,750 euros (USD2,000) for using a bat spiked with nails to assault the woman in the street in 2015, leaving her covered in cuts and bruises.

The prosecutor had argued the sentence was too lenient and asked an appeals court for prison time of 3 years and 6 months. But the appeal judges on Oct. 11 rejected his request.

In their written ruling, the judges expressed "some understanding" for the attacker, saying a woman's adultery is "a very serious offense against a man's honor and dignity."



They noted the Bible says an adulterous woman should be punished by death and also cited a 1886 Portuguese law that gave only symbolic sentences to men who killed their wives for suspected adultery.

The judges at the appeals court in Porto, Portugal's second-largest city, wrote that they were making reference to the Bible and an old law

"to stress that a woman's adultery amounts to conduct which society has always condemned and condemned very strongly."

The written ruling became public this week and sparked outrage on Portuguese social media, with numerous rights groups speaking out.

One of them, the Women's Alternative and Response Union, described the ruling as "inadmissible" because it legitimized violence against women and blamed the victim. It said the separation of powers in Portugal means there is no place for the Bible in courtrooms.

The group planned street protests for Friday.

Portugal's Superior Magistrates Council, an oversight body, said it had taken note of the "vivid criticism from broad sections of public opinion." However, it said courts are independent and it could not intervene, even when faced with "archaic, inappropriate or unfortunate" comments by judges.

The woman could appeal to Portugal's higher courts. **AP**

SPACE

Commander of first flight of space shuttle Challenger dies

PAUL Weitz, a retired NASA astronaut who commanded the first flight of the space shuttle Challenger and also piloted the Skylab in the early 1970s, has died. He was 85.

Weitz died at his retirement home in Flagstaff, Arizona, yesterday, said Laura Cutchens of the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. No cause of death was given.

A NASA biography says Weitz was among the class of 19 astronauts who were chosen in April 1966. He served as command module pilot on the first crew of the orbiting space laboratory known as Skylab during a 28-day mission in 1973.

Weitz also piloted the first launch of the shuttle Challenger in April 1983.

The five-day mission took off from the Kennedy space



From left: Dr. Story Musgrave, pilot Karol J. Bobko, mission specialist Donald H. Peterson and commander Paul J. Weitz (1982)

Center in Florida and landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The Challenger was destroyed and seven crew members killed during its 10th launch on January 28, 1986.

In all, he logged 793 hours in space and retired as deputy director of the Johnson Space Center in May 1994.

Weitz was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, on July 25, 1932. **AP**

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what's ON



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 ADMISSION: Free
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MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION
 TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
 UNTIL: December 3, 2017
 VENUE: Macau Archives, No.91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



GATE BLANCHETT, ZENDAYA PREACH EMPOWERMENT AT INSTYLE AWARDS

Empowerment was the de facto theme at the third annual InStyle Awards yesterday [Macau time], where Hollywood and fashion A-listers from Cate Blanchett and Zendaya to Cindy Crawford gathered on an open-air patio at The Getty Center to celebrate one another and those behind the scenes that make the glamour possible.

Attendees were dressed to the nines on the hot October night in Los Angeles. But glitz seemed to be the last thing on anyone's mind as they took the stage to speak to the intimate crowd, which included the likes of Heidi Klum, Kate Bosworth, Brie Larson, Ellen Pompeo, Faith Hill, Taika Waititi and Connie Britton among others.

"What we've created with fashion goes beyond just clothes and hair and makeup. We've created a platform to show different types of beauty," style star honoree Zendaya said.

Mothers, she said, have told her that because she wears her hair in an Afro style, that their daughters like their own hair now. "What the world needs right now is people who are exactly who they are," she said.

Blanchett, who was given the Style Icon award, also used her platform to talk about how the true icons of style are women "who have been utterly themselves without apology."

"It's about women who feel free to wear what they want, when they want and how they want to wear. And we know we all like looking sexy, but it doesn't mean we want to (expletive) you," Blanchett said to loud cheers. "I wouldn't say to Steve Bannon, 'You look like a bag of trash. Do you want me to throw you out?' But the comments that get said about what women wear on the red carpet ..."

Demi Lovato, recognized for her advocacy work, said that "the more you talk about issues and the things that you've gone through, the more you can help others. That's what's really important: Sharing life experiences with other people on this planet."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:25	Zig Zag
17:30	Miscellaneous
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

19 - 25 Oct



GEOSTORM

ROOM 1
 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
 Director: Dean Devlin
 Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Daniel Wu
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 109 min



SKY HUNTER

ROOM 2
 2:30, 6:45, 7:30pm
 Director: Chen Li
 Starring: Chen Li, Bingbing Fan, Qianyuan Wang, Jiahang Li
 Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)
 Duration: 115min



WIND RIVER

ROOM 2
 9:45pm
 ROOM 3
 4:00, 7:45pm
 Director: Taylor Sheridan
 Starring: Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 107 min

this day in history



Singer and Live Aid organizer Bob Geldof visits Ethiopia during the 1984 famine

1984 EUROPE GRANTS EMERGENCY AID FOR ETHIOPIA

The EEC is donating £1.8 million to help combat the famine in Ethiopia.

Officials from Oxfam, Save the Children, Christian Aid and the Red Cross believe that up to 10 million people are facing starvation unless the flow of aid is increased.

Aid agencies lobbied EEC ministers in Brussels in response to the latest drought to hit the country.

Hugh McKay from the Save the Children Fund said: "This is an excellent start and will buy us a little time to develop a long term strategy to deal with this tragedy."

The Community has also ordered the immediate shipment of 5,000 tons of food with more to be delivered soon.

The worst affected areas are the northern provinces of Tigre, Wollo and Eritrea, where a 10-year drought and a succession of wars have produced the worst famine in Ethiopia's modern history.

As the announcement was made the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission said it would hold an emergency meeting with Western governments to discuss ways to improve airlifting food to the region.

Local officials are said to be trying to clear congestion at ports to get more food to the rest of the country. Up to 1,000 tons of food a day are now being handled, up from 500 a few weeks ago.

A recent report shown on the BBC highlighted the harrowing problems being faced in Ethiopia and led to an overwhelming public response.

Overseas director of Oxfam Michael Harris said: "On one day alone we received 1,000 calls from people offering help, including three who offered transport aircraft."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

One million people are thought to have died in the famine of 1984 despite money from around the world helping to improve the situation.

In December 1984 rock stars joined together to record "Do they know it's Christmas?". The single raised more than £12 million for famine victims in Africa.

Live Aid in July 1985, organised by Bob Geldof, raised more than £70 million for the cause. Two massive concerts were staged in London and Philadelphia. Artists including Paul McCartney, U2 and Madonna performed on the day.

Many Ethiopians continue to rely on food aid from abroad. In 2004 the government began a drive to move more than two million people away from the arid highlands of the east. It said the programme was a lasting solution to food shortages.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's time to assert yourself - which should be no problem at all for you. It's your specialty! You may even be better at it than usual for quite some time to come - but in order to pull it off, you need to believe in yourself.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've definitely got your work cut out for you today - it feels like every area of your life is demanding more and more of your time. Until robot servants are perfected, your only option is to keep all your balls in the air at once.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're in the mood to chat, in a big way. You're feeling so chatty, in fact, that you're not especially concerned with who you're with. That can make for some amazingly entertaining banter with strangers.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're just about due to put yourself on a budget - a serious one. This doesn't mean you're done having any fun or that you're unable to acquire something that you really want

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Being put in a position of authority isn't exactly unwelcome for you. In fact, you're used to it - you can take one quick glance at a situation and know exactly what needs to be done.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Someone close has been thinking about you for some time now, and you can't deny that you've been thinking about them, too. If something has been up in the air between you, now is the right time to say exactly what's on your mind.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're a trusting soul, and that's a lovely quality under most circumstances. It can win you long-lasting friendships and get you through even the toughest of times in a relationship.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you cross paths with someone who seems genuinely interested in what you're doing now, and if they offer to help you make your way, go for it, no matter what else is going on now.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 There's nothing you love more than education - however it is that you choose to define it. You see the world as a huge classroom and everyone you meet as a potential teacher or student.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've never been shallow in any way, and you never promise anything you're not prepared to deliver. Of course, that sets you apart from most of the world's population.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Remember that there's nothing wrong with asking for help, especially when you need it because your big plan turns out so well that you can't handle all the consequences alone anymore.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're all set to make a real name for yourself right away. If you can apply yourself 100% to the task currently at hand, and keep on applying yourself for the foreseeable future, all will be well.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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9 | | | 3 8 4 | |
5 2 | | | 9 1 | 4
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Hard

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1 | | | | | |

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Actress Kudrow; 5- Pea's place; 8- Bridge declaration; 13- CPR experts; 14- Fail to win; 15- Actor Romero; 16- Mil. addresses; 17- Riga resident; 18- Jack Sprat could ___ fat; 19- It's found in a runoff; 21- Lingerie buy; 22- Defense advisory grp.; 23- Apt. divisions; 24- Dressing choice; 28- And others, in Latin; 30- Air pollution; 31- Letter after pi; 32- Actor's parts; 33- Abound; 34- Drop of water expelled by the eye; 35- Austerity; 38- Poor actors; 41- Catbird seat?; 42- Flaps; 46- Undivided; 47- Thin change; 48- Barren place; 49- "CHiPs" star; 51- ___ canto; 52- Rx watchdog; 53- Skirt stitching; 54- Waterproofed canvas; 57- Castle water pits; 59- Potpourri; 60- Hourglass filler; 61- Golfer Palmer, to his army; 62- "___ you dare!"; 63- Wild guess; 64- Alloy of iron and carbon; 65- Ovum; 66- Be dependent;

DOWN: 1- Apprentice; 2- The laying on of paint thickly; 3- Impassive; 4- Org.; 5- Writers of verse; 6- Bone; Prefix; 7- Disadvantage; 8- Swelling reducer; 9- Bit of wisdom; 10- "Silk Stockings" star; 11- ___ Clemente; 12- Hit sign; 14- Alpaca's cousin; 20- Carpus; 25- Big book; 26- I get it!; 27- And not; 29- Not so much; 30- Have a feeling; 33- Fluke; 34- General ___ chicken; 36- Novelist Bagnold; 37- Stone marker; 38- Garden tool; 39- Ques. response; 40- Marsh gas; 43- Puncture; 44- In sequence; 45- Substitute; 47- Maiden; 48- Station; 50- Fasten again; 51- Sell for; 55- Sleep like ___; 56- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 57- Bell and Barker; 58- Leftover;



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FOOTBALL

Portuguese star Ronaldo wins FIFA player of year for fifth time

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has joined Lionel Messi as a five-time winner of FIFA's best player award.

The Real Madrid forward was crowned player of the year on Monday at the FIFA Best ceremony at the London Palladium theater attended by runner-ups Messi and third-placed Neymar.

A second successive honor for the 32-year-old Ronaldo was expected after a season in which the Portuguese eclipsed his award counterparts in the medal stakes.

As well as Spanish league and Spanish Super Cup success, Ronaldo scored twice in the Champions League final against Juventus to win European soccer's elite competition for the third time in four seasons.

FIFA has shifted its award ceremony from its usual January slot to October so players are judged across a season — based on the typical European schedule — rather than the calendar year.

Lieke Martens has been crowned women's player of the year at the FIFA Best ceremony after winning the European Championship with the Netherlands.

The 24-year-old winger was part of the Dutch team that beat Denmark in the final in August, scoring once.

She beat Carli Lloyd of the United States and Deyna Castellanos of Venezuela.

Some 26,622 players from 71



Soccer legends Diego Armando Maradona (rear center) Ronaldo (right) FIFA president Gianni Infantino (left) present the Best FIFA Men's player award to Cristiano Ronaldo

countries participated in the vote organized by world player's union FIFPro.

Sarina Wiegman has been named women's coach of the year at the FIFA Best ceremony.

Wiegman led the Netherlands to its first major women's title when it won the European Championship in August by beating Denmark.

Scottish champion Celtic has won the fan award at the FIFA Best ceremony hours after the club was fined by UEFA for a pitch invasion.

UEFA imposed a sanction of

10,000 euros (USA11,740) on Celtic after a supporter ran onto the field in Glasgow and aimed a kick at Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe during a Champions League game last month.

It was the 12th fine Celtic has received from UEFA for bad behavior by supporters in six years.

The goalkeeper award at the FIFA Best ceremony has gone to Gianluigi Buffon of Juventus and Italy.

The 39-year-old Buffon won a sixth consecutive Serie A title

last season. But he missed out on a first Champions League title when Juventus lost to Real

Madrid in the final in June.

Buffon told the ceremony at the Palladium Theater in London: "It wasn't enough to win in Europe. For this year I hope to play better for the national team and Juventus."

Italy will take on Sweden in a playoff next month to make the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Zinedine Zidane has been crowned coach of the year at the FIFA Best ceremony after Real Madrid became the first team to defend its Champions League title.

Zidane said: "I would like to thank all the players who made this possible."

Also in the running were Antonio Conte, who won the English Premier League in his first season at Chelsea, and Juventus successor Massimiliano Allegri, who has won three consecutive league and cup doubles in Italy.

The FIFA Best awards ceremony has opened with Olivier Giroud winning the goal award for his scorpion-style kick while playing for Arsenal.

The Puskas Award-winning goal from an overhead back-heeled strike came on New Year's Day in Arsenal's 2-0 victory over Crystal Palace in the English Premier League.

The FIFA ceremony is at the Palladium Theater in London. **MDT/AP**

TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE TEAM of the 2016-17 season voted by soccer players has been announced at the FIFA Best ceremony. The goalkeeper is Gianluigi Buffon of Italy and Juventus. In defense it's Dani Alves (Brazil, Juventus/currently Paris Saint-Germain), Leonardo Bonucci (Italy, Juventus/currently AC Milan), Sergio Ramos (Spain, Real Madrid)

and Marcelo (Brazil, Real Madrid). The midfield features Real Madrid duo Luka Modric (Croatia) and Toni Kroos (Germany), and Andres Iniesta of Spain and Barcelona. Up front, it's Lionel Messi (Argentina, Barcelona), Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal, Real Madrid) and Neymar (Brazil, Barcelona/currently Paris Saint-Germain).

GOLF

Tiger Woods set to enter plea bargain for DUI arrest

THE diversion program for intoxicated drivers that Tiger Woods is expected to enter tomorrow [Macau time] is one of several across the U.S. aimed at reducing the number of repeat offenders and backlogs of court cases.

The 41-year-old Woods is scheduled to plead guilty at a court hearing to reckless driving, a less severe charge than driving under the influence, as part of a Palm Beach County, Florida, program that has graduated almost 2,500 first-time offenders since it began four years ago.

Deputy State Attorney Richard Clausi, who oversees the county's misdemeanor prosecutions, said that less than 1 percent of the program's participants have

reoffended. He said the key has been getting offenders to take responsibility for their actions without requiring a trial and making sure they complete the program.

"It's still early, but we think it has been a success," he said.

In the diversion program, Woods will spend a year on probation and pay a USD250 fine and court costs. He also must attend DUI school, perform 20 hours of community service and attend a workshop where victims of impaired drivers detail how their lives were damaged. Since he was intoxicated with prescription drugs and marijuana, according to court records, he will also be required to undergo regular drug tests.

At the hearing, he must show he has started the program. If he completes it, he can ask a judge to expunge the reckless driving conviction, but if he is charged again, he could be treated like a second-time DUI offender. He would not be again eligible for diversion and he could face possible jail time, a mandatory license suspension and stiffer fines.

Similar DUI diversion programs are offered in several other states, including Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas. Details vary and some, like Florida, let local officials decide whether to offer it.

Neither the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration nor Mothers

Against Drunk Driving knew of any recent outside studies examining whether diversion programs are effective.

J.T. Griffin, MADD's chief government affairs officer, said the organization supports diversion programs like Palm Beach County's because for drunken drivers, it requires the installation of an interlock device, which checks the driver's blood-alcohol content before the car can be started. He said studies show interlocks decrease recidivism among first-time offenders by 65 percent.

"It is good for the public because 50 to 75 percent of drunk drivers are going to continue to drive, even on a suspended driver's license," Griffin said.



Woods was arrested about 2 a.m. May 29 when officers found him unconscious in his Mercedes-Benz, which was parked awkwardly on the roadside and had damage to the driver's side. It's not clear how he damaged the car. Officers checked the area but didn't find that he had hit

anything. He was about 15 miles from his home.

Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers — Vicodin and Dilaudid — the sleep drug Ambien and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in his system but no alcohol, according to a toxicology report released in August. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



BACK TO BASICS FOR OUR PUBLIC SPACES

Macau has some wonderful old parks and gardens, but in my opinion some of our newer public spaces leave much to be desired. Why do our architects and urban planners so often ignore the lessons of the past?

Among others, the Camoes Garden, Lou Lim Ioc Garden and Guia Hill Municipal Park are exceptionally pleasant public spaces that have been used and loved by many generations of Macanese (by this I mean citizens of Macau and not Macau citizens of mixed Portuguese/Chinese ethnicity - I have always found it quite strange and unreasonable that just one sub-group of Macau citizens gets to call themselves "Macanese").

I love these old parks and gardens because they are natural, shady, calm, lush and inviting spaces where it is very pleasant to sit and chat with friends and watch the world go by. The buildings, walls, and other artificial elements in these public spaces seem to disappear into the background or complement the natural environment. Clearly, many others feel the same as I do, given the large number of other people using these spaces. Even on hot days the shade and trees are cooling and these parks are pleasant.

In Macau the sun can be very strong, and shade in public spaces is essential. Large open areas paved with concrete or stone (or even worse, tarmac) are a disaster - in hot weather they become ovens and in wet weather they provide no rain protection and become slippery lakes.

Some of our newer parks and gardens are equally inviting and well done. The Dr Carlos D'Assumpcao Park and the footpath along Avenida Dr Sun Yat-Sen opposite the Macau Art Museum, for example, are also very pleasant.

By contrast, some of our most recent, and under construction, parks and gardens seem to totally ignore all rules of good sense in the design of public spaces. Tap Seac Square is a sun baked desert that is avoided by anybody with good sense. This is clearly realized as they are trying to rectify the problems by half-hearted efforts to make pergola covered walkways with potted plants. Much the same can be said about the Sai Van Lake Square outside the Macau Tower.

Similarly, the center of the roundabout between the Wynn and Lisboa Casinos and the new park at Taipa Central Park are also very poor. They must have gotten a great deal for buying glass, given the amounts they are using in these parks. The obvious trouble with large glass surfaces is that it is very good for making hot-houses and very bad for providing shade - the exact opposite of what you want in a park in Macau. (As an aside, some knowledgeable architects tell me that glass curtain walled buildings are the last thing you want in this part of the world for energy efficiency reasons - they trap the sun and make the building a hot-house, dramatically driving up energy costs. You can readily experience this problem if you visit the main lobby of the Zobon Hotel in Zhuhai on a nice sunny day.)

There are other problematic park designs now being constructed in Macau. For future new parks and other public spaces, I really hope that we can learn from the past and go back to emulate the excellent old parks and gardens that we have here, and re-adopt the very good design principles that they are based on.

THE BUZZ **THAI ARMY DETAINS ACTIVIST FOR ROYAL CREMATION COMMENT**

Thailand's army yesterday detained an activist who wrote on Facebook that he would wear politically charged red clothing to mark King Bhumibol Adulyadej's cremation this week.

A lawyer for Ekachai Hongkangwan said soldiers arrested Ekachai at his Bangkok home yesterday morning and indicated they would detain him outside the city, in Kanchanaburi

province.

Ekachai commented on Facebook last week that he would wear red on Oct. 26, the day Bhumibol will be cremated during an elaborate five-day funeral, and "do what people least expect."

Supporters of elected governments ousted by Thailand's military in 2006 and 2014 coups are known as "Red Shirts."

KIM JONG NAM

Women on trial back to scene of attack on North Korean scion

Eileen Ng & Eric Talmadge, Sepang

THE two women accused of killing the half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un were taken back to the scene of the crime yesterday as their murder trial moved from the courtroom to the Malaysian airport for a three-hour inspection tour under heavy police guard.

The judge, prosecutors, defense lawyers and representatives of the women's home countries were escorted inside the Kuala Lumpur airport by heavily armed police on a tour meant to give the court a better perspective of events as they unfolded.

Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam appeared subdued at the start of the tour, which took a break about an hour later when Aisyah became emotional. She was seen sobbing quietly. She and Huong were given water to drink and when the tour resumed, both were being pushed around in wheelchairs.

Aisyah's lawyer Gooi Soon Seng said the women, who were wearing heavy bulletproof vests and handcuffed, were given wheelchairs because they complained of exhaustion.

High Court Judge Azmi Ariffin visited the check-in



Siti Aisyah escorted by police at KLIA2 budget terminal in Sepang

kiosk in the budget terminal where the two women allegedly smeared VX nerve agent onto Kim Jong Nam's face on Feb. 13. The judge followed the path Kim walked to the airport clinic seeking help and retraced the movement of the two women, who were seen on security footage rushing to restrooms afterward to wash their hands.

Security videos of the murder were shown at the trial earlier this month and "the exercise today is to see for ourselves the actual locations and which cameras recorded the scenes," Gooi said.

"I believe the visit to the crime scene will help strengthen the prosecution's case because it will allow the judge to follow the women's trail and understand why they took that path," prosecutor Wan Shaharuddin Wan Ladin told The Associated

Press before the tour began.

Police clad in black uniforms, many carrying rifles and wearing masks, formed a security ring around the group as they toured the busy airport for more than three hours. Officials said the trial will return to the courtroom today, with the cross examination of the police investigating officer.

Huong and Aisyah, who have pleaded not guilty, are the only suspects detained in the brazen assassination of Kim, an outcast from North Korea's ruling family who lived abroad in virtual exile for years. Their defense lawyers have said the women were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a TV show.

Prosecutors contend the women's conduct showed that they knew they were handling poison. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein



Red tape. Hospitality staff members laugh as they stand on Tiananmen Square before the closing ceremony of China's 19th Party Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	75-105 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	
Ambient	75-105 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NEW ZEALAND's incoming government is hoping to make the nation greener by planting 100 million trees each year, ensuring the electricity grid runs entirely from renewable energy, and spending more money on cycle ways and rail transport. **More on p13**



INDIA Hundreds of young men — armed with knives, cricket bats and iron rods — patrol the nighttime streets of India-controlled Kashmir these days, hoping their ad-hoc vigilante groups will deter the mysterious bandits reportedly chopping off women's long, woven hair.

SAUDI ARABIA's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has defended his bold reform plans, including the kingdom's decision to lift the ban on women driving, saying that "we were not like this in the past."



SPAIN Catalonia's political leaders plan to bring a legal challenge to prevent the Spanish government from removing them from office and taking over running the region to stop its push for independence.

PORTUGAL Women's rights groups in Portugal have reacted angrily to a court decision that quoted the Bible and a 19th-century law in justifying a suspended sentence for a man convicted of assaulting his ex-wife with a bat because she allegedly committed adultery. **More on p15**

VENEZUELA Four of the five opposition governors recently elected in Venezuela took an oath Monday before leaders of the all-powerful, pro-government constitutional assembly, reversing an earlier refusal and underlining fractures in the opposition.