



**VENETIAN TO CELEBRATE 10 YEARS ON NOVEMBER 20**

P5



**BUSINESS DAILY CLOSES DOWN**

Oct 31 will be the last day Macau Business Daily will hit the stands, after over five years of publication

P5



**THE KING AND THAI**

Big crowds are gathering for a five-day funeral ceremony for Thailand's revered King Bhumibol, who died last October aged 88

P12



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS



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**KENYA** The leader of Kenya's main opposition party urged his supporters to boycott a rerun of the country's disputed presidential election scheduled for today amid rising political tensions and fears of violence. The country's Supreme Court yesterday failed to muster enough judges to hear a last-minute petition to postpone the elections.

**VIETNAM** A court in northern Vietnam yesterday sentenced a student activist to six years in prison for using social media to promote a multiparty system and press freedom amid a heightened crackdown on dissent.

**PHILIPPINES-JAPAN** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will visit Japan next week for talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on key regional concerns including North Korea. The two leaders also will be hosting President Donald Trump when he makes his first presidential Asia tour next month.



AP PHOTO

**KOREA** British Olympic leaders have plans in place to evacuate athletes from the 2018 Pyeongchang Games amid heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula. While it is not expected the emergency procedures will be implemented, the British Olympics Association is preparing for the worst-case scenario.

More on backpage

# No heir apparent as Xi bolsters his power

P10-11



AP PHOTO

## MACAU ID

# Number of new residents to grow for first time in eight years

P2



Daniel Beitler

THE number of people to be granted residency status in Macau is set to grow this year for the first time since 2009, according to information provided to the Times by the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

According to the PSP, a total of 1,117 people were newly granted authorization to reside in Macau (commonly known as residency) between January and September 2017. Extrapolated to December 31, 2017, a total of 1,489 people are likely to be granted residency, slightly more than the 1,447 approved last year.

This marks the first annual increase in the number of new residents to the territory since the 2008/09 years, which themselves might be considered outliers to a trend starting as early as 2005.

According to figures published in the Macau SAR's annual Yearbook of Statistics, 11,395 people were granted authorization to reside in Macau in 2005, when the city's population stood at around 488,000. Five years later, the annual number of people granted residency had slumped 60 percent, despite a 10 percent growth in the city's population.

That trend continued between 2011 and 2016, during which time the city's population grew by about 100,000 people, and the administration granted around 8,300 the right to abode.

In 2008 and 2009, the number of people granted residency were 7,917 and 9,489 respectively, higher than that of 2007 (6,115), but significantly lower than that of 2005



# Number of new residents set to grow for first time in 8 years

(11,395). The trend reversal, which runs contrary to the 12 years between 2005 and 2017, might be explained by a series of then newly-opened integrated resorts – including The Venetian Macao, Wynn Macau and MGM Macau – which cal-

■ The number residency of approvals halved in 2010

led for an influx of thousands of workers.

Of the 1,447 individuals granted residency in 2016, Hong Kong (550), mainland China (222), Taiwan (124) and Portugal (150) were the most common countries or territories of origin. Approximately 43 percent of non-resident workers in the territory resided in neighboring Zhuhai, due to the comparatively lower living costs.

According to the PSP, individuals granted the right to abo-

de in the MSAR this year included those applying for family union, those granted approval by the Trade and Investment

Promotion Institute, Portuguese nationals and minors of Macau residents who were born outside of Macau.

## RESIDENCY APPROVALS

Year	End-year population	No. granted residency
2005	488,000	11,395
2009	542,000	9,489
2010	540,000	4,455
2011	557,000	2,812
2014	636,000	2,278
2015	646,000	1,784
2016	650,000	1,447

# Customs increase surveillance along coastline

THE Customs Service is installing additional surveillance systems along Macau's coastlines, which is expected to be completed by 2019, according to a report released yesterday by TDM.

The Head of the Department of Maritime Inspection (DIM) of Customs, Leong Wa Kan, explained that the customs authority plans to install more surveillance equipment along Macau's coastline

and that the plan is currently still being developed.

However, as the proposed system will be located along the coastline, issues concerning electricity and circulation structures need to be taken into account quite seriously.

When these additional surveillance systems have been constructed, the DIM's customs work efficiency is expected to

improve in regards to combating smuggling.

Customs employees who will no longer be needed at some of the coastline customs stations will be forwarded to other ports, according to Leong.

Leong informed that the Customs force is short in terms of front-line workers. In the future, besides recruiting more members and buying new patrol bo-

ts, Customs also plans to purchase relatively large unmanned aerial vehicles for conducting ordinary patrols. This will reduce the working pressure on Customs officers, as well as enhance marine search and rescue capabilities, and improve the procedures to combat smuggling.

Leong hopes that the new Customs staff and equipment can be organized within five years.



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Times

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# News At Hand

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”



# Crisis management is a matter of 'not dropping the ball'

Renato Marques

**R**ISK, emergency and crisis management is a matter of "not dropping the ball," expert James Langton, Associate from Omnisec - Security Management said yesterday morning during a breakfast meeting session held by the newly renamed France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC), formerly France Macau Business Association.

The security expert, who was invited to speak at the session, was addressing the issues and importance of having a proper crisis management system, as well as plans to prevent damage that usually arises from catastrophic events. He noted that "major issues happen because people forget that [they] happen and easily 'drop the ball'," a statement about forgetting the experience gathered from previous events and not adjusting plans to change and new realities, or worse, not having a serious plan at all.

Addressing specifically the problems caused by Typhoon Hato and the response to it, specifically commenting on the intervention of private companies who provided resources which the government did not possess, the expert said: "There is nothing wrong with the private [sector giving assistance] as the private sector has responsibilities to the people and to the government in helping." However, he additionally remarked that it is up to the government to promote the training of personnel: "In the best case scenario, the government would know what is available within the private sector or what it can call on to establish [a system]. If we need to call this equipment [or service] how are we going to do this? Who to speak to? Who to contact?"

RENATO MARQUES



James Langton

Are you willing to give it to us? And then possibly test that [thorough drills and exercises]."

Questioned by the Times on the "notion of risk," Langton said, "it's really education, educating the public not to go into dangerous situations." This comment appeared to address whether it is the role of the government and media to send out alert messages to citizens if a major storm approaches. The expert noted people tend to quickly forget catastrophes. However, he held that campaigns must be held to promote safety, giving the example of the use seatbelts, which is now an internalized standard.

"Until now that we wear it without even thinking about it, it's second nature to us," Langton said, adding that

the government should now use the example of Hato to remind people to "stay away from underground garages" during flooding or similar natural disasters.

To help build public confidence in the system, he said that the Macau Meteorologi-

cal and Geophysical Bureau should clearly explain what they are doing.

"We are raising the number 8 signal because it is based on the wind speed, which can be reached and felt in some particular area of the territory and not on

the others," he remarked, "Weather forecasting is not an exact science and it will always look as though it failed someone in a particular region or area."

"Most people don't see risk as an issue," the security expert said, adding, "of course there will be always people that will ignore [those warnings] but at least they [the government] have done their duty."

**Weather forecasting is not an exact science and will always look as though it failed someone in a particular region or area.**

JAMES LANGTON

He said he believed many of the casualties occurred due to a lack of awareness on the part of the public: "They had no experience of going into an underground space with large quantities of water [coming in]; it probably never happened [before]."

Questioned on his opinion on the response of the Macau government to typhoon Hato, he said he did not wish to comment too much as "I am not in possession of all details [...] but I think I can say it was questionable."

## New forms of threat should force organizations to change 'risk plans'

**D**URING the talk held by the France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC), in which security expert James Langton addressed the issues of risk and hazards that can potentially create problems for people and organizations, the speaker mentioned that there are two kinds of hazards, natural and human. In regard to the latter, he said changes in the last few years regarding terrorist and other potentially hazardous acts demand a change in the contingency plans of governments, corporations, and other organizations.

Remarking on acts of terrorism, Langton mentioned the trend of using vehicles; a modus operandi that in his experience has been causing lots of problems within corporations, regarding how to prevent events of this kind from happening, even lea-

ding to legal disputes.

"As soon as you have a truck in your hands you have a potential weapon," he said, noting that the problem of who owns the space and who should be responsible to create some form of solution to protect pedestrians from these acts has given rise to many questions among legal departments, especially from big corporations, shopping malls and hotels.

Another of the topics addressed relates to the recent attack that occurred in the US gambling mecca, Las Vegas, where a shooter used a Mandalay Bay hotel window to perform an attack that killed at least 59 people and injured about 500 others.

"This raised another issue that is a 'game changer' especially for lawyers. Who are we going to sue [over this]?" He asked, adding that the latest information on the case

indicates that the gunman identified as Stephen Paddock might have benefited from being a "high roller" at the casino-hotel to get "special treatment" and to "be able to carry large bags [...] into the hotel without being questioned or reported." Another potential advantage was "to have been able to keep the room-service and cleaning staff away from room" on the basis of this special treatment.

Another of the new forms of hazard is transmitted via the media and the Internet and has to do with reputation.

As Langton recalled, "the first crisis comes usually over different causes but the second and third come [respectively] by the media and social media," that can cause damages on reputation and significantly drop the value of companies.

### FMBA UNDERGOES TRANSFORMATION

**STARTING FROM** October 20, the former France Macau Business Association (FMBA) has won official recognition as a member of CCI France International (Chamber of Commerce and Industry). The France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) unveiled its new identity during a ceremony on Friday in the presence of its Honorary Chairlady, Pansy Ho, and Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macao, Eric Berti. During her

speech, Ho underlined the notable growth in bilateral ties between France and Macau, and the impact of the new FMCC in joining hands with French Chambers across the globe as well as its integration into the French international network. Berti emphasized in his speech the special relationship between the Consulate and the new Chamber, and congratulated the recent achievements of the FMCC's Executive Board and membership.



# The Venetian's 10th anniversary scheduled for November 20

**S**ANDS China is planning to hold its celebration for the 10th anniversary of The Venetian Macao integrated resort's opening on November 20.

The 10th anniversary celebration had initially been scheduled for August 28 but was postponed following the devastation caused by the passage of Typhoon Hato.

Sands China President Wilfred Wong told the Times in a September interview that the anniversary is "a milestone that should be remembered" and that it is "also important for our staff and our associates." He then mentioned that the company would consider holding the celebration at another time.

Now, according to a representative of Sands China, that date is likely to be November 20.

"While we had originally planned to celebrate this occasion on August 28, we decided to postpone the event in light of the needs of the Macau

BLOOMBERG



community in the aftermath of Typhoon Hato," an official spokesperson for Sands China told the Times. "In the wake of the natural disaster, our company came together to lend its support and its resources to the people of Macau."

However, with the recovery effectively complete, the spokesperson said that it is the company's "intention to reins-

tate the 10th Anniversary event on November 20."

The Sands China representative would not confirm whether Las Vegas Sands CEO Sheldon Adelson would attend the anniversary celebration.

One of Macau's most iconic resorts, Cotai-based The Venetian Macao opened on August 28, 2007. The 980,000-square-meter resort is one of the

largest buildings in the world by floor area and is modeled closely on its sister casino of the same name in Las Vegas.

The project was conceived back in 2003, when the land on which it stands was little more than a swamp. Today it is joined on the strip by other Sands China properties, including Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao.



## Business Daily closes down

**L**AUNCHED on April 2, 2012, English-language newspaper Business Daily is shutting down its operations after five years on the stands, as reported yesterday by TDM.

The closure of the newspaper was confirmed to the local broadcaster by Paulo A. Azevedo, head of the daily's publishing company De Ficção – Projectos Multimédia.

In the interview with TDM, Azevedo said that the print edition was a financial burden because of market conditions and of "ferocious competition."

Macau Business Daily, a specialized financial newspaper in half-broadsheet format, will stop being published by the end of this month.

Through its five years, Business Daily had several different editors at the helm. Tiago Azevedo (not related) was its first editor-in-chief, resigning in March 2014.

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## LRT trains expected to arrive next month

The first batch of Macau's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) trains was shipped to Macau from Japan on October 20, according to a statement published by the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT). "After coordination with Mitsubishi, [...] the trains are expected to arrive at Ocean Station in early November, where the associated train tests will then be carried out to achieve the target of Taipa Line Operations in 2019," the statement reads. The first series consists of four carriages; each one has a length of 11.8 meters, a width of 2.8 meters, a height of 3.6 meters and weighs about 15 tonnes.

## Military Club hosting Food & Wine Festival

The Military Club of Macau is currently hosting the Portugal Food and Wine Festival – Autumn 2017, from now until October 30. For its 19th edition, the Festival is being honored by the presence of two Portuguese chefs, Óscar Gonçalves and António Gonçalves. The brothers, who hail from their Portuguese restaurant located in the Pousada de Bragança, have a "naturalistic reflection and a deep respect for tradition," according to a statement from festival organizers. Based on a frenetic search for essentially Portuguese products and producers, the whole set of seasonal products is determined by the agricultural wealth inherent to the peculiar conditions of the Portuguese northeast. These are the very same authentic flavors of gastronomy that are on offer at the Military Club this month.

## HEALTH

# Smoking to be banned within 10 meters of bus stops

**STARTING** from January next year, smoking within 10 meters of any bus stop will be banned. The director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion, said that the SSM will coordinate with the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) to delineate the boundaries of non-smoking areas, the SSM revealed last week.

According to Lei, the border will be drawn with a gray line, in order to make it easy for the public and law enforcement officers to identify the tobacco-free areas.

Related work has already commenced, and will be completed before the end of the year.

Lei remarked that currently, people are unable to avoid second hand smoking. As for whether a person passing by a bus stop while smoking will be considered illegal, Lei stated that a person should put out their cigarette before entering a smoking-free zone.

At the same time, Lei reaffir-



med that smoking is not a crime and is difficult to put an end to, and that the government can only try its best to control smoking through public education and through enhanced law enforcement.

According to the SSM, in the majority of the world, law enforcement can only reduce the

use of tobacco by about 20 percent. The remaining 80 percent mainly comes from publicity and education.

The SSM said that it will continue to conduct anti-smoking inspections. In addition, the bureau noted that some tobacco-control associations will also use Facebook and WeChat,

along with other new media sources, to collect the public's reports of cases of illegal smoking.

Through this information, SSM believes that the public will find out which restaurants are a black spot for smoking, and it will encourage restaurants to be more careful.

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Julie Zhu

**T**HE Talents Development Committee (CDT), the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and the Macao Foundation jointly launched a program to train residents in linguistics and to encourage them to take credential exams, the CDT announced yesterday in a press conference.

The first phase of the program will run from November 1 of 2017, with the award period ending June 30 of 2018. This involves the launching of the pilot program for the assessment of language ability.

Any Macau resident who, during the award period, takes any of the exams mentioned below and receives a high grade might be awarded MOP1,000.

The exams include Putonghua Shuiping Ceshi (PSC), Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK), CAPLE, IELTS General Training Test, and TOEIC Listening & Reading Test. Residents can receive prizes if they reach Level II-B or higher, Level IV or higher, DIPLE

# Award program launched to train talented people



Lei Lai Keng (left) and Kong Ngai

or higher, 7.0 or higher, and 750 or higher, respectively. During the award period, each person can only be awarded once for each category.

Any Macau resident aged above 15 years old on the day of their application can apply for the exams.

According to CDT, the pro-

gram is intended to motivate residents to participate in these credential exams and to encourage them to reach a specific level in a variety of techniques and domains.

Currently, the awards are only related to linguistic abilities. Later, CDT will consider expanding this award program to other accreditations across different professional areas in order to improve the individual competences and professional skills of residents, as well as to guarantee a sufficient reserve of qualified human resource workers to contribute to Macau's economy diversification and development.

Kong Ngai, Chief of DSEJ's Continuing Education Department, believes that more Macau residents will take these linguistic exams after the award pro-

gram's launching.

Regarding expanding the program to other areas, Kong noted that the next phase of the awards might be established for electricity and cooking related fields.

"We estimate that about 1,000 people will apply for it," said Lei Lai Keng, chief adviser and high technician at CDT.

When asked why the authorities decided to set the prize at MOP1,000, Lei explained that the prize is mostly a stimulus to encourage the residents.

"MOP1,000 is in fact an incentive through which the committee hopes to inspire the public into participating in the exams," said Lei.

Lei remarked that there are somewhere around 8,000 people registered in CDT's Talent Information Registration.

## Clinic suspended on suspicion of providing reproductive services

**T**HE Health Bureau (SSM) has suspended the activities of the Mayo Medical Center – Macau for a period of 90 days on suspicion of the practice of illegal medical services related to assisted reproduction.

The SSM stated that this action was based on an anonymous complaint, which resulted in a surprise inspection to the medical facility on October 20. During the inspection, it

was found that there was "a hidden division and evidence of illegal clinical practices."

According to the bureau's records, the clinic had obtained licensing to provide health-related services in May this year but such licensing did not include assisted reproductive services.

According to the inspection made by the SSM in cooperation with the Public Security Police Force

(PSP), a hidden room with a concealed door was found, that was not part of floor plan given to the SSM when the licensing application was made.

In the room many types of equipment and materials used to perform reproductive procedures were found, such as microscopes, a biochemical table, a biological safety cabinet, a cell incubator, liquid nitrogen, an anesthesia machine, a life support monitor, a sur-

gical table and several other surgical materials.

Considering the continuous operation of the Mayo Medical Center as a public health risk, the SSM proceeded with sealing equipment and materials found and notified the license holder of the suspension of the Center's activities for a period of 90 days in order to allow a further investigation.

In early June several other clinics were also put



Some of the equipment found at the clinic

under investigation by the SSM. At that time, the Bureau reaffirmed that the use of such techniques were prohibited as they "involve ethical, legal, psychological, social and human issues. An inadequate provision of these [services] may incur several risks, including the eventual transmission

of infectious diseases." The Bureau continued, reminding the public that such techniques can only be provided at the Conde de S. Januário Hospital Center and at private health institutions that possess emergency services as well as obstetrics and neonatal intensive care units.

### corporate bits

#### SANDS LAUNCHED FIRST FASHION WEEK, A CELEBRATION OF STYLE



Sands Resorts Macao launched its first Sands Macao Fashion Week, hosting six days of fashion programs and promotions. The fashion week included runway and boutique shows created over the canals of the Shoppes at The Venetian, fashion parades at Shoppes at Parisian and other special events open to the public.

Top international label La Perla also used the Sands Macao Fashion Week 2017 as the perfect stage to launch its Spring/Summer 2018 collection, which introduced 70 ready-to-wear and haute couture looks.

Taking place between October 19 and 24, the event "instantly established itself

as a major new event on the industry's global calendar," according to a press release issued by Sands China. In addition to the "Walk on Water" runway shows that took place on The Venetian Macao's Grand Canal, The Parisian Macao's Avenue des Champs Elysees featured live catwalk shows showcasing the latest looks from a selection of stores for the coming season, set against the backdrop of the iconic Eiffel Tower.

The Fashion Week also saw exhibitions at Shoppes at Four Seasons, revealing the crème de la crème of fashion from the world's premium fashion houses.

A highlight of the week was a VIP gala dinner, held

at The Venetian Macao's main lobby, featuring a La Perla fashion show attended by around 200 celebrities and fashion elite from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, USA, France, UK, Italy and Russia.

As part of Sands China Ltd.'s ongoing campaign to support Macau's cultural and creative industries, Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) was invited to participate in two of the events, including presenting the closing runway show at the Shoppes at Parisian, where eight local Macau designers and brands with over 50 new looks were showcased.

The designers are part of CPTTM's Fashion Incubation Program (MaConsef) 2017, which aims to im-

prove the knowledge and technical skills of locals going into the industry.

David Sylvester, Executive Vice President of Global Retail, Las Vegas Sands Corp., said: "We are absolutely thrilled that Sands Macao Fashion Week has got off to such a sensational start. With some of the biggest names of the fashion and entertainment industry descending on Macau for a series of cutting-edge events capped by the stunning premiere of La Perla's Spring/Summer 2018 collection and the involvement of the local fashion industry, we have proudly declared the arrival of Sands Macao Fashion Week on the international fashion scene."





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Tom Redmond, Livia Yap

SINGAPORE'S second-largest lender has decided that the best place to expand its research is the country's rival market Hong Kong.

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. plans to add coverage of 60 Hong Kong-listed stocks, with 14 to 20 started by year-end, according to Carmen Lee, its head of research. That would supplement the around 75 firms already tracked by Bank of Singapore Ltd., OCBC's private banking unit, she said.

OCBC previously invested in mid-cap coverage of Singapore stocks in an attempt to dominate that area of its home market. But it was difficult to generate trades because the companies were too small for many clients, Lee said.

"Hong Kong is now our No. 1 overseas market," Lee said in an interview in Singapore. "The names are so familiar. Everyone knows about Ping An Insurance Group, China Life Insurance, Tencent Holdings and Baidu. It's very easy to promote Hong Kong ideas."

Lee's team has already started coverage of China Evergrande Group, Fosun International Ltd. and China State Construction International Holdings Ltd., she said. The firm initiated coverage on China Evergrande and Fosun this month and China State Construction in September.

# Singapore's OCBC to boost research in rival market HK



Hong Kong's stock market had average daily turnover of HKD95 billion (USD12.2 billion) in September, compared to less than SGD1.15 billion (\$843.6 million) in Singapore. Singapore's stock exchange has accelerated efforts in past months to increase trading in the city-state, as its average daily value of shares traded remains at less than half its average level of SGD2.4 billion in 2007. A penny-stock rout in 2013 shook confidence in the city's markets.

Nevertheless, OCBC remains focused on its core home market, Lee said. She prefers mid-cap property developers in Singapore and says domestic bank shares could continue to rise, even though they've become more expensive. (OCBC itself, for example, has gained almost 30 percent in 2017 alone and now trades at 13 times reported earnings, versus its five-year average of 10.5 times.)

The bank's shares rose 0.8 percent in Singapore trading

on yesterday, as the benchmark Straits Times Index added 0.3 percent.

Under Lee, OCBC's research group has taken the unconventional approach of relying more on younger analysts, she said. Her team consists of six analysts, excluding Lee, with an average age of 30. Younger researchers are more willing to take on new ideas, and are also less attached to "core old economy stocks like banking, manufacturing, conglom-

merates," Lee said.

"With young analysts, I find that they're very enthusiastic," Lee said, elaborating about her team's newer analysts that "they're fantastic with computers. They're fantastic with presentations."

At the same time, Lee said her team's senior analysts play an important role in actively mentoring the younger analysts. Even though "older analysts sometimes tend to be very fixated about certain areas," she said, they possess a wealth of experience and knowledge that they can share with their younger peers.

The bank is planning to take on two more people for its push into Hong Kong, and ultimately intends to have staff in Hong Kong as well, according to Lee. The companies the bank is starting to cover are all group efforts, rather than being dominated by a single analyst, she said.

"It's quite unusual," Lee said. "Perhaps we are the only house in the market that does that," she said. "Usually most analysts in the past will just want to take 100 percent ownership." **Bloomberg**

## Visa Q4 profits rise 11 percent, beating analyst forecasts

VISA Inc.'s fiscal fourth-quarter profits rose 11 percent, the company said yesterday, as the company continued to benefit from the purchase and integration of Visa Europe, as well as an increase of more customers spending on Visa's payment network.

The San Francisco-based company said it earned USD2.14 billion, or 90 cents per share, compared with \$1.93 billion, or 79 cents per share, in the same period a year ago. The results beat analysts' forecasts, who were looking for Visa to earn 85 cents per share.

Visa saw a 9.8 percent jump in payment volume on its network in the quarter to \$1.93 trillion. Visa charges a small fee to merchants every time a payment is processed on its network, so the more money



processed on its network, the more money Visa earns. The company saw 9 percent payment volume growth even in the very developed U.S. market, processing \$836 billion in payments last quarter.

"Visa ended our fiscal year as we began, with strong growth across payments volume, cross-border volume and processed transactions, which

was bolstered by the addition of Visa Europe," said CEO Alfred Kelly Jr. in a statement. "We're very pleased with our progress in Europe and will continue to make strategic investments that will further strengthen our franchise there and globally."

The global payments processor had revenue of \$4.86 billion in the quarter, which

also topped Wall Street expectations of \$4.62 billion.

For the full year, Visa earned a profit of \$6.7 billion, or \$2.80 a share, compared with \$5.99 billion, or \$2.48 a share, a year ago. Full year revenue was \$18.36 billion.

Visa shares were up 1 percent in pre-market trading to \$108.41. They have risen 39 percent so far this year. **AP**

USA

## Administration sides with NFL in sports betting case

THE Trump administration is siding with professional sports leagues in their opposition to allowing New Jersey to offer sports betting at its casinos and racetracks.

The solicitor general's office filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the leagues. The court is scheduled to hear the case in December.

Republican Gov. Chris Christie's administration is challenging a 1992 federal law that bans gambling on sports in all but four states. Christie sees sports betting as a way to boost the industries.

In an interview Tuesday on HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," Christie said the leagues were hypocrites for opposing sports betting while having professional hockey and football teams in Las Vegas, where sports gambling is allowed.

Christie says the leagues "no longer have moral ground." New Jersey officials say the high court should strike down a ban on sports betting in all but four states because it

wrongly forces states to enforce a regulation that Congress wants.

The high court will hear New Jersey's argument that the ban is not legal because it exceeds the authority of Congress. The state has been trying for nearly a decade to legalize sports betting and grab a share of the estimated USD150 billion that is bet illegally on sports each year.

After being rebuffed in its efforts to regulate legal sports betting, New Jersey tried a different tactic: repealing its regulations regarding sports betting, leaving no law in place at all.

The question to be decided by the justices is: Does a federal statute that prohibits modification or repeal of state-law prohibitions on private conduct impermissibly usurp the regulatory power of states?

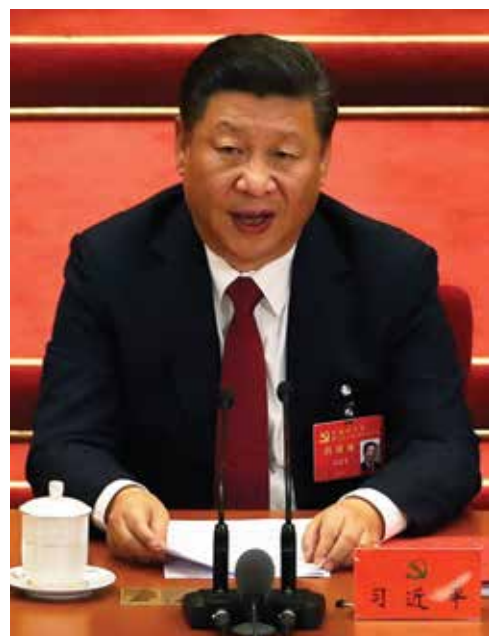
Major professional leagues and collegiate sports oppose New Jersey's effort to legalize sports betting, saying it would threaten the perceived integrity of the games. **AP**



**K**EY members of China's Communist Party were determined at the national congress, which is held every five years and concluded this week.

yesterday, members of the party's highest body, the Politburo Standing Committee were announced, with President Xi Jinping returning for a second five-year term as party general secretary.

Premier Li Keqiang also remains in place as his No. 2, while the other five members are all newcomers taking the place of those who retired due to unwritten age limits.



#### XI JINPING

The head of the Communist Party since 2012 and state president since 2013, Xi has established himself as a fervent nationalist and China's most powerful leader since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s.

Xi, 64, has worked to reassert the party's influence across all sectors, including in schools, the media and the private businesses that are driving China's economy. The son of a communist elder, Xi lived in a cave and performed hard labor during the Cultural Revolution before graduating from prestigious Tsinghua University and being appointed to a series of increasingly prominent provincial posts.

Xi's first five years in power have seen China adopt an increasingly assertive foreign policy, challenging the U.S. military's dominance in Asia. A strengthening of the domestic security services has led to what rights groups say is the worst crackdown on activists, political dissidents and the Uighur and Tibetan minority ethnic groups in decades.

With his new mandate, Xi will likely continue such measures while struggling to keep the economy growing fast enough to satisfy the demands of China's nearly 1.4 billion citizens and their building expectations for improving their quality of life. He's also formed a considerable cult of personality and has seen his personal political theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era" enshrined in the party constitution.

"History looks kindly on those with resolve, with drive and ambition and with plenty of guts," Xi said in his speech at the opening of the party congress last week. "It won't wait for the hesitant, the apathetic or those shy of a challenge."

Xi is also head of the Central Military Commission that commands the People's Liberation Army, the world's largest standing military.

#### LI KEQIANG



Premier since 2013, Li had at one time been a candidate for the top job, but was ruled out in part because of his close connection with previous leader Hu Jintao. Party elders also were reportedly concerned that he might not be tough enough to ensure the party's hold on power and lead China into a more dominant global position.

Despite that, Li's return for a second term on the Politburo appears to display the party's approval of his administrative skills and ability to maintain a balance between different factions.

Li, 62, was born into a fa-

mily of minor party officials but parlayed his intellectual skills into a seat at prestigious Peking University, where he earned a doctorate in law. He rose through the ranks to lead the Communist Youth League under Hu's tutelage, then was appointed China's youngest governor in 1998 at age 43.

He served as the top official in the provinces of Henan and Liaoning, where he emerged unscathed despite scandals including an AIDS outbreak and rampant organized crime. While nominally in charge of the economy and head of the Cabinet, Li

has seen his role diminished under the rule of Xi, who has appointed himself the head of numerous party working groups that have eroded the power of the ministries and other formal offices.

Affable and English-speaking, Li is seen most often in public greeting foreign visitors and paying visits to institutes of learning and high-tech industries. "The people's livelihood is why we govern," Li said in his annual address to the national legislature in March. "At times, one needs to place it on one's heart and carry it on one's shoulders."

#### LI ZHANSHU



As director of the party's General Office, Li effectively serves as Xi's chief of staff and is a constant presence at his side during state visits and other important occasions. The two men first worked together at the start of their careers as leading officials in adjacent rural townships in Hebei province outside Beijing.

While Xi took on new posts in the country's dynamic southeast, Li remained in Hebei, eventually rising to head the provincial Communist You-

th League and hold other top posts. He was then transferred to Xi's native province of Shaanxi and then to Heilongjiang in the far northeast, where he was eventually named governor.

From there he served as party secretary for two years in the poor southern province of Guizhou before being called to Beijing in 2012 as Xi was being made head of the party and given a seat on the Politburo.

Unlike his predecessors, Li,

67, plays a prominent role in foreign affairs, and in 2015 was sent by Xi to Moscow to serve as his special representative in talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I believe you and [President] Xi Jinping are leaders of two great nations, two great politicians who have significant influence in the world," Li was quoted as telling Putin.

Li is expected to take over as chairman of the National People's Congress, China's rubber stamp parliament.

#### WANG YANG



In his current role as vice premier, Wang's most high-profile responsibility is steering talks between the U.S. and China on thorny trade issues. These range from cutting China's excess steel production to easing restrictions faced by foreign businesses trying to tap into the world's second-largest economy.

In these talks, Wang has sought to be charming but also firm, saying the sides need to cooperate and warning that "confrontation will immediately damage the inte-

rests of both."

When he was the top leader of Guangdong, China's wealthiest province, Wang's favorite political slogan was "free your thinking." Wang, 62, is widely seen as an economic reformer interested in promoting the private sector and the transformation of China's economy from one reliant on heavy industries to one that's driven by consumption and innovation.

Wang is considered closely aligned with now-retired President Hu Jintao; both are

from the eastern province of Anhui. In 2011, as Guangdong party chief, Wang boosted his career when he presided over a compromise with protesters in the fishing village of Wukan, where residents had staged an uprising that made the village an internationally known symbol of grass-roots defiance against the party.

Wang will likely be appointed head of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the parliament's largely ceremonial advisory body.

#### WANG HUNING



Long considered the brains behind Xi's governing philosophy, Wang has served as director of the party's Central Policy Research Office since 2002. First transferred to Beijing from an academic career in his native Shanghai, Wang loyally served Xi's predecessors Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao in an advisory role, helping define their political outlooks and accompanying them on foreign trips.

Wang and Xi formed a close relationship, and Wang is almost always at the president's side at important events, along with Li Zhanshu and top foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi. A prolific author and former champion college debater, Wang, 62, is considered a fierce advocate of centralized power and authoritarian rule.

"The legacy of Wang's neo-authoritarianism and its cousin, neo-conservatism,

lives on today under the reign of Xi Jinping," wrote American China politics expert Jude Blanchette. "Look at the first five years of Xi Jinping's administration through the neo-authoritarian lens, and we see a consistent theme: clawing power back to Beijing."

Wang's predecessor in the No. 5 slot was in charge of propaganda and president of the party's main training academy.



CONGRESS

## Magnificent seven



New members of the Politburo Standing Committee. From left, Han Zheng, Wang Huning, Li Zhanshu, Xi Jinping, Li Keqiang, Wang Yang, Zhao Leji at Beijing's Great Hall of the People yesterday

## ZHAO LEJI



Since 2012, Zhao has run the ruling party's Central Organization Department, which oversees promotions, making him a key figure in Xi's campaign to promote supporters and tighten control over the political hierarchy.

Zhao, 60, is seen as part of Xi's "Shaanxi Gang" of figures with family ties to the western province from which their families originally hail. Before moving to Beijing, Zhao was party secretary for Shaanxi and, before that, for the remote western

province of Qinghai on the Tibetan plateau, where he was born and spent his early career.

Like Xi, Zhao is a second-generation party member, and unconfirmed accounts say their fathers were friends. Zhao would be one of the youngest Standing Committee members ever and his age would allow him to serve a full 10 years before party tradition would require he step down. That would help to extend Xi's influence beyond the next leadership change in 2022,

when he would be forced to step down as president under term limits.

"Zhao is well positioned on the policy front to carry out several of Xi's long-standing objectives: the alleviation of poverty and the strict enforcement of regulations on party officials," politics specialist Cheng Li wrote in a report for the Brookings Institution.

Zhao was appointed head of the party's feared anti-corruption watchdog body, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

## HAN ZHENG



A trained economist, Han worked his way up the political hierarchy of China's financial hub of Shanghai from a humble start in the chemical industry and at a rubber shoe factory.

He has spent his entire career in Shanghai, advancing over decades to become the city's mayor in 2003 — then the youngest person to hold that position, at age 48 — and its Communist Party chief in 2012. In 2007, he also served as deputy to Xi, then the city's party leader, before Xi moved to Beijing.

Han, 63, is known as a business-friendly politician able to rattle off statistics with practiced ease. During his tenure as mayor, Shanghai hosted the 2010 World Expo, which showcased China's rise as a modern industrial power.

But it was also on his watch that a New Year's Eve stampede on Shanghai's scenic Bund promenade killed 36 people at the end of 2014. Earlier in his career, Han emerged seemingly unscathed from a massive corruption scandal centering on Shanghai's pension

fund that resulted in the purge of the city's former Communist Party chief Chen Liangyu. Chen was sentenced to 18 years in prison in 2008.

Washington's Brookings Institution said in a report this year that Han was known as "a competent, seasoned financial and economic technocrat" with "market friendly policy orientation in Shanghai."

Han will likely be made executive vice premier with responsibilities for science, technology and some economic issues. **AP**

## ANALYSIS

## Absence of Xi heir among new China leaders raises questions

Gillian Wong &amp; Christopher Bodeen, AP

**C**HINA'S Communist Party leader Xi Jinping unveiled the new lineup of six men who will assist him as he embarks on a second five-year term centered on protecting and projecting the party's interests at home and abroad. Among them was a notable absence: an obvious successor to Xi, raising questions over how long he intends to rule.

As expected, Xi was given a renewed mandate following the first meeting of the new Central Committee that was elected at the party's twice-a-decade national congress.

"We will mobilize the whole party and the whole country in a resolute push to deliver on our pledge and eradicate poverty in China," Xi, China's president, said in comments to reporters at a brief ceremony at the Great Hall of the People.

The new leaders will face challenges that include reigning burgeoning levels of debt, managing trade tensions with the U.S. and Europe, preventing war over North Korea's nuclear program and navigating ties with Southeast Asian nations wary of Beijing's influence.

Five members of the new seven-strong Politburo Standing Committee Xi introduced were newly appointed yesterday. Going by the party's norms on retirement ages, none of them are deemed suitable to succeed the 64-year-old Xi as party leader after his second five-year term.

The absence of an obvious successor pointed to Xi's longer-term ambitions, said Joseph Fewsmith, an expert on Chinese politics at Boston University.

"It suggests that Xi will likely serve a third term, and that he is likely to name his own successor," Fewsmith said. "We have not seen that for two decades."

In contrast, before Xi took power in 2012, he had been in the Standing Committee for five years and Xi's predecessor Hu Jintao had a seat on the body for 10 years before becoming party leader. Under recent party precedent, party leaders have served just two five-year terms.

The party had already elevated Xi's status on Tuesday at its closing session by inserting his name and dogma into the party's constitution alongside past leaders Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, cementing his status as the most powerful man to head the country in decades.

"No one doubts Xi bestrides the landscape like a colossus. Organized or even unorganized resistance is inconceivable," said Jeremy Paltiel, a China expert at Canada's Carleton University.

Xi, the son of a Communist elder, has described his political ideology as central to setting China on the path to becoming a "great modern socialist country" by midcentury. 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.

The only other returning member to the apex ruling body was Premier Li Keqiang, the party's second-ranking official primarily responsible for overseeing the economy and leading the Cabinet. Li's authority was widely viewed as having been undercut by Xi's accumulation of power across various sectors of government.

The makeup of the committee reflects Xi's efforts to foster party unity by striking a balance between different interest groups in the 89-million member organization. They will run the rubber-stamp legislature and its advisory body and be responsible for areas that include propaganda, party discipline and ethnic and Taiwan affairs.

The inclusion of politicians from factions associated with Xi's predecessors Hu and Jiang Zemin in the Politburo Standing Committee pointed to the party's efforts to assuage concerns that Xi has been centralizing too much authority under him alone, analysts said.

"It signals balance and offers some relief to those who thought Xi will seek to place just his own loyal followers in key positions," said Dali Yang, a China politics expert at the University of Chicago.

Among the five new members, only Zhao and Li Zhanshu are seen to be Xi's proteges.



## THAILAND

# Funeral for king a five-day marathon of intense solemnity

Stephen Wright, Bangkok

**T**HE exactly planned five-day funeral for Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej will be governed by strict protocols for how the public and media conduct themselves that are as much about honoring the monarch as they are about controlling a delicate political moment.

The detailed prescriptions for appearance and behavior show a particular concern for what images of Thailand and its royals are circulated during and after the elaborate ceremonies, which include Bhumibol's cremation this evening.

Thais are known for a highly emotional adulation of Bhumibol, which palace officials assiduously cultivated over his 70-year reign, but the funeral will be an intensely somber event, intentionally drained of possibilities for spontaneity.

Only state-controlled TV can provide a live broadcast, and police have prohibited screen-printing of pictures of Bhumibol and his magnificent golden-colored cremation pyre on T-shirts and the like.

The crowds of mourners who'll squeeze into Bangkok's historic royal quarter starting will be a sea of black attire. They will be permitted to prostrate in silence when the royal procession passes, but must not shout "Long Live the King" or hold up cellphones to take selfies with the procession in the background.

Besides considerable security, an army of volunteers will be on



A retailer arranges her black garments in honor of the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at a shopping mall in Bangkok

hand to police behavior.

"If people act inappropriately, volunteers must be psychological and speak to them with soft voices to avoid violence," said Sansern Kaewkumnerd, a spokesman for the military government in power since a 2014 coup.

Because of Thailand's tropical climate, umbrellas, hats and sunglasses will be allowed, but they must be black or similarly muted and taken off to show respect to the royal procession when it passes.

"The bigger issue going on here is that spontaneity means

lack of control, and if there is anything the current regime wants to avoid, it is disorder or any evidence that they are not in control," said Tamara Loos, a professor of Southeast Asian studies at Cornell University.

The Oct. 13, 2016, death of the 88-year-old Bhumibol, known as Rama IX as the Chakri dynasty's ninth monarch, sparked a national outpouring of grief and a year of mourning.

The affection he inspired was in part the result of decades of work by palace officials to rebuild the prestige of the monarchy, which had lost much of its

influence after a 1932 coup ended centuries of absolute rule by Thai kings.

As a unifying symbol, Bhumibol earned genuine respect in a nation frequently rocked by political turmoil. But even the current military government's aggressive use of a draconian lese majeste law and online censorship has been unable to paper over divisions that find an outlet in criticism of the monarchy as the apex of a society in which the army has ousted elected governments twice since 2006.

"This long five-day ceremony is the precise moment when authorities would want to control any negative responses to King Bhumibol and the memory of his reign," said Loos.

"I could see real violence happening if there were protests against the monarchy during this moment because people are emotional," she said. "And nothing could be worse for Thailand now than to have bloodshed during the funeral ceremony."

Thailand's army on Tuesday detained a political activist, Ekachai Hongkangwan, after he wrote on Facebook that he planned to wear a red shirt today, a color-coded nod to supporters of the democratically elected governments ousted in the 2006 and 2014 army coups.

Requirements for journalists, and especially photographers, are particularly precise and outlined in a three-page document that includes a full page of additional regulations set by

special branch police.

Formal dress requirements that are typical for close quarters contact with members of the royal family include a prohibition on earrings, beards or mustaches for men, and unnatural hair coloring for women.

Photographers must bow or curtsy before and after taking photographs of the new king and other members of the royal family and cannot approach closer than 5 meters, or 10 meters if using a flash that must not exceed 1,500 watts.

Journalists are confined to specific stands, and the special branch police's instructions for how they take photographs are designed to preserve regal dignity: no photographs of royals while they are ascending or descending between levels, such as while walking on stairs; no photographs directly in the face while they are seated; no photographs of royals eating.

Michael Montesano, coordinator of the Thailand Studies Program at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, said the ceremonies are a goodbye to Bhumibol but also show an attempt to set the tone for the reign of his son, King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradabavarangkun, who has had far less contact with ordinary Thais than his father.

Montesano said Bhumibol's high-profile trips during his reign to the Thai countryside and efforts to improve the living standards of villagers earned him goodwill and became elevated to mythic levels through palace efforts to restore a sense of mystery to the monarchy.

"These two things go hand in hand," he said. "One of the questions is where this notion of a sacred monarchy, a monarchy with some mystery to it, and all this ceremony will fit into the way the monarchy really operates during the next reign." **AP**

## NEW ZEALAND

## US Ambassador Brown accepts advice after conduct complaint

**U.S.** Ambassador Scott Brown told a New Zealand website this week that he accepted advice that he should be more culturally aware after a U.S. inquiry into his conduct at a Peace Corps event in Samoa.

The Stuff website said Brown acknowledged that complaints were made about his comments to a female food server and to arriving guests at the July event in the Pacific country. Stuff reported Brown

told the server she could make hundreds of dollars as a waitress in the U.S. and told some guests they looked beautiful.

Brown, a former U.S. senator from Massachusetts, has been ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa since June. He was one of the first ambassadors tapped by President Donald Trump.

Brown attended the event with his wife and said he'd been complimenting the well-dressed guests as

they walked in. He said the complaints had come as a surprise but he accepted the advice from the inquiry.

"I was told that, 'You know, listen, you're not Scott Brown from Rye, New Hampshire, anymore, you're an ambassador and you have to be culturally aware of different cultures, and different sensitivities.' And I'm always welcoming that kind of advice," Brown told Stuff.

He said there had been

some cultural misunderstandings, but also that many people at the event didn't like Trump and he suspected there might be some political motivation behind the complaints.

"Sadly, it's politics, and it is what is," he told Stuff.

He said rumors about the incident had prompted him to speak out. The U.S. Embassy in New Zealand said Brown would not comment beyond the interview he gave to the news website. **AP**



US Ambassador Scott Brown



**M**ALAYSIAN prosecutors said yesterday that they would present security camera video showing two more male suspects at the airport on the day the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader was killed.

Video presented in court earlier showed Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong walking in the airport with a man wearing a baseball cap. Separately, Indonesian defendant Siti Aisyah was seen meeting with another man, who also wore a cap, at an airport cafe just before the attack on Kim Jong Nam was carried out in a crowded departure terminal of the Kuala Lumpur airport on Feb. 13. The faces of the men can't be seen clearly.

A police witness has testified that the two men were among four— all believed to be North Koreans — who are still at large. Prosecutors accuse the four of intending along with the two young women to kill Kim.

Prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad told reporters that he would show security video of the other two men today. He said their absence from the trial would not weaken the prosecution's case.

"We charge Aisyah and Doan, together with the four still at large," he said. "So we have to establish our case that Aisyah and Doan have connections with these four still at large."

## MALAYSIA

# Prosecutor to show video of two more suspects in Kim's murder

Chief police investigating officer Wan Azizul Nizam Che Wan Aziz earlier identified the two men seen with the women as only "Mr. Y" and "Mr. Chang." He has told the court that the two men were believed to have put liquid on the women's hands before they smeared it on Kim's face.

He named the two other at-large suspects as "James," the suspected recruiter of Aisyah, and "Hanamori," who is nicknamed "Grandpa" or "Uncle" and is suspected of giving directions to Mr. Y. No further details about those four suspects were disclosed in open court, but prosecutors and the defense team say more details about them will come out before the trial is over.

Yesterday's session was cut short because a defense lawyer was not feeling well.

Huong and Aisyah are the only two suspects detained in the brazen assassination of Kim, an outcast from North Korea's ruling family who lived abroad in virtual exile for years. Both women pleaded not guilty at the start of

AP PHOTO



Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong (center) is escorted by police as she arrives for a court hearing at Shah Alam court house in Shah Alam, outside Kuala Lumpur

their trial on Oct. 2 to murder charges that carry mandatory death sentences if they are convicted.

Their defense lawyers have said Huong and Aisyah were duped by the suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a

TV show. Prosecutors contend the women's conduct showed they knew they were handling poison.

Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, told reporters before the trial that she was recruited in early January by a North Korean man known to her only as James

to star in what he said were video prank shows. The lawyer said James and Aisyah went to malls, hotels and airports, where she would rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers. James video-recorded the encounters on his phone, and paid Aisyah between USD100 and \$200 for each one. **AP**

AD



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## SECURITY

# New screenings for US-bound passengers on global airlines

**FIVE** global long-haul airlines will begin new “security interviews” of all passengers on U.S.-bound flights beginning today at the request of American officials, the companies said.

Long-haul carriers Air France, Cathay Pacific, EgyptAir, Emirates and Lufthansa all said they’d start the screenings. However, the airlines offered different descriptions of how the interviews would take place.

It wasn’t immediately clear if other global airlines would be affected, though the Trump administration previously rolled out a laptop ban and travel bans that have thrown global airlines into disarray.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, it comes at the end of a 120-day deadline for airlines to meet new U.S. regulations following the ban on laptops in airplane cabins of some Mideast airlines being lifted.

Air France said it will begin new security interviews today at Paris Orly Airport and a week later, on Nov. 2, at Charles de Gaulle Airport. It said the extra screening will take the form of a questionnaire handed over to “100 percent” of passengers.

Emirates said in a statement it would begin doing “pre-screening interviews” at its check-in counters for passengers flying out of Dubai and at boarding gates for transit and transfer fliers.

AP PHOTO



It urged those flying through Dubai International Airport, its headquarters, to allow extra time to check into flights and board.

“These measures will work in complement with the current additional screening measures conducted at the boarding gate,” it said.

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. said on its website that it had suspended self-drop baggage services and that passengers heading to the U.S. “will be subject to a short security interview.” Those without bags would have a similar interview at their gates.

EgyptAir said in a statement the new measures include more detailed searches of passengers and their luggage and interviews. The strict procedures will extend to unauthorized agricultural or veterinary products.

Germany’s Lufthansa said the new rules came from the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, which is under Homeland Security.

“In addition to the controls of electronic devices already introduced, travelers to the U.S.A. might now also face short interviews at check-in, document check or gate,” Lufthansa said in a statement.

In March, U.S. officials instituted the ban on laptops in airplane cabins across 10 Middle East cities over concerns Islamic State fighters and other extremists could hide bombs inside of them. That ban was lifted after those airlines began using devices like

CT scanners to examine electronics just before passengers board airplanes heading to the United States.

**■ Cathay Pacific Airways said on its website that it had suspended self-drop baggage services**

That laptop ban, as well as travel bans affecting predominantly Muslim countries, have hurt Mideast airlines. Emirates, the region’s biggest, said it slashed 20 percent of its flights to America in the wake of the restrictions.

It wasn’t immediately clear if other Mideast airlines were affected by the new rules.

Abu Dhabi-based Etihad said its operations “were normal” without elaborating, while Doha-based Qatar Airways did not immediately respond to a request for comment. **AP**

## FAQ

## What could be revealed in long-secret JFK files

**FOR** decades, the existence of secret government files linked to President John F. Kennedy’s assassination has helped fuel conspiracy theories that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in his murder. Now the public is going to get a deeper look at the collection.

The government is required by today to release the final batch of files related to Kennedy’s assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. Experts say the publication of the last trove of evidence could help allay suspicions of a conspiracy — at least for some.

“As long as the government is withholding documents like these, it’s going to fuel suspicion that there is a smoking gun out there about the Kennedy assassination,” said Patrick Maney, a presidential historian at Boston College.

### HOW MANY FILES ARE THERE?

The collection includes more than 3,100 documents

— comprising hundreds of thousands of pages — that have never been seen by the public. About 30,000 documents were released previously with redactions. The National Archives is planning to post the files on its website.

### WILL ALL OF THEM BE RELEASED?

It’s unclear exactly how many files will be released. President Donald Trump is the only person who can stop any of the documents from becoming public. Trump pledged in a tweet on Saturday that — “subject to the receipt of further information” — he will allow the “long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened.”

The CIA and FBI, whose files make up the bulk of the final batch, have refused to say whether they’re lobbying the president to keep any of the files under wraps. Experts expect certain IRS files to remain secret, like the tax return

of Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald two days after Kennedy’s assassination when the suspect was in police custody.

### WHY IS IT BECOMING PUBLIC NOW?

President George H.W. Bush signed a law on Oct. 26, 1992, requiring that all documents related to the assassination be released within 25 years, unless the president says doing so would harm intelligence, law enforcement, military operations or foreign relations. The push for transparency was driven in part by the uproar in the wake of Oliver Stone’s 1991 conspiracy-theory filled film “JFK.”

### WILL THERE BE ANY BOMBSHELLS?

The chances are slim, according to the judge who led the independent board that reviewed and released thousands of the assassination documents in the 1990s. The files that were withheld in full were those

AP PHOTO



the Assassination Records Review Board deemed “not believed relevant,” Judge John Tunheim of Minnesota told The Associated Press. But Tunheim said it’s possible the files contain information the board didn’t realize was important two decades ago.

JFK experts believe the files will provide insight into the inner workings of the CIA and FBI. But they stress that it will take weeks to mine the documents for potentially new

and interesting information.

### WHAT WILL THE FILES SHOW?

Some of the documents are related to Oswald’s mysterious six-day trip to Mexico City right before the assassination, scholars say. Oswald said he was visiting the Cuban and Soviet Union embassies there to get visas, but much about his time there remains unknown.

The to-be-released documents

contain details about the arrangements the U.S. entered into with the Mexican government that allowed it to have close surveillance of those and other embassies, Tunheim said. Other files scholars hope will be released in full include an internal CIA document on its Mexico City station, and a report on Oswald’s trip from staffers of the House committee that investigated the assassination. **AP**



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## what's ON



**SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR**  
**TIME:** 8pm  
**VENUE:** Mount Fortress  
**ADMISSION:** MOP150  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2836 6866

**A SCULPTURE - YANG XIAO HUA**  
**REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM**  
**COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** December 31, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**AFFECTION FOR LOTUS - EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAO TSUNG-I**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm (Last admission at 17:30; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** December 31, 2017  
**VENUE:** Jao Tsung-I Academy  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2852 2523

**DETERMINED SPIRIT - CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTING OF FU SHEN**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** November 19, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**A BONSAI OF MY DREAM - WORKS BY WONG CHENG POU**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** November 12, 2017  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**DEBRIS - WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA VHILS**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** November 5, 2017  
**VENUE:** Navy Yard No. 1  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2836 6866

## Offbeat

## RUNAWAY GARBAGE TRUCK HITS STORE NAMED A BEAUTIFUL MESS

A runaway garbage truck has slammed into the front of a New York gift shop named A Beautiful Mess, causing extensive damage.

Owner Jeri Flack says he received a call from police earlier this week informing her that a garbage truck rolled away from a gas station in Henrietta, traveled across the street and crashed into Flack's retail store.

WHAM-TV reports that gas station workers say the truck driver parked there to use the bathroom and the truck had rolled away by the time he returned.

No one was injured, but the truck's impact caused serious structural damage to the 200-year-old brick building.

Flack says she doesn't know if she'll be able to reopen in time for the Christmas shopping season.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
15:50	Miscellaneous
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Yes, Chef!
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

26 Oct



## THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

2D: 2:15 4:45, 9:45pm 3D: 17:15pm

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English

Duration: 109 min



## GEOSTORM

ROOM 2

2:30 9:30pm

Director: Dean Devlin

Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish,

Daniel Wu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



## WISH UPON

ROOM 2

4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Jouhn R. Leonetti

Starring: Joey King, Ryan Phillippe, Ki Hong Lee

Language: English

Duration: 115min

## ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

ROOM 3

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Louis Koon, Julian Cheung, Lam Ka Tung

Language: Chinese (Chinese and English subtitles)

Duration: 107 min

## this day in history



## 1951 CHURCHILL WINS GENERAL ELECTION

The Conservative Party has won the general election by a small majority, making Winston Churchill prime minister for the second time.

Mr Churchill is nearly 77 and the second oldest prime minister in history. William Gladstone was 83 when he formed his last government.

The first results, which started coming in late last night, put Labour ahead. But by early this afternoon, the Conservatives had taken the lead.

At about 1730, when it became clear the Conservatives had a majority, Clement Attlee drove to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation as Labour Prime Minister.

Mr Churchill was received by the King soon afterwards and accepted his invitation to form Great Britain's 40th government.

Opinion polls throughout the five-week election campaign had predicted a comfortable majority for the Conservatives and it will come as some disappointment the gap was not bigger.

Several main issues were highlighted during the campaign including the rising cost of living, housing and the expensive rearmament programme which has been on-going since the war.

Voters rejected Labour's tactic of labelling Mr Churchill as a warmonger and instead embraced the Conservatives' election promise that they would now create a "strong and free" Britain.

Throughout the campaign Mr Churchill has spoken of the need for a broad-based government and he is widely expected to appoint a Cabinet with as wide a representation as possible.

Following his victory in his constituency of Woodford, Essex, he said: "We have all, I feel, a great deal in common; and now, perhaps there will be a lull in our party strife which will enable us to understand more what is good in our opponents and not to be so very clever at finding out all their shortcomings."

Mr Attlee was in his constituency of West Walthamstow the day before the election. He recorded his vote at Caxton Hall and was returned with a majority of more than 11,000.

The new Parliament will be sworn in on Wednesday 31 October and the State opening of Parliament will take place on 6 November.

Results from Inverness, Orkney and Zetland, the Western Isles and Argyll are expected some time tomorrow.

Voting in constituency of Barnsley in Yorkshire won't take place until 8 November because of the sudden death of Labour candidate, Mr F Collindridge.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The final result was Conservatives and Associates - 321 seats; Labour - 295; Liberal - 6; and others 3.

The results gave the Conservatives a majority of just 17 over all other parties.

In 1953 Mr Churchill was made a Knight of the Order of the Garter in recognition of his services to his country.

He resigned in 1955 at the age of 81 due to ill health but remained a backbencher until 1964.

He died on 24 January 1965, aged 90 at his London home at Hyde Park Gate.

In 2002, Winston Churchill was named the greatest Briton of all time in a nationwide poll which attracted well over a million votes.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Some heavy feelings are probably weighing you down right now, but the sooner you address them, the better off you'll be. You don't have to solve them -- in fact, just acknowledging that they exist might be enough.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Your mental agility extends across a broad range of topics, but right now you've got the brain power to go for depth in addition to breadth. You've got the ability analyze subtleties in new ways.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Irresistibility is a state of mind that's quite familiar to you, but today's energy gives you even more depth and magnetism for the time being. All around you, people are falling under your spell.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Find a way to take a break and soak up some fresh air today. You're about to plunge into some very deep and demanding situation at work or at school, so make sure you spend some time outside enjoying yourself.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're in an extra-weird mood and possibly feeling off balance. So why are you trying so hard to make sure that what you're feeling isn't seen as a big deal? Dismissing your emotions right now isn't the best course of action.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're moving up the career (or political) ladder, which is somewhat thrilling -- and yet just a little bit terrifying at the same time. Don't beat yourself up over your seriously mixed feelings about success.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Even if high school was long ago for you, it's easy (maybe too easy) to slip back into that mentality. Who's got the newest, shiniest gear? Who's the teacher's pet? Who's the popular one.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Mulling over past decisions and contemplating what might have been are guaranteed to drive you totally insane -- so don't do it, no matter what! Push aside all those could-have-beens.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Toss aside any limiting or inhibiting worldviews by diving into deep conversations with those whose intellectual powers meet (or even exceed) yours. It's hard to understand where someone's coming from.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Leave the routine chores around the house to someone else today -- even if you live alone, you can leave them to future you! Some extraordinary meetings are taking place today, and you need to be ready for them.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It may feel as if you've got the whole world on your shoulders. You are pretty strong, but it's still time to do something about your burden. You could end up with a serious crick in your neck.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You need to spend time treading water before you plunge into uncharted depths, especially at a moment like this. Some of the work you've been doing has stirred up a few surprising emotions.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	9	18	cloudy/clear
Harbin	3	13	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	12	19	overcast/cloudy
Urumqi	9	16	clear/shower
Xi'an	11	20	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	5	21	clear
Chengdu	13	20	overcast
Chongqing	16	21	drizzle/overcast
Kunming	14	20	overcast/cloudy
Nanjing	14	19	overcast
Shanghai	18	21	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	13	17	drizzle
Hangzhou	16	21	cloudy/overcast
Taipei	25	26	drizzle
Guangzhou	21	29	clear
Hong Kong	23	28	cloudy

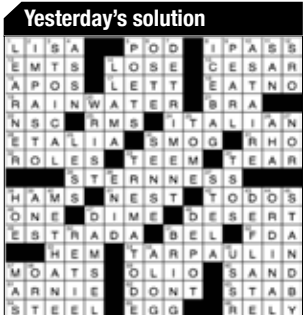
WORLD

Moscow	8	13	drizzle
Frankfurt	12	18	drizzle/clear
Paris	12	20	cloudy
London	12	16	drizzle
New York	7	20	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Los \_\_\_\_; 7- To cheat; 10- Sports figure?; 14- Tropical fruit; 15- \_\_\_\_ carte; 16- Asta's mistress; 17- Peace Nobel Sakharov; 18- Young \_\_\_\_; 19- Farm team; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Twangy, as a voice; 26- Wolfed down; 27- Capital of Crete; 28- Worshiped one; 29- "Treasure Island" monogram; 30- Diner order; 31- Umbrella; 33- Green shade; 34- 1972 treaty subj.; 37- Word that can succeed old, ice and bronze; 38- Pother; 39- Boxer Laila; 40- Leaves in a bag; 41- Your, to Yves; 42- Not many; 43- Now; 45- \_\_\_\_ Paulo; 46- Hosp. staffers; 47- Child's bed; 48- Flight of steps; 51- Pig; 52- Stop on \_\_\_\_; 53- Especially; 56- Baldwin of "30 Rock"; 57- WWW address; 58- Assaults; 62- Prefix with Tibetan; 63- "Hold On Tight" band; 64- Eye inflammation; 65- Polite address; 66- Thesaurus wd.; 67- Already?;

DOWN: 1- Attorney's org.; 2- PC linkup; 3- Not to mention; 4- Cooking wine; 5- Actor Ryan; 6- Travel on water; 7- Imperfections; 8- Radii neighbors; 9- Catch some rays; 10- Winter vehicle; 11- Poison; 12- Narrow mountain ridge; 13- Country singer Tucker; 21- Fat used to make candles; 22- Cream cake; 23- Try to bite; 24- Proverb; 25- Sensitive spots; 29- Cowboy display; 30- Ringing instruments; 32- Adventurous expedition; 33- Monetary unit of Tonga; 34- Maker of Pong; 35- Darden; 36- Perhaps; 44- Molting; 45- Half-hour funny show; 46- Deodorant type; 48- Muscle contraction; 49- Actress Shire; 50- Rock concert venue; 51- \_\_\_\_-burly; 52- Oldsmobile model; 54- Billiard implements; 55- Baseball stats; 59- DDE's command; 60- Juan's uncle; 61- Common ID;



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AP PHOTO



## POKER

## US star Phil Ivey loses UK case, won't get millions

**H**E'S long been a winner at cards, but American poker star Phil Ivey's good fortune does not extend to Britain's Supreme Court — he lost a major case yesterday [Macau time] that will keep him from cashing in.

The British Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that Ivey had used illegitimate means to amass 7.7 million pounds (USD10.2 million) in winnings during a stint at the baccarat table in 2012.

He and a colleague were found to have used a technique known as “edge sorting” to gain an unfair advantage while gambling at the Crockfords casino in London's posh Mayfair district.

They did not actually touch the cards being dealt, but convinced the croupier to arrange the cards a certain way that allowed them to

determine, in some cases, which cards were being dealt, allowing them to bet accordingly.

Crockfords cried foul and refused to pay his winnings, leading Ivey to pursue his claim in court.

Supreme Court Judge Anthony Hughes said the integrity of Punto Banco baccarat depends on the cards being dealt at random without gamblers knowing their face value.

“What Mr. Ivey did was to stage a carefully planned and executed sting,” he said.

He said Ivey took “positive steps to fix the deck” by tricking the croupier. He said that “is inevitably cheating.”

Ivey, long recognized as one of the top players in international poker, said his winnings were honestly obtained.

“At the time I played at Crockfords, I believed that edge-sorting

was a legitimate Advantage Play technique and I believe that more passionately than ever today,” he said after the ruling.

He said he pursued the case to Britain's highest court out of a sense of honor.

“As a professional gambler, my integrity is everything to me,” said Ivey, who has won a number of World Series of Poker competitions.

The president of Genting Casinos UK, which operates Crockfords, said the ruling “vindicates” the company's decision not to pay Ivey his baccarat winnings.

“We are delighted that the High Court, the Court of Appeal and now the Supreme Court have all found in Genting's favor, confirming that we acted fairly and properly at all times and that Mr. Ivey's conduct did indeed amount to cheating,” he said. **AP**



## RUGBY

# Wallabies strive to show improvement vs All Blacks in third Bledisloe

Steve McMorran

**T**HE Wallabies have a chance to administer a shot in the arm to Australian rugby when they play the All Blacks in the third Bledisloe Cup test at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday.

New Zealand has already locked away the Bledisloe Cup for the 15th straight year after winning the first two matches 54-34 at Sydney and 35-29 in Dunedin.

But the Wallabies put forward their performance in the second test — when they led three minutes from fulltime before being beaten by a late All Blacks try — as evidence of the improvement they have made this season. They went on to draw twice with South Africa and to beat Argentina twice to place second in the Rugby Championship, to further the impression they have made steady progress.

There seems to be growing confidence within the Wallabies that they can beat the All Blacks on Saturday, to deliver a boost to Australian rugby which has struggled this season through difficult times on and off the field.

The Wallabies began their season with a rare loss to Scotland and unconvincing wins over Italy and Fiji; they trailed the All Blacks 40-6 at halftime in the first Bledisloe test before scoring three late tries.

And they came close to an upset in Dunedin before the All Blacks showed the full extent of their ability by summoning a try from nowhere in the last three minutes to pull off a great escape.

A win in Brisbane would go some way to restoring faith and confidence in the Wallabies and



All Black's Rieko Ioane celebrates his try against South Africa during the Rugby Championship match earlier this month

in Australian rugby for which the 2017 season has been stained by the acrimony surrounding the decision to axe the Western Force from Super Rugby. Dwindling audiences have added to the impression that the sport is struggling in Australia, but the Wallabies have it in their power to help get it back on track.

The All Blacks have shown the Wallabies respect by selecting the strongest team they can muster, though the series is already decided. But they are without props Owen Franks and Joe Moody, locks Brodie Retallick and Luke Romano, win-

ger Nehe Milner-Skudder and flyhalf Beauden Barrett — who are injured or unavailable for personal reasons.

**■ The Wallabies began their season with a rare loss to Scotland and unconvincing wins over Italy and Fiji**

The All Blacks will go into the match with a new starter at flyhalf for the first time this season — Barrett has played in every test up until now but Lima Sopoaga will start in the No. 10 jersey on Saturday for only the second time in his career and the first since his debut against South Africa two years ago.

That would seem to make the All Blacks more vulnerable and gives the Wallabies more cause to be confident, but the Australian squad is aware that draws with the Springboks and wins over the Pumas are not conclusive evidence of a great revival.

Australian rugby recently

called a conclave of leading coaches to discuss the ways in which the Wallabies might eventually, and regularly, beat the All Blacks and Saturday might produce the white smoke that shows some of their thinking.

Wallabies coach Michael Cheika has made clear that his team is determined to make an impression, no holds barred.

"It's not like we're all best friends hanging around. There's a lot of intensity when this encounter comes," Cheika said of the Australia vs New Zealand tests. "They've got long-standing bragging rights."

"It's up to us to say, to show we're going to be competitive every single time we go out there and make the games battles that both teams remember. And then what happens from that results-wise will happen by the quality of our play."

Cheika emphasized the All Blacks are the yardstick against which the Wallabies hope to measure themselves.

"We're going to need to improve on everything that we've done," he said. The All Blacks are "one of the best teams that's ever run out to play rugby over the last 10 to 15 years and to compete with that we've got to show our improvement and show our teeth as well."

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen is well aware of what a win would mean to the Wallabies.

"As everyone knows if you beat the All Blacks it doesn't matter what else you've done, you've beaten the All Blacks," he said. "So they'll be hanging their hat on trying to do that. It's been a while so they're pretty desperate and we just need to be as desperate as they are." AP

AD

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opinion

**Made in Macao**  
Jenny Lao-Phillips



**LIVING A NOMADIC LIFESTYLE IN MACAO**

A nomad lives under a constant change of location, involving minimum attachment to the immediate surroundings, not letting things own them, and meeting different people from different cultures. It seems like an interesting and free lifestyle. But it's not that easy to do in practice, as one has to let go of all one's possessions. It's especially difficult for people in Macao with well-paid jobs, pets, cars and apartments. But yet, there are more and more young people living like nomads in Macao. Not the kind who travel to different places, but the "moving house every couple of years" kind.

Macao used to be a place where citizens had stable lives with permanent addresses. This seems to have changed in the last ten to twenty years, perhaps because many people cannot afford to buy an apartment; not shocking news to anyone here. On the other hand, there seems to have been a change in the culture of our living situations.

In the past, Chinese families valued the idea of 三代同堂, which means "three generations under one roof". Young people used to live together with their parents and grandparents, even after getting married. It was probably around the 1970s that the tradition started changing with young couples getting their own place after marriage. With this change, saving up enough money to buy an apartment became a prerequisite for getting married from the 1980s to the beginning of this century. This change also explains why there was a decade where weddings and babies were few, followed by a boost in both resulting from changing mindsets regarding the necessity of buying an apartment. With the average salary being increased over the years, young couples do not need to specifically save up for a wedding, and as they feel they can never save up enough for an apartment anyway, many of them choose to rent. Having a permanent apartment became less of a concern to modern day young couples.

The other reason for more people choosing to rent instead of buying an apartment comes from globalisation. Aside from the issue of being able to afford an apartment, more people are thinking of retiring to other countries. Or before that stage in their lives, finding jobs in other countries in a few years. Therefore, settling down and buying an apartment may seem too much of an attachment to invest in. As a result, more young couples and families are living the nomad lifestyle, moving every two to three years.

Living a nomadic lifestyle can have quite a number of benefits. Firstly, knowing that one has to move every couple of years may help belongings to a minimum, thus saving money on unnecessary items that would be hectic to move. Perhaps this is something that will be well-received by individuals who have partners who love to shop! Also, if one dislikes like one's neighbors, it is easy to quickly move away, or at worst, to only have to put up with them for a couple of years. No more worries about spending a lifetime with annoying neighbors.

Finally, with the current price of apartments in Macao, buying a mediocre apartment costs about the same as renting a great apartment for over 50 years, even after allowing for inflation. To quote the nomads, "Things you own end up owning you." So, without a mortgage to worry about, we are left with more cash for travelling, fine-dining, or for emergency use, even if there are lots of hassles involved with moving around and there is the worry about not having a place to live when one grows old. But perhaps the best advantage to living the nomad style in Macao is life can be more flexible.

**THE BUZZ NOT AT HOME? AMAZON WANTS TO COME IN AND DROP OFF PACKAGES**

Would you let a stranger in your house to drop off a package? Amazon hopes so.

The online retailer said that it will launch a service next month called Amazon Key that would allow delivery people to walk into your home and drop off a box when you're not there.

Those who want to use the service would need to be an Amazon Prime member and would have to buy a camera and a Wi-Fi-con-

nected lock from the Seattle-based company that starts at USD250. Shoppers will then be able to select in-home delivery on the Amazon app.

When the delivery person shows up, they will knock first, scan the package and Amazon will make sure the delivery person is at the right home and unlock the door. No codes are needed and the indoor camera will record the in-home delivery.

**Politics on display as Letterman receives Mark Twain Prize**

Ashraf Khalil, Washington

**D**AVID Letterman was never known as a particularly political comedian, preferring a detached irony-drenched tone that favored the surreal and silly over topical humor. But there was an unmistakable political tint to much of yesterday's ceremony to present Letterman with the Mark Twain award for American humor.

Several of the comedians honoring Letterman took shots at President Donald Trump and the general state of the country. More than one comedian quipped that the Kennedy Center's funding was about to be cut off mid-show. Meanwhile, the center announced that Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was a Kennedy Center benefactor.

Late night host Jimmy Kimmel jokingly blamed Letterman for helping to bring Trump to power.

"It's like you went out for cigarettes one day and left us in the hands of our abusive, orange stepfather," Kimmel quipped.

He praised Letterman profusely, recalling a monologue he delivered on his show shortly after the 9/11 attack.

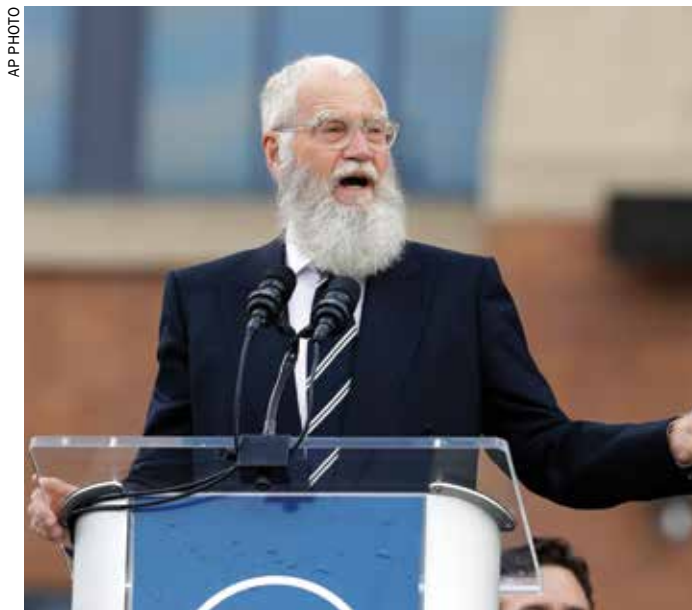
"You let us know it was OK to move on and OK to laugh again," Kimmel said. "Dave, you led the way for all of us."

But Kimmel also noted that in that same monologue, Letterman offered glowing praise to then-New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, who went on to become a vocal public Trump supporter.

"Well Dave, we all make mistakes sometimes," Kimmel said.

Comedian-turned-Senator Al Franken thanked Letterman for a post-retirement series of videos that he and Letterman recorded together designed to raise awareness on climate change. Comedians Martin Short and Steve Martin, a previous Mark Twain honoree, needled Letterman about his bushy white retirement beard with a line touching on the country's current divisive political atmosphere.

"Dave has always had excellent instincts. What better time than now to choose to look like a Confederate war general," Steve Martin said.



David Letterman speaks during the unveiling of a Peyton Manning statue outside of Lucas Oil Stadium, in Indianapolis earlier this month

Speakers Sunday night included comedians John Mulaney, Amy Schumer and Jimmie Walker of the 1970s television series "Good Times." Walker gave Letterman one of his first jobs as a joke writer in Hollywood.

Schumer poked fun at Letterman's famed reputation for grumpiness, saying she performed on his show three times.

"By the end of my third appearance, Dave was no longer totally indifferent to me," she said.

Mulaney credited Letterman's appeal with his determination to mine humor from ordinary people, and occasionally their pets.

"The Johnny Carson show said, 'Take a break from your weird life and watch these famous people have fun in show business,'" Mulaney said. "Dave's show said, 'Your weird life is just as funny as show business.'"

The 70-year-old Letterman spent 33 years on late-night TV, hosting long-running shows on NBC and then on CBS. His final broadcast on May 20, 2015, was episode No. 6028 that Letterman hosted. It shattered the record of his mentor, Carson.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama sent in a video tribute and Pearl Jam lead singer Eddie Vedder thanked Letterman for being a longtime "friend to music" and performed the song "Keep me in your heart" by the late Warren Zevon, a Letterman favorite.

Letterman's run on NBC in

particular was hugely influential, introducing a sardonic, smartly silly comedic style that influenced a generation.

His time slot immediately following Carson's "The Tonight Show" allowed Letterman to draw a huge following of young, largely college-age viewers seeking an alternative to the somewhat staid Carson model.

Letterman introduced the country to fringe musical acts that might never have received an opportunity on "The Tonight Show."

His humor was undeniably intelligent, but also at times surrealistic and goofy.

Letterman started his career as a radio talk show host and TV weatherman in Indiana. In the mid-1970s he moved to Los Angeles, performing stand-up comedy and writing jokes for (at the time more famous) stand-up comic Walker of "Good Times" fame. Eventually he caught the eye of "The Tonight Show" and Carson, performing several times on the show and becoming a regular guest host starting in 1978.

NBC gave Letterman his own show following Carson; "Late Night with David Letterman" debuted on Feb. 1, 1982. Letterman's first guest that night? Bill Murray, the Twain award recipient in 2016.

Murray predictably stole the show with a surreal performance dressed as an Elizabethan monarch.

Murray said the perks of the Twain award elevate you above normal humans. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: D5MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**RUSSIA-TURKEY** Two prominent Crimean Tatar leaders who were imprisoned in Russian-occupied Crimea have been released and flown to Turkey, Ukraine's president said yesterday. President Petro Poroshenko thanked the Turkish president for his help in mediating the releases of Ilmi Umerov and Akhtem Chiygoz.

**IRAQ's** self-ruled Kurdish region yesterday offered to freeze the results of its controversial independence vote last month as part of a dialogue with Baghdad. The proposal, however, is unlikely to be accepted by Baghdad, which demands that the results be annulled before it takes part in any negotiations.



**SAUDI ARABIA's** powerful crown prince has announced plans to build a futuristic city run entirely on alternative sources of energy and said the ultraconservative kingdom must return to "moderate Islam."

**FRANCE's** government spokesman Christophe Castaner says he is a candidate to lead President Emmanuel Macron's recently created party. Castaner said yesterday on RTL radio that Macron supports his candidacy, which makes him the favorite for the job.

**PANAMA** The United States has lifted restrictions on two Panama newspapers wrapped up in money laundering allegations against their owner.

**BRAZIL** Two military police officers have been arrested in connection with the shooting death of a Spanish tourist who was on a guided tour of one of Brazil's largest slums.