



'HANDOVER FEARS' DID NOT MATERIALIZE
A Portuguese director is shooting the fourth episode of a documentary about Macau

P2 MDT REPORT



SPOOKY MONSTERS BACK AT ALBERGUE
Halloween events were held on Saturday and yesterday evening in the courtyard of Albergue SCM

P4



CROWD RALLIES IN BARCELONA FOR SPAIN UNITY

P14



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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



THAILAND The relics and ashes of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej were enshrined in the royal palace and two temples yesterday, ending an elaborate five-day funeral for a widely revered monarch who reigned for seven decades.

IRAQ's Prime Minister on Friday issued a 24-hour suspension of the movement of troops who are deployed in Iraq's north to bring territory held by Kurdish forces back under federal control. The order was given to "prevent clashes and bloodshed between the sons of one nation."

QATAR's central bank is easing its banking rules for expatriates, as it grapples with a regional economic boycott about to enter its sixth month. The regulator ordered lenders to allow foreign workers to conduct normal banking transactions for 90 days after the expiry date of their visa.

More on backpage

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The steel behind Beijing's soft power play

TRANSPORT

First batch of LRT trains arrives in Macau

P2



Outlying Taiwan islands reject casinos in referendum vote

P9

TRANSPORT

First batch of LRT trains arrives

THE first batch of Macau's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) trains arrived in Macau yesterday morning.

The trains, manufactured by Japan's Mitsubishi Group, had been shipped to Macau from Japan on October 20.

According to a statement published yesterday by the Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT), the boat carrying the trains docked at the Ka Ho Port in Coloane.

The trains are expected to be transported to Ocean Station next week, where tests will be carried out to assess several technical aspects.

The batch consists of four carriages weighing about 15 tons, each with a length of 11.8 meters, a width of 2.8 meters, a height of 3.6 meters.

After winning the bid to manufacture carriages for the local LRT system, Mitsubishi

Heavy Industries proposed three models – which differed mainly in color and some aesthetic features. The government held an online vote in September 2011 for residents to choose a model. According to Mitsubishi, the winning model, "Ocean Cruise", shows that Macau is a city with a strong maritime tradition.

The Taipa Line is scheduled to commence operations in 2019. **PB**



Filmmaker happy that 'handover fears' did not materialize

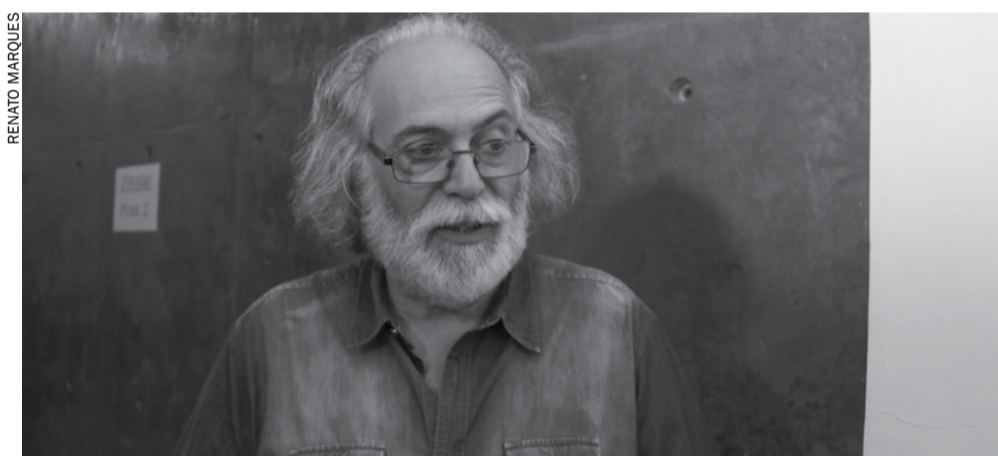
Renato Marques

PORTUGUESE documentary filmmaker Carlos Fraga has returned to Macau to shoot his new documentary, the fourth in a six-part series. This installment will revolve around Portuguese-speaking people and countries, a topic which also took center stage at the recent Lusofonia Festival.

The trip to Macau was also an opportunity for Fraga to screen the third instalment of the series, which focuses on "Portuguese Marks". The idea behind the third installment was to represent the "two sides of the coin", while the second focused on the Macanese community in Lisbon.

Speaking on the sidelines of the "Give and Receive – Macau's Portuguese Marks" screening at the Macau Portuguese School (EPM), Fraga explained that the series' overarching theme was "Macau 20 years after" and that each of the six parts addresses a different aspect of Portuguese heritage.

"What we are looking to portray, as accurately



Carlos Fraga

as possible, is the place and the people in their own words [...] without any influence from our side," he said. "We just collect the statements and organize them. They are very anthropological documentaries, in fact."

When asked what he has learned during the recording of the current installment, the documentary filmmaker said, "There is a variety of opinions and of feelings and sensitivities, but I think that generally speaking, it's curious to realize that on the statements we collected, people said that somehow things are better [after the handover] – although with some 'complai-

ts' I would say, regarding some bureaucracies that are apparently more complex."

"In general they were happy that the fears they had regarding the handover, that things would become a lot more difficult for the Portuguese [...] didn't happen. It seems like the Portuguese are living well here and even in political terms, [it] looks like the policy is even to protect the Portuguese [language and culture]. My feedback on this was a generally positive feeling towards the change."

According to the statements collected, Fraga said the general sentiment is that post-handover Macau is in fact

still a work in progress.

"They feel the handover is in fact a process

that is still happening, and I would add that my perception points in that same direction too."

Fraga said his inspiration for the series was that "in Portugal, Macau is not very well known [even after] all these years" and that he was interested in raising awareness of Macau in Portugal and vice versa.

To film the fourth installment, the filmmaker collected several statements, mostly from individuals who are deeply rooted in the community and who represent local associations. He remarked that this might have contributed to a "more politically correct approach" but added that it

was "perfectly normal and acceptable", though he commented later that testimonies from "anonymous" or "lesser-known" people in the communities sometimes offer more "juice."

For the last two installments, which he plans to start working on as soon as filming for the fourth part ends, Fraga said he will be exploring two other perspectives. The first of these belongs to the "Macanese living in Macau" and the second will be "Chinese opinion on the Portuguese". Fraga said he finds both concepts intriguing and added that he hopes the project will contribute to a better knowledge of different communities.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The government held its annual Road Safety Carnival yesterday at Tap Seac Square. Many people participated in the promotional activities, including a simulation for children to experience riding in a circuit while following basic traffic rules.

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New Vegas resort to feature bumper cars and fake cops

CASINO magnate Steve Wynn gave new details about the USD1.6 billion resort he is building in Las Vegas, including interactive rides and attractions designed to wow non-gamblers.

Paradise Park, as the project is called, will feature LED-lit bumper cars that make crashing sounds and are chased around an oval by fake police officers. Participants who finish the course first will get prizes, Wynn said on an earnings call with investors last week.

Other attractions will include zip lines, fireworks and a carousel that stretches out over the man-made lake. Guests will be able to pay to ride in parades. The floats, which also will travel over water, will include giant spiders and King Kong.

"It's not the Rose Bowl parade," the 75-year-old billionaire said. "It's a much edgier kind of thing."

Non-gambling attractions are a big source of growth for Las Vegas. Wynn Resorts last week posted its best third quarter ever in the US city, thanks in part to

shows, shopping and other outside-of-the-casino revenue sources, Wynn said.

Wynn first announced the new resort last year. It will be built on the site of a golf course the company owns. The course will close in December, with construction of Paradise Park slated to begin Jan. 3. The property, which is located between the Las Vegas and Sands convention centers, will feature a 1,500-room hotel with suites overlooking the lake. An opening date hasn't been announced.

Responding to a question about the mass shooting in Las Vegas earlier this month, Wynn said his property has enhanced its security in recent years. Fifty-eight people were killed attending a concert sponsored by MGM Resorts International on Oct. 1.

"We profile everybody," he said. "We sniff the baggage in the baggage room."

Future options include security devices that can detect weapons without guests walking through metal detectors, he said.

MDT/Bloomberg

GAMING

Wynn Resorts Q3 revenue up 45 percent

WYNN Resorts reported on Friday net revenue of USD1.61 billion (about MOP13 billion) for the quarter ending September 30, 2017, a 45.3 percent increase from \$503.5 million for the same period last year.

In its financial report, the company attributed the increase to better performance from Wynn Palace (+\$390.7 million) – which opened in the third quarter of last year – Wynn Macau (+\$79.3 million) and total Las Vegas operations (+\$32.5 million).

Casino revenue for the company's two Macau properties was about \$1.08 billion. Revenue contributions from Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace accounted for \$567.7 million and \$514.5 million, respectively, representing increases of 16.2 percent and about 350 percent year-on-year.

Net income attributable to Wynn Resorts was \$79.8



million for the quarter under review, reversing a net loss of \$17.4 million for the same period in 2016. Diluted earnings per share came to \$0.78 this quarter compared to \$0.17 a year ago.

The increase in net income attributable to Wynn Resorts, was primarily the result of a full quarter's income from Wynn Palace, partially offset by a loss on extinguishment of debt.

Adjusted Property EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax,

depreciation and amortization) was \$473.0 million, up 54.8 percent from \$305.4 million for the same period in 2016. This was due to increases of \$112.7 million, \$32.2 million and \$22.6 million from Wynn Palace, Wynn Macau and total Las Vegas operations, respectively.

Wynn Resorts also announced that it had approved a cash dividend of \$0.50 per share, payable to shareholders of record on November 28.

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Spooky monsters back at Albergue for Halloween nights

HALLOWEEN events were held on Saturday and Sunday night in the courtyard of Albergue SCM, in the city's historic S. Lázaro District, inviting in hundreds of children and their parents for a spooky visit.

Dubbed "Macau's most frightening experience," the courtyard was brimming with its usual host of scary mannequins, skeletons and other monsters. Also on display were plastic limbs, cotton cobweb strewn from the Marriage Trees and a giant spider lurking in the old well.

The iconic symbols of Halloween spilled out onto the street, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro, where plastic Jack-o'-lanterns hung from the overarching trees.

However, the weekend's events seemed to lack certain elements seen in previous years. Most notably, there were fewer food and beverage options, no live music and – more worryingly – fewer people in costume.

Halloween, largely believed to have originated from Celtic

pagan traditions, is celebrated traditionally on October 31. As a contemporary event, it is more often associated with the theme of evil and mythical monsters, and it is common for children and adolescents to dress in horror costumes.

The festivities at Albergue SCM marked the fifth consecutive year that Halloween has been celebrated in the courtyard. The free-admission event was organized by Albergue SCM and sponsored by the Macau Foundation. **DB**

New flyovers expected to ease pedestrian traffic at Outer Harbor

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) said in a statement that it will build a pedestrian overpass to connect the two existing ones on Avenida da Amizade – located next to the Rua do Terminal Marítimo and next to Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal, respectively – to facilitate easier movement for residents and tourists.

According to the statement, the works are expected to start during the first quarter of 2018 and continue for up to 380 working days.

The 150-meter steel flyover links the other two structures so that pedestrians need not leave one structure to access the other.

Other works to be completed include the installation of lifts in the pedestrian overpass next to the Rua do Terminal Marítimo, which will allow easy access for people with mobility difficul-



ties and physical disabilities. The bureau also noted that the construction will take up part of the sidewalk and not the entire road, so it does not expect any significant disruption to traffic.

DSSOPT also stated that the public tender for the construction of the pedestrian overpass at Fisherman's Wharf on Avenida da Amizade is currently underway. The deadline for proposals is 12 p.m. on November 20. The announcement of the final public proposal will be on November 21 at 9.30 a.m.

AD



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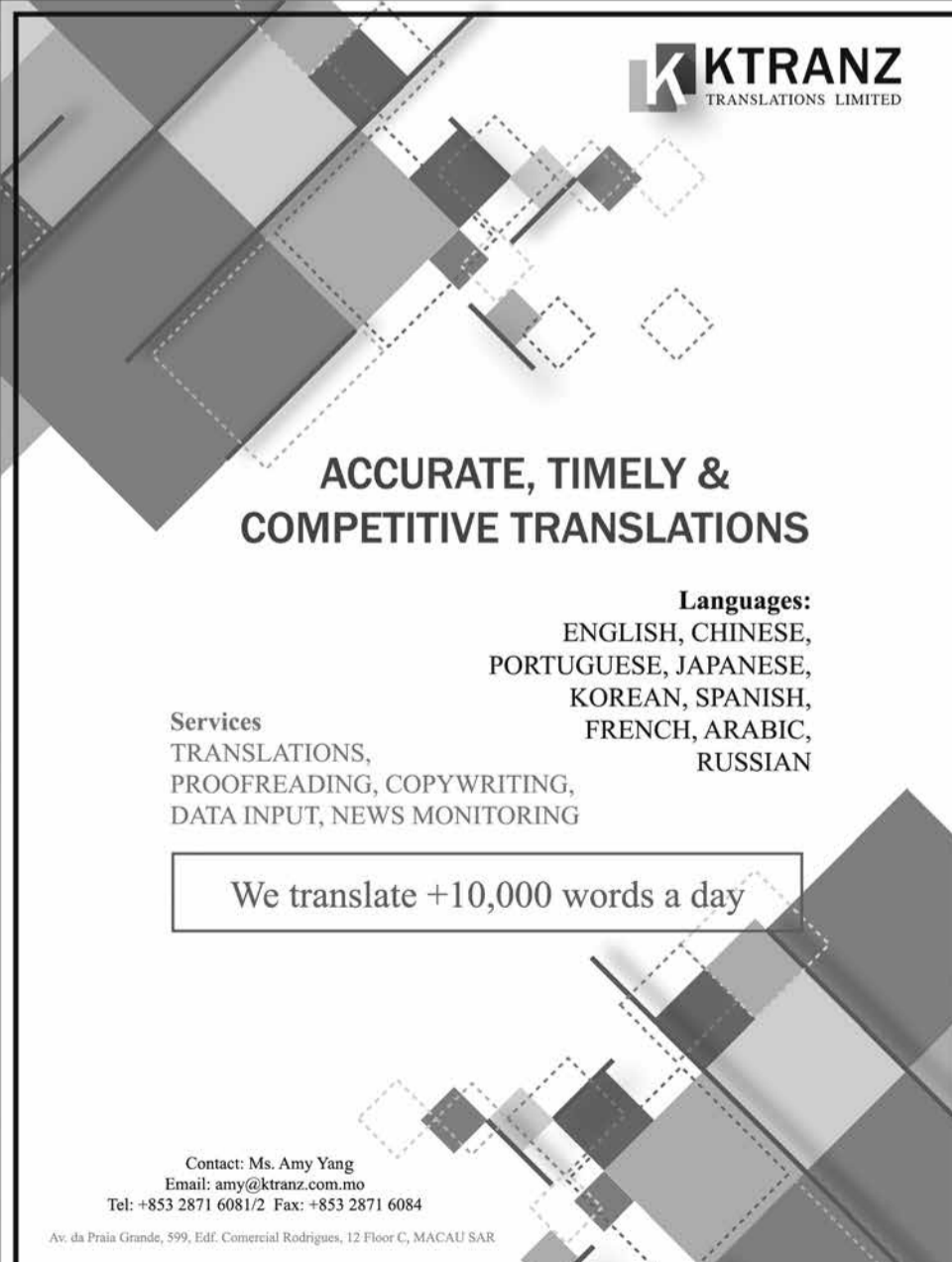
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Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)
4,003 sq.ft. HKD 1,68,000

The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors



Cheoc Van, Coloane

(Ref: 17060651)
6,222 sq.ft. HKD 79,800

Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. In the lower ground floor sits a private swimming pool alongside a large entertainment area that is perfect for entertaining guests during a hot Macau summer



Houston Court, B Unit

(Ref: 17090657)
850 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Situated in the heart of Coloane village. The apartment has a modern open plan kitchen, dining and living area. Great size double master bedroom with en suite shower room and masses of storage. Simply furnished throughout with stylish furniture. The kitchen comes fully fitted with good quality built in appliances

FOR SALE



Va Nam, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085531)
680 sq.ft. HKD 4.42M
Rate: HKD 6,500

Top floor apartment Taipa Village. Fully renovated 4 years ago from a small two bedroom property to a large one bedroom. The bedroom has ample space for king bed and lots of storage, two fabulous windows giving lots of natural light into the room. Lovely shower room with walk in shower



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane

(Ref: 16095490)
664 sq.ft. HKD 4.252M
Rate: HKD 6,404

Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 3 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. 2 bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Fully fitted kitchen. Open views. Close to Coloane bus stop, village square, cafes



Check Van House, Coloane

(Ref: 17065524)
5,972 sq.ft. HKD 98M
Rate: HKD 16,409

This magnificent property is newly renovated, and has unobstructed sea views from all 5 floors. Both the interior and exterior of the property brandishes stylish and contemporary designs with a mix of beautiful light colours that accentuates the spaciousness and abundance of natural light.



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

(Ref: 17065522)
3,487 sq.ft. HKD 88M
Rate: HKD 25,236

The property comes tastefully designed with elegant, high-grade furnishing and floor-to-ceiling windows that provides a breath-taking panoramic view of the sea and Macau. The modern galley kitchen on the first floor comes fully-fitted with high-grade



Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)

(Ref: 16095500)
515 sq.ft. HKD 3.8M
Rate: HKD 7,378

Unique property located at the beginning of old Taipa village. A great investment property which was renovated in 2015, making the original two small bedrooms into one spacious bright room bedroom. The kitchen has also been opened up and is now just off the living area, giving the apartment a lofty feeling. The kitchen is small however well equipped with most appliances built in.



Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 8.3M
Rate: HKD 4,990

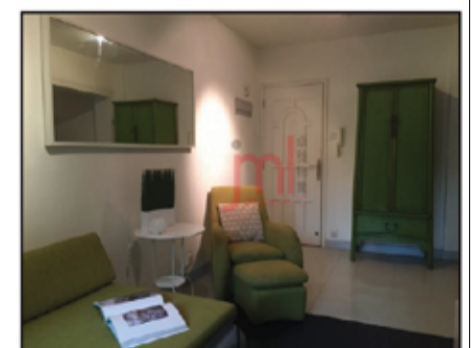
Located in the clean, beautiful island of Coloane, this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom, and green mountain views from all other rooms. The apartment has been renovated to a high standard with modern bathrooms etc



Nam Long, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085534)
691 sq.ft. HKD 4.485M
Rate: HKD 6,490

Lovely apartment on the second floor of a three storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 10 years ago from a two bedroom property to a great size one bedroom apartment, well maintained and managed by JML of the last ten years, historical maintenance data available on request. The bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.



Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)
638 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M
Rate: HKD 6,661

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.

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AL PLENARY

Trade union bill rejected for ninth time

Julie Zhu

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) has rejected the trade union bill for the ninth time.

Voting took place during last Friday's AL plenary meeting, where all government-appointed lawmakers rejected the bill. Twelve lawmakers voted in favor of the proposal, while 15 lawmakers voted against it.

The bill, which was proposed by Pereira Coutinho, was supported by several lawmakers, including Lei Cheng I, Leong Sun Iok, Agnes Lam and Ng Kuok Cheong.

Of the lawmakers against the bill, Vong Hin Fai was the only one to openly voice his opinion. Vong declared the proposal to be in violation of Macau's ordinary legal procedures, as the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS) had not been consulted as part of the process.

"I always mentioned that the bill involves overall benefits. It involves public consultation of Macau society, and that it [needs to be discussed] by the CPCS, as well as by society. [...] I always questioned why this bill does not obey related regulations. Why did our colleagues not forward it to the CPCS for discussion? Why are they avoiding this responsibility? Regarding the bill, I cannot see any traces of feasibility. [...] it needs to be massively amended [...] from the perspective of its procedures and content, I disagree with the bill," said Wong.

Pereira Coutinho's response to lawmakers' opinions was that this bill needs fair treatment from society.

"Workers still encounter many unfair situations. Even though they receive a certain degree of care, problems still exist because our labor affairs law cannot protect all the associated benefits and rights," explained Pereira Coutinho.

His response to Vong was that "in my opinion, we need to be



Pereira Coutinho

flexible. Many of our bills come from the government. Some of the bills coming to the AL completely lack consultation. However, lawmakers were really generous to support the bills. Even myself, I always voted for it."

"You do not need to worry about it. I believe they [CPCS members] are willing to come to the AL to listen to anything. I hope everybody involved in this great task can let society

Workers still encounter many unfair situations.

PEREIRA COUTINHO

be a fair and healthy place," he concluded.

Sulu Sou stated that "the Basic Law states that the Macau

people are granted the rights and freedom to organize and participate in strikes. We, the lawmakers, took an oath to support and fulfill this responsibility and to undertake the international convention. The People's Republic of China was also among the proposing countries and it too has the responsibility to fulfill the convention. If you, lawmaker Vong, are saying that the lawmakers [who proposed the bill] have violated society's procedures so that the bill should not be supported, then [...] shouldn't the government be the one taking more criticism since it has so many resources?"

"For a very long time, did the Secretariat for Economy and Finance ever conduct a public consultation regarding the trade union law? The trade union law will not be established for workers to create troubles; it will not be established as a tool for workers to threaten their employers. It is, in fact, providing a condition for both parties to communicate," continued Sou.

"If having a trade union law will wreak havoc on the economy, then, knowing that mainland China implemented its trade union law in 1950, are you saying that mainland China's economy is unstable because of that?" continued Sou.

Among the 14 directly elected lawmakers, Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting voted against the proposed bill.

Proposal passed to increase rights of the elderly

A bill protecting the rights of elderly people was passed at the Legislative Assembly last Friday.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, opened with the statement that Macau is becoming an aging city and that elderly folks might comprise 20.7 percent of the total population by 2030.

This bill will meet expectations and appeals carried over from past years regarding measures to support the elderly population.

Tam's secretaries started preparing the bill back in 2009, and conducted public consultations in 2011 and 2012.

Several lawmakers enquired about the details of the bill and the government's policies for supporting the elderly population, as well as dealing with an aging population and the associated expenditures.

According to Tam, nearly 25 percent of the

government's expenditure in 2017 was used for social security, while 12 percent was used for medical care and 15 percent for education.

"The government is very decisive and very willing to invest more resources to secure the rights of the elderly," said Tam, who expressed confidence in achieving his goal.

The bill was passed with the support of all lawmakers.

Another bill amendment which was passed concerned the security force. As explained by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, the amendment included high-ranking customs officials in the group of potential candidates for leadership of the Public Security Force Affairs Bureau of Macau.

"It is necessary that the bureau's appointment of principal officials be extended to customs, thus allowing principal customs officials to have the possibility of being promoted," said Wong.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION Sulu Sou criticized the government for having allegedly misinterpreted the Basic Law on the establishment of the non-political municipal organization. "The government changed the definition [of some words in the Basic Law] to completely ban the possibility of a democratic election [for the municipal organization]," said Sou. "What Macau needs is a representative mechanism which represents [society's] opinions from bottom to top." Sou said the establishment was killing and hiding the voice of democracy. Ng Kuok Cheong voiced a similar opinion, vehemently protesting the lack of democratic progress.

BUS FARE INCREASE

Ho Ion Sang said that increasing the bus fare will increase the financial burden on residents who need public transport. In Ho's opinion, the government will only increase its own expenditures by subsidizing the bus industry. Ho suggested that the government research Macau's bus service further, as well as the consequences of hiking the fares, before the bus service concession ends in 2018. Lawmaker Lei Cheng I voiced the same concerns, saying that the government should consider people's livelihoods as well as its own budget relief.

CASINO TOBACCO CONTROL

Leong Sun Iok suggested the government deploy 24-hour tobacco control police in casinos, as well as establish a 24-hour hotline to handle complaints from the public. Leong reiterated that the government should keep pushing forward a complete ban of indoor smoking to ensure that casino employees are not harmed by the smoke. He added that tobacco control inside VIP lounges is not ideal, as this effectively allows VIP customers to smoke illegally.

Airport records more passengers this year

IN the first three quarters of this year, the Macau International Airport (MIA) recorded 5.18 percent more passengers compared to the same period last year, according to

a statement published on the Macau Airport Company's (CAM) website.

In the first nine months of 2017, 5.2 million tourists entered Macau through the airport.

According to a report by Macao Daily News, an analysis attributed the increased number of visitors to the drop in international fuel prices; cheaper fuel prices allowed

the aviation industry to reduce costs and in turn, led to more affordable ticket prices which increased tourists' willingness to travel.

Regarding the surge spe-

cifically in the number of Korean tourists, it is said to be the successful effect of cumulative efforts made by the Macau government and Korean TV programs towards the

promotion of Macau.

It has been suggested that the same marketing efforts should be applied to other markets.

Currently, the airport is carrying out an expansion project. After the project is completed, the airport's annual passenger capacity will go up to 7.5 million.

Q30

突破常規

#BORNTOCHALLENGE



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AUTO INDUSTRY

Subaru mulls vehicle recall as Japan inspection scandal widens

Nao Sano, Kevin Buckland

SUBARU Corp. is considering recalling as many as 255,000 vehicles after a lapse in its inspection process, widening the quality-control scandal that erupted at Nissan Motor Co. almost a month ago.

An internal investigation found improper checks on cars and the company will report to the transport ministry on Oct. 30, Subaru said in a statement Friday. The recall may cost more than 5 billion yen (USD44 million) for the automaker, 17 percent owned by Toyota Motor Corp., Atsushi Osaki, vice president for quality control, told reporters in Tokyo.

Shares of Subaru fell 2.6 percent in Tokyo on Friday, the biggest decline since June 5. In comparison, the benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose



Subaru Corp. President and CEO Yasuyuki Yoshinaga

1.2 percent.

Subaru's is the latest in a string of irregularities that has tainted Japan's reputation for quality manufacturing. While Takata Corp.'s exploding airbags were

the subject of the industry's biggest ever recall, Kobe Steel Ltd. admitted this month to falsifying data related to the durability of some of its products, shocking customers. Nissan suspended

production for the Japan market to fix its inspection process after ordering the recall of about 1.2 million vehicles.

The inspection certificate is a requirement for cars sold locally,

so exports are not affected. Nissan has repeatedly said the safety of vehicles are not compromised.

Subaru allowed uncertified workers to inspect vehicles before shipment, Chief Executive Officer Yasuyuki Yoshinaga told reporters Friday in Tokyo. The probe found that workers training to be certified were involved in inspections at Subaru's main factory complex in Gunma prefecture. All three lines at the plant were affected, the company said.

"The final inspection process is very important and we acknowledge that we did not meet requirements," Yoshinaga said. "We used the same process for more than 30 years without realizing that it did not meet ministry requirements."

The faulty inspections were halted immediately after they were discovered on Oct. 3, according to Subaru. The company will rethink its inspection process from scratch.

Subaru produced 727,741 units of vehicles in Japan last year and exported 582,708 of them. Domestic sales of Subaru have declined for three straight years due to a slump in mini-vehicle sales. The recall may include a model made for Toyota. **Bloomberg**

Disappearing bank jobs won't be coming back, Nordea CEO says

THE 6,000 job cuts announced last week at Nordea Bank AB are just a down payment for an industry facing radical overhaul, says Chief Executive Officer Casper von Koskull.

"If somebody says, where are we, or where are banks, 10 years from now, banks could easily have half what they have today," in terms of personnel, von Koskull said in an interview in London on Friday.

Nordea last week stunned unions, analysts and investors when it revealed the staff reductions, which amount to well over a tenth of the work force of the Swedish bank. Unions called the step "shocking" and "brutal."

The industry is already a lot leaner than it was before the financial crisis. The European Banking Federation estimates there are about 14 percent fewer people in finance in the region than before 2008. There are now about 2.8 million people in Europe working at banks. Nordea had about 31,500 employees in the third quarter.

Von Koskull says what Nordea is doing represents the future of banking. While speaking to analysts in Lon-



Nordea CEO Casper von Koskull

don last week, he described a universe in which only the leanest, most digitally advanced and efficient banks will thrive. Firms living in the banking dark ages are already failing, he said.

"The fact that some banks - not this bank -- have been technically insolvent every 15 years, that really does not mean that they are resilient," he said. "Resilience is something that this industry, and any bank, needs. And that is something that we have been building. And resilience is not only about capital, resilience is your operations, your systems, and everything you do."

While the upfront expense of such a transformation isn't small, von Koskull says the bank will soon be using a lot less of its income to cover costs. The ratio of Nordea's costs to its income was 51 in the third quarter. Von Koskull says that number

will be in the "lower 40s" when the bank has transformed itself.

The Nordea CEO told Bloomberg that he views his bank as a pioneer in how it's looking at the fundamental shifts now gripping the industry.

"We are maybe one of the first ones," he said. "This is not a cost cut, per se, it is a way of doing business differently, where you need less people."

He said complaints from unions are hard to understand. "They know" what's coming, he said. "We've been talking about it for two years."

"I think it's very clear that it's an ongoing trend in the financial industry, given that this is an industry that is very digital," von Koskull said. "You can digitize and use AI in a very big way. Combined, of course, with a personal touch." **Bloomberg**

Outlying Taiwan islands reject casinos in referendum vote

Chinmei Sung

RESIDENTS of the Kinmen islands, which house Taiwan's closest military base to China, voted against having casinos in a referendum that echoes the ruling party's opposition to gambling.

This is the second county after Penghu to reject the construction of gambling developments. In a ballot asking whether to allow recreation complexes to

set up casinos, 24,368 people voted "no," compared with 2,705 who voted "yes," the Kinmen government said on Saturday in a mobile-phone text statement.

Taiwan in January 2009 lifted a ban on casinos being set up on its outlying islands, leaving the decision to the residents. The Penghu islands voted against casinos in 2009 and 2016, and residents of Matsu were in favor

in a 2012 referendum. Still, casinos can't yet be built because there is no law to regulate the industry.

President Tsai Ing-wen, elected in 2016, has said offshore islands should look for other ways to develop tourism. Her Democratic Progressive Party, which also controls the legislature, dropped the gambling bill last year. A ban on casinos on the main island of Taiwan remains. **Bloomberg**

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Taiwan president making state visits amid China stalemate

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN'S President Tsai Ing-wen left Saturday for the United States and three South Pacific nations in an effort to crack the diplomatic isolation imposed by rival China.

Tsai will visit the Marshall and Solomon Islands along with Tuvalu while transiting through Hawaii and the U.S. territory of Guam. The three are among just 20 countries that extend Taiwan formal diplomatic recognition.

Tsai's travels follow Panama's switching of diplomatic relations to Beijing in June in what was seen as a major diplomatic setback for Taiwan.

"We want to prove to the world that Taiwan is capable of, and is willing to, make more contributions to the international community," Tsai said Saturday ahead of her departure.

In the Marshalls and Solomons, Tsai will find an "opportunity to better understand the sustainable development needs of the two countries and determine how [Taiwan] can assist in line with steadfast diplomacy," the government said in a statement posted on its official website.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang demanded Tsai be barred from transiting through the U.S., which, like most countries, has only unofficial relations with Taiwan.

"Regarding the transit of Taiwan's leader in the United States, I think her true intention



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen

is clear for all to see," Geng said at a daily news briefing.

Washington should "not allow her to stop over, avoid sending any erroneous messages to the Taiwan independence force, and maintain the general picture of China-U.S. relationship and peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait with concrete efforts," Geng said. Beijing has lodged "solemn complaints" with the U.S., Geng said.

China claims sovereignty over democratic, self-ruled Taiwan,

which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949, and uses diplomatic and economic pressure to limit the island's international relations. Washington does not formally recognize Taiwan but maintains close economic, diplomatic and military ties with the island.

While it officially advocates "peaceful unification," China has never renounced its threat to use force to gain control over Taiwan, which had only distant relations

with China for most of its history and was a Japanese colony from 1895 to 1945.

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed Oct. 18, the first day of a ruling Communist Party congress, that China would not allow anyone to "separate any part of Chinese territory from China," in a reference to Taiwan.

The vast majority of Taiwanese favor continuing their de facto independent status and Tsai's top China policymaker told a forum

in Taipei Thursday that the two sides needed a "new chapter" in relations and a "new method of interaction."

"We know that Xi Jinping is an extremely ambitious leader and he doesn't want to get to 2020 with his Taiwan scorecard a blank," said Lin Chong-pin, a retired strategic professor from Tamkang University in Taiwan.

He added: "I don't think Tsai Ing-wen will cross the red line" during her travels, referring to actions and statements that emphasize Taiwan's formal and legal independence from China.

In Beijing, a foreign ministry spokesman demanded Tsai be barred from transiting through the U.S

Beijing resents the Tsai government because her Democratic Progressive Party advocates Taiwan's formal independence, although Tsai has played down that aim and called for renewed dialogue with China. Beijing cut off exchanges between the two governments last year after Tsai made clear she would not endorse China's view that Taiwan is a part of China.

Like most Taiwanese allies, the three countries Tsai is visiting are developing nations that look to Taiwan for economic support. Tsai's entourage has also prepared gifts made by Taiwan aboriginal artisans to play up their ethnic Austronesian links in the South Pacific, the presidential office said. AP

HONG KONG

Friend says bookseller Gui freed, now with family

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

MAINLAND Chinese authorities have released a detained Hong Kong bookseller and he has been reunited with his relatives, one of his friends said.

Chinese dissident poet Bei Ling said Friday family members confirmed to him that Gui Minhai has been released, days after the Chinese and Swedish governments made similar announcements but provided few details.

Gui, a Swedish citizen, was one of five employees of a Hong Kong bookshop specializing in salacious tales about high-level Chinese politics who were believed to have been ab-

ducted and spirited to the mainland two years ago.

China-born Gui disappeared from his Thai holiday home while the four other men, who have already been released, were last seen in Hong Kong.

Their case reinforced rising concerns about rule of law being undermined in the semiautonomous Chinese city, which is promised civil liberties such as freedom of speech until 2047. The books the men sold from their Causeway Bay Bookshop were popular with visiting tourists from mainland China, where such titles are banned.

Bei said he was informed that Gui is in the eastern city of Ningbo and is

spending time with his elderly mother and two sisters.

He added that it's still unclear whether Gui enjoys genuine liberty or whether he's still under the control of authorities.

"I cannot say free; I just say he's out of jail and is now with his family" in Ningbo, Bei said by phone from Boston. "I think he now cannot talk with [anyone] outside, only with family."

He added that Gui plans to apply for a Swedish passport and return to Germany, where his wife lives.

China's foreign ministry said in a brief statement last week that Gui had been released on Oct.



In this Jan. 3, 2016, file photo, demonstrators try to stick photos of missing booksellers, one of which shows Gui Minhai (left) during a protest in Hong Kong

17 after serving a prison term involving a traffic offense from more than a decade ago but gave no further information.

Sweden's Foreign Ministry said the same day it was informed by Chinese authorities that Gui was released but sought more

information. Those announcements were disputed by his daughter, Angela Gui, who said his whereabouts were unclear. AP

Xi's former secretary gets top Shanghai job



Jiangsu Communist Party Secretary Li Qiang

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has promoted an ally to the top job in Shanghai, media reported yesterday.

The elevation of Li Qiang is another sign of Xi's increasing control over China. Xi has amassed more personal power — and propaganda backing — than any leader since Mao Zedong in the 1970s, breaking with two decades of shared authority among a group of senior party figures.

Part of his power accumulation efforts include promoting allies from Zhejiang province, which is near Shanghai and where Xi once led the Communist Party, to senior party, government and army posts.

Li, 58, worked under Xi when Xi

was party chief in Zhejiang from 2003-2007. Seen as a proponent of economic reforms, Li will likely champion Xi's vision for Shanghai as a global trading hub.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday that Li replaces Han Zheng, who was elevated to the party's top decision-making body, the Politburo Standing Committee.

Under Xi's leadership, the Communist Party has become increasingly assertive in promoting its own vision for how to regulate global finance, technology, news media and other matters.

Outside monitoring groups say China strictly controls freedom of expression and abuses human rights. **AP**

Elderly population to hit 400m by 2035, say experts

CHINA'S elderly population has been increasing rapidly and is estimated to hit around 400 million by the end of 2035, according to experts.

Since China became an "aging society" in 2000, the elderly population has seen an annual increase of about 10 million people, Zheng Gongcheng, head of the China Association of Social Security (CAOSS), said at a forum held at the weekend in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province.

By the end of 2035, the elderly population could reach about 400 million, making China a "super aging society."

By international standards, a country or region is considered to be an "aging society" when those aged 65 or over account for 7 to 14 percent of the total population. Once that amount goes over 14 percent, the country is considered a "super aging society."

Zheng said that China faces a grim condition in how to cope with the aging population, with 240 million Chinese currently

aged above 60 according to official data. Elderly care services are developing rapidly but also unevenly, he said.

Elderly care services are already not enough to satisfy the nationwide demand, while unbalanced supply has also become a problem, he said. These services lack social participation and professional nursing staff. There is also a battle between styles of nursing, such as modern and traditional methods.

Zheng recommended an industry-wide plan on elderly care services be formulated, which should be considered a new growth point for a sustainable national economy. Training of professional elderly care staff should be enhanced and the legal system should be improved to protect the rights of the elderly.

CAOSS is a non-governmental organization focusing on social security studies, vocational education and training, and international exchanges on social security issues. **Xinhua**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Organises Responsible Gaming Team Training for Fifth Consecutive Year

Programme enhances team members' knowledge of problem gaming and awareness of responsible gaming

Sands China Ltd. delivered its annual Responsible Gaming Team Training Programme at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre for the fifth consecutive year Oct. 16-17.

The elite programme is part of the company's effort to enhance team members' knowledge of problem gaming and awareness of the importance of responsible gaming. Certificates issued by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) were presented to 80 participating team members, who came from the gaming operations, security, and human resources departments to attend one of two training sessions Oct. 16-17.

Launched in 2013, the Responsible Gaming Team Training Programme is a global initiative of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp. It features new and enhanced elements each year, and demonstrates Sands China's ongoing commitment to responsible gaming in Macao. It is also part of the company's efforts to support the measures introduced by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ). To date, over 430 participants have attended training sessions, and nearly 2,400 hours of training have been provided through the annual campaign.

"It is satisfying to see our team members gain and strengthen a practical set of skills and knowledge in the important area of responsible gaming through this training programme," said Cetin Tanisman, senior vice president of casino operations for Sands China Ltd. "Minimising the social impact of problem gaming in Macao is very important to Sands China, and this programme represents one of our successful efforts to that end."



Team members from various Sands China properties participate in a training session at the company's Responsible Gaming Team Training Programme at The Venetian Macao.

The programme is delivered by Professor Bo J. Bernhard, executive director of the UNLV International Gaming Institute; along with Sands China's in-house trainer Romeo Júlio do Espírito Santo, who completed the Macao Responsible Gambling Advisor (MRGA) and Train the Trainer last year; and senior counsellors from responsible gaming service provider Sheng Kung Hui (SKH) Macau Social Services Coordination Office. Attendees, including gaming managers, security managers and human resources trainers, were educated on the behaviours of problem gamblers, how to provide appropriate information and assistance on responsible gaming, and the application procedures and particulars of the self-exclusion and third-party exclusion programmes. They also participated in role-play scenarios, and learned more about the gaming counselling service provided by SKH — supporting the government's efforts to further promote the 24-hour counselling hotline.

This year's programme again included the participation of Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, which teaches crisis management and intervention skills.

"This is my second year participating in the training, and I'm still learning new things," said one of the participants. "This programme is well presented, and enables me to do a better job and serve our guests better; I recommend it for both new trainees and those who have already taken the training before."

Sands China remains committed to the personal well-being of its guests and recognises the importance of responsible gaming to the Macao community. Sands China launched a self-exclusion programme in 2004, and was a pioneer in Macao in establishing its comprehensive responsible gaming programme in 2007, with the goals of contributing to the continuous development of the Macao community, bearing corporate responsibility in addressing social issues and developing an environment and a culture of responsible gaming in Macao.



Sands China team members participate in role playing and other activities at the company's Responsible Gaming Team Training Programme at The Venetian Macao.



Kim Jong Nam is stretchered at Kuala Lumpur International Airport

North Korean 'masterminds' evade Kim Jong Nam murder trial

Eric Talmadge, Kuala Lumpur

At a trial that could send two Southeast Asian women to the gallows, Malaysian prosecutors are shining a light on several men at large they say masterminded and played crucial roles in carrying out the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong's Un's estranged half brother.

The lone defendants at the Shah Alam High Court — Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam — say they are innocent, duped by the men into participating in February's attack at Kuala Lumpur's international airport, which they say they thought was a harmless prank for a TV show.

If found guilty, they face a mandatory death sentence. In Malaysia, that means they would be hanged.

But since the trial began on Oct. 2, the alleged role of the four missing suspects has come to dominate the proceedings. Both the prosecutors and the defense team say a lot more is going to be revealed in the weeks ahead about the men, who outside of court they acknowledge are believed to be North Korean citizens.

The prosecution this week also stressed that authorities reserve the right to take more

formal action against the four if they can gather enough evidence.

A look at what's come out so far about the missing men, who are referred to officially in court only by their aliases, and what's known about their actions:

HANAMORI

Police are now calling him the "mastermind." According to chief investigating officer Wan Azirul Nizam Che Wan Aziz, this man, who sometimes went by the nicknames "Grandpa" and "Uncle," orchestrated the operation on the ground.

Wan Azirul said airport security video shows that he arrived at the terminal in the same vehicle with two of the three other suspects about 90 minutes ahead of the Feb. 13 attack. Security cameras then captured him meeting both of those men and the third suspect, all separately, at an airport cafe before the attack.

Police say Hanamori, who initially wore a purple shirt but changed after the attack, not only came to the airport with two of the suspects but he met with all three just before the plan was put into action. He then left after the attack in a vehicle with two of the three and was seen later that day — and for the last time — with

two of them in the departure hall of the main terminal.

JAMES

He allegedly recruited Aisyah. Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, told reporters before the trial that she was recruited in early January by this man, who was known to her only as James, to star in what he said was a video prank show. The lawyer said James and Aisyah went to malls, hotels and airports, where she would rub oil or pepper sauce on strangers' faces. James recorded the encounters on his phone and paid Aisyah between USD100 and \$200 for each prank.

Police official Wan Azirul testified in court that James was seen heading to the Sama Sama airport hotel, which is in the terminal not far from where the attack took place. Wan Azirul said security videos show James entering the hotel room, but quickly checking out.

He said James is later seen at the departure hall of the main airport terminal, where the other three suspects went. What his role was on the day of the hit isn't yet clear — an examination of the airport security camera footage in court Thursday was cut short when Judge Azmi Ariffin ruled more time was needed to digest the

information.

The prosecution is expected to return to the videos in the next session, scheduled for Nov. 6.

CHANG

He put the liquid poison on Aisyah's hands, according to Wan Azirul's testimony.

On the morning of the killing, Chang met up with Aisyah at the same cafe where he had earlier met with Hanamori. Wan Azirul said Chang handed Aisyah an airport taxi voucher during their short meeting and he was believed to have later applied the deadly VX nerve

agent poison to her hands just before the attack, which happened at about 9 a.m.

The bespectacled Chang wore a dark baseball cap and carried a backpack and a white plastic bag. But after the hit, he ditched his belongings, changed his shirt and even managed to shave off his goatee. He was seen instead carrying an orange plastic bag.

Defense lawyer Gooi has said before the trial it was Chang who had pointed Kim out to Aisyah as the target and put a substance in her hand.

MR. Y

Prosecutors claim he put the poison on Vietnamese defendant Huong's hands.

On the day of the killing, after arriving with Hanamori and the others, he was seen walking around the airport with a woman prosecutors claim was Huong near the area where Kim was attacked. He also wore a baseball cap and had a backpack and water bottle.

Video footage shows that after the attack, Mr. Y also changed his shirt and discarded his belongings. Police say he then left the budget terminal in the same vehicle with Chang and Hanamori.

Not much else about him has been revealed.

THE ESCAPE?

Police say the four suspects flew out of the country the day of the killing and are believed to have made their way back to Pyongyang.

At Malaysia's request, Interpol has issued a "red notice" — the closest equivalent it has to an arrest warrant — for four North Koreans wanted in connection with the killing: Ri Ji Hyon, 33; Hong Song Hac, 34; O Jong Gil, 55; and Ri Jae Nam, 57. But it is not entirely clear if they are the same four whose actions are now being detailed in the court testimony.

Help from Pyongyang is highly unlikely. North Korea has denied any involvement. And it's not a member of Interpol. **AP**

IDENTIFIED	NAME	O JONG GIL
	NATIONALITY	: NORTH KOREAN
	PASSPORT NO	: 745320663
	AGE	: 55 YEARS OLD
	ARRIVAL IN MALAYSIA	: 7 FEB 2017
	DEPARTURE FROM MALAYSIA	: 13 FEB 2017

Information about O Jong Gil, one of four suspects wanted in connection with the killing of Kim Jong Nam

Caleb Jones, Honolulu

Sailboat survivors recount doomed Pacific voyage

TRAPPED on a storm-battered boat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean for months, Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava were just about out of food and beginning to believe they were completely out of luck when they finally saw it: a U.S. Navy ship chugging toward them.

"When I saw the gray ship on the horizon, I was just shaking," Appel told reporters Friday. "I was ready to cry, I was so happy. I knew we were going to live."

On Wednesday the pair, followed by their dogs, Zeus and Valentine, boarded the USS Ashland, all four looking remarkably fit for having been lost at sea for nearly six months.

They had been drifting aimlessly across the Pacific since the end of May and had sent out unanswered distress calls for 98 consecutive days before crew members aboard a passing Taiwanese fishing boat saw them on Tuesday and notified the Navy.

They had left Honolulu on May 3 aboard Appel's 50-foot vessel the Sea Nymph for what was to be an 18-day journey to Tahiti, followed by months of leisurely cruising the South Pacific before returning home.

Disaster struck almost immediately when a storm battered their boat with 50- to 70-mile-per-hour winds for three days as they left Hawaii. They continued on anyway, thinking the vessel wasn't that badly damaged.

By the end of the month another storm had flooded their boat's engine, however, and they discovered its sails and mast had been damaged enough earlier that they could no longer generate adequate wind power to keep the vessel on course.

They were 900 miles off the coast of Japan, and thousands of miles in the wrong direction, when a Taiwanese fishing vessel found them and started to tow them.

As the fishing vessel was attempting to tow the Sea Nymph, the 100-ton steel ship was damaging the much smaller sailboat as it pulled it through the open ocean.

"We incurred incredible damage," Appel said of the 24-hours under tow that were the scariest of the trip. It didn't help that the women only spoke English, a language not spoken on the fishing vessel.

"We had a really tough time communicating with them that they were going to sink us within the next 24 hours," she said.

Eventually she was able to swim to the fishing vessel and use their radio to make a mayday call.

The Navy ship showed up Wednesday, the next morning. When it just as quickly appeared to pass them by, they panicked momentarily once more.

"Ok, we're going to make it," Appel told herself after sailors radioed from the Ashland's bridge assurances that they did indeed see them.

Their boat, deemed no longer



Jennifer Appel (left) and Tasha Fuiava

seaworthy, was allowed to drift away after their rescue, although Appel says she hopes she might eventually retrieve and repair it.

She and Fuiava acknowledged that until the Navy arrived they began to wonder if they really would survive.

Appel credited their survival in part to the veteran sailors in Hawaii who had warned them to prepare well for their journey.

"They said pack every square inch of your boat with food, and if you think you need a month, pack six months, because you have no idea what could possibly happen out there," Appel said. "And the sailors in Honolulu really gave us good advice. We're here."

■ One night, a group of tiger sharks began attacking their vessel, and the next morning, a shark returned and rammed the boat again

They thought they had packed enough to last a year but with the six-month mark approaching they discovered they had gone through 90 percent of it. The dogs' food had run out and they were sharing theirs with them.

"The dogs turned out to really like human food," Appel said. "A lot," Fuiava added.

One of their water purifiers had also broken but they managed to fix it.

One night, a group of tiger sharks began attacking their vessel, and the next morning, a shark retur-

ned and rammed the boat again, Appel said. "We were just incredibly lucky that our hull was strong enough to withstand the onslaught," she said in a video interview provided by the Navy.

Although Appel has been sailing the Hawaiian islands for 10 years and spent two years preparing for this voyage, she acknowledged she and Fuiava, a novice sailor, may not have prepared as well as they could have.

They said they tried without success to hail a number of ships and fired off 10 signal flares. One of their cellphones had been washed overboard early in the voyage, but they were out of cell range anyway.

They carried two GPS units; one failed and they had to rely on the hand-held model for the entire voyage, Appel said in a phone interview from the USS Ashland Friday.

They also had a new VHF radio, a ham radio, a weather satellite and a radio telephone. She says none worked, and they apparently had a communications failure with their new antenna.

She says they had six ways to communicate with multiple backups, and none of them worked. That, she said, "exceeds Murphy's Law."

They even carried a satellite phone that she said never seemed to connect.

The two women became fast friends a few years back when Appel was working on her boat and Fuiava was a security guard at the boat facility.

Appel invited her on the sailing adventure south of the equator.

"I've never been there, and I don't know what's going to happen," Appel said. "She said, 'OK, It sounds like an adventure.'"

Meanwhile, loved ones had no idea where they were. Appel's mother said she contacted the Coast Guard when she hadn't heard from



Sailors from the USS Ashland rescue a sailboat lost at sea for several months

her a week and a half into the voyage, and records show the Coast Guard put out a message on June 7 noting the vessel was missing.

As months passed and Appel's mother heard nothing she said she never gave up hope.

"She is very resourceful and she's curious, and as things break she tries to repair them," Joyce Appel, 75, of Houston, said of her daughter. "She doesn't sit and wait for the repairman to get there. 'So I knew the same thing would be true of the boat.'"

She finally got a call from her daughter early Thursday.

"She said, 'Mom?' and I said, 'Jennifer!?' because I hadn't heard from her in like five months," she said. "And she said, 'Yes, Mom,' and that was really exciting."

Despite the ordeal, Appel says she's far from done with the sea. If she can find and fix her boat she'll be ready to take it out again.

"Well, you got to die sometime," she said. "You may as well be doing something you enjoy when you're doing it, right?" AP

AD

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SPAIN

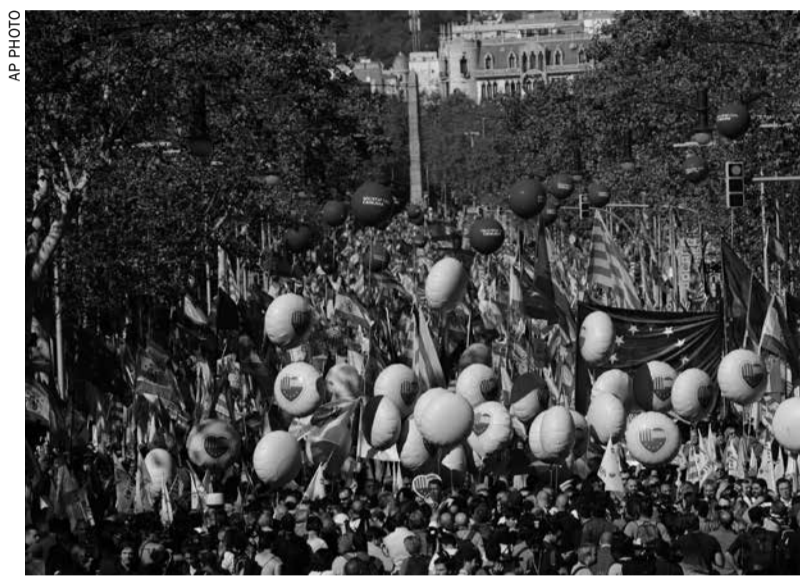
Catalan rebels defy Rajoy as pro-unity demonstrators gather

THE ousted Catalan government dismissed Madrid's direct administrative control of the region, defiantly reaffirming its proclamation of independence, even as thousands of pro-unity demonstrators gathered in Barcelona.

The Catalan Republic has been declared and Carles Puigdemont is still the president, ousted Vice President Oriol Junqueras said in an opinion piece published in newspaper *El Punt Avui* yesterday. The rebel leaders will continue to work on their independence roadmap in the coming days, undeterred by "doubts" and "contradictions," Junqueras wrote.

"The Catalan Republic has been born, not with the strength we would want but with the legitimacy of the ballot boxes," Junqueras wrote. "In the next days, we will have to take decisions that won't always be easy to understand."

The confrontational stance comes less than 48 hours after Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced the dissolution of the Catalan government, placed its administration under direct control of his deputy, Soraya Saenz de Santamaria, and called elections in the region for Dec. 21. Rajoy's orders, which included the removal of Puigdemont and Junqueras, came after the Catalan parliament earlier on Oct. 27



Nationalist activists march with Catalan, Spanish and European Union flags during a mass rally against Catalonia's declaration of independence

voted in favor of independence.

The real test of strength for the two sides will come when schools and government offices open today, and teachers and civil servants decide whether to follow the ousted Catalan leaders' calls to resist their Spanish masters or acquiesce to the new reality. A smooth transition in the Catalan police force, with the new chief accepting Madrid's rule, marked an initial success for Rajoy on Saturday.

"The more moderate and pragmatic elements probably realize they're not going to get very far," said Caroline Gray, a lecturer in politics and Spanish at Aston

University in the U.K. who specializes in nationalist movements. "The more radical elements, however, are in the parallel universe of the new republic - and that disconnect worries me. The situation could turn unpredictable if Spain moves in to take control."

Thousands of pro-unity demonstrators carrying Spanish, Catalan and European Union flags gathered in Barcelona for a rally yesterday. Elderly people draped in Spanish flags and families with children were among those who participated. A helicopter flew over what looked like a peaceful march, and those

gathered shouted "Viva España" and "Puigdemont in prison."

On Saturday, Puigdemont, called for "democratic opposition" and peaceful resistance in a recorded television speech, while a nationalist leader, Jordi Sanchez, issued a statement from jail advocating "Gandhi-style resistance." A Spanish TV report showed Puigdemont in a coffee bar in his hometown of Girona during his three-minute recorded statement.

Following Rajoy's decision, normal weekend routines like shopping, soccer and strolling prevailed in Catalonia. In the hours that followed, it was business as usual in Barcelona: no visible show of force from authorities, open shops packed with customers and swarms of tourists down the central artery of La Rambla. The red and gold Spanish flag was atop City Hall and the Catalan regional government building.

Politically, Puigdemont and his allies remained isolated and face potential arrest in coming days. The chief prosecutor signaled he would seek rebellion charges against the former Catalan president.

The government in Madrid declined to respond to Puigdemont's comments on Saturday. Rajoy's PP party said on Twitter that his vow was "very serious" and that the "irresponsibility of

Puigdemont has no limit."

Meanwhile, an opinion poll on Saturday showed Catalan secessionists losing their majority in the regional parliament. *El Mundo* newspaper citing results of a poll by Sigma Dos reported that the pro-independence bloc would win 65 seats in the regional assembly, short of the 68 seats needed for majority. In the 2015 elections, the bloc won 72 seats.

The regional economy, which accounts for about a fifth of Spanish gross domestic product, is also under threat as more companies up sticks amid the threat of civil unrest. A business of German insurance giant Allianz AG on Friday added its name to the list of hundreds shifting out of Catalonia.

"It's an enormous mess and utterly incomprehensible," said Jordi Alberich, director general of *Cercle d'Economia*, a Barcelona-based business association. "The strategy seems to be to make this the biggest crisis possible so that the world will have to intervene. But I am convinced there is a clear majority of people who want a calm solution."

The phalanx of pro-independence activists and demonstrators is certainly unlikely to take Spain's dramatic intervention lying down.

For many Catalans, the turbulent events of the past week were just sinking in as they braced for the inevitable reprisals. But for some, politics was a sideshow.

"I have bills to pay and two daughters," said Pere Garcia, 52, who mans a stall in the center of Barcelona. "Politics won't pay bills. I still have to go to work whether this is Spain or an independent republic." **Bloomberg**

SOMALIA

Police end night-long siege of hotel, 23 dead

SOMALI security forces have ended a night-long siege at a Mogadishu hotel by five extremist attackers who stormed the building after a suicide car bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the entrance gate on Saturday afternoon. The attack killed 23 people.

Troops regained control of the Nasa-Hablood hotel on Sunday morning, having killed three attackers and captured two alive, said Capt. Mohamed Hussein.

Al-Shabab, Africa's deadliest Islamic extremist group, quickly claimed responsibility for the attack.

The assault started Saturday afternoon when a suicide truck bomb exploded outside the popular hotel in the capital. The blast twisted vehicles and

caused massive damage to nearby buildings which were left with only their walls standing.

The attackers invaded the hotel and gunfire continued as security forces fought them inside the building. Two more blasts were heard, one when an attacker detonated a suicide vest.

Saturday's attack came two weeks after more than 350 people were killed in a massive truck bombing on a busy Mogadishu street in Somalia's worst-ever attack.

The government's Minister of Electricity & Water Salim Aliyow Ibroh was rescued from the hotel as heavy gunfire continued in the shoot-out. Some extremists hurled grenades and cut off the building's electricity as night fell.

Included in the dead

were a mother and three children, including a baby, all shot in the head, Hussein said. Other victims included a senior Somali police colonel, a former lawmaker and a former government minister.

Saturday's bomber had pretended his truck had broken down before detonating it in front of the hotel's fortified gate, said police Col. Mohamed Abdullahi.

Al-Shabab often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu. Although it quickly claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack, it has not commented on the massive attack two weeks ago; experts have said the death toll in the earlier bombing was so high that the group hesitated to alienate Somali citizens.

Somalia President Moha-

med Abdullahi Mohamed said the new attack was meant to instill fear in Somalis who united after the Oct. 14 bombing, marching in the thousands through Mogadishu in defiance of al-Shabab.

Since the blast two weeks ago, the president has visited regional countries to seek more support for the fight against al-Shabab, vowing a "state of war." He also faces the challenge of pulling together regional powers inside his long-fractured country, where the federal government is trying to assert itself beyond Mogadishu and other major cities.

The U.S. military also has stepped up military efforts against al-Shabab this year in Somalia, carrying out nearly 20 drone strikes, as the global war on extre-



Somali soldiers stand near the wreckage of vehicles in Mogadishu

mism moves deeper into the African continent.

The U.S. mission in Somalia on Sunday condemned the latest attack, saying the U.S. "remains committed to work with our Somali, African Union, and international partners to degrade and defeat terrorism as Somalia continues on a path to stability and prosperity for its people."

The 22,000-strong multinational African Union

force in Somalia is expected to withdraw its forces and hand over the country's security to the Somali military by the end of 2020. U.S. military officials and others in recent months have expressed concern that Somali forces are not yet ready to take over. The two attacks this month have shaken public confidence in the ability of Somali army to take over from the African Union forces. **AP**

Reda Zaireg, Marrakech

MOROCCO

Social justice movement seeks relief from crackdown

It all began with a fish seized by the police. Morocco is marking one year since a fisherman's gruesome death spawned a social protest movement against police abuse — an event that has drawn comparisons to the 2010 death of a Tunisian vendor that sparked the Arab Spring democracy uprisings.

Since October 2016, the northern Moroccan town of Hoceima in the ethnically Berber Rif region has seen unrest stemming from the death of 31-year-old Mouhcine Fikri, an impoverished local fish seller.

Fikri was crushed in a garbage truck while trying to retrieve a valuable swordfish seized by police, who said its sale was illegal. Since then, a protest movement called Hirak Rif has held demonstrations to demand social justice and economic development.

In May, Moroccan authorities cracked down on Hirak Rif's leaders and a large number of protesters, arresting between 330-400 people, according to the Moroccan Human Rights Association (AMDH). Yet the movement's influence is still being felt.

On Tuesday, Moroccan King Mohammed VI fired four government officials following alleged

delays in development programs for Hoceima.

Last week also saw the start of the trial of Hirak Rif's charismatic leader, Nasser Zefzafi, which is being closely followed by Moroccans.

The Rif region enjoys a strong regional identity and has historically always enjoyed some level of independence from the central government. In 1921, when Morocco was colonized by France and Spain, the legendary rebel leader Abd el-Krim installed a republic in the region after defeating the Spanish army.

Although the Rif Republic was dissolved just five years later in 1926, it deeply marked the collective memory.

In 1959 and 1984, uprisings broke out in the Rif that were brutally suppressed by King Hassan II, the current king's father.

The Hirak Rif movement has its roots in the region's marginalization, as well as in the evolution of a political consciousness and a de-



Protesters shout slogans during a demonstration in the northern town of El Hoceima

sire for social justice, a redistribution of wealth and respect for the rule of law.

Inspired by the Hirak Rif, activists from other marginalized areas have launched their own groups. In southern Morocco, the city of Zagora has seen multiple protests in recent weeks over access to clean water — and the Zagora Hirak was able to get the city's drinking water service back to normal.

"The Hirak has put a spotlight on the lack of local democracy," said Kenza Afsahi, a sociologist at the

University of Bordeaux and the author of several works on the Rif.

But Afsahi said the movement's achievements have limits. "Despite Hirak's popularity in national and international public opinion, the movement has failed to reverse the balance of power. The authorities continue to be relatively repressive. There is also a widespread concern about the decline of human rights," she said.

Several local and international organizations are now looking to the monarch as the person who

can free the Hirak detainees.

"In the parliament, we have discussed the possibility of addressing a request for pardon of the Hirak detainees to the king" but it does not yet have enough support, said Abdellatif Ouahbi of the PAM opposition party.

Abdellah Bouanou of the ruling Justice and Development Party (PJD) suggested "we must go ahead and make a reconciliation" for the arrested activists so the situation in Hoceima does not fester.

A call for "the immediate release of all Hirak prisoners and the cessation of the repression" against protesters was released Saturday by the Committee for Solidarity, based in Casablanca. The text was signed by 36 European lawmakers, dozens of trade unions, academics and public figures including American philosopher Noam Chomsky, British film director Ken Loach and Indian author Arundhati Roy. AP

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what's ON



PURGE ONE'S MIND: TRIO EXHIBITION BY LEONG KIT MAN, IM HOK LON AND MOK HEI SAI
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: November 25, 2017
VENUE: Lakeside Gallery - Room S1 in Anim'Arte NAM VAN, located at Nam Van Lakeside Plaza at Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Nam Van
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

FLOW: GLASS ART EXHIBITION BY SUNNY WANG
TIME: 9am-9pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: November 19, 2017
VENUE: Temporary Exhibition Gallery of IACM, No. 163, Av. Almeida Ribeiro
ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

CROSSING A HONOLULU STREET?
DON'T TEXT TO AVOID A FINE

Of all the beautiful scenery to see in Honolulu, officials want to make sure residents and tourists get a good look at the street.

Honolulu this week became the largest city in the U.S. to make it illegal for people to look at cellphones, tablets or video games while crossing a road or highway. It comes as a few states still have not outlawed texting while driving.

It remains to be seen how the law can be enforced on an island that draws tourists from across the globe. The tourism industry is trying to educate visitors, but a smattering of tourists interviewed Wednesday — the day the law took effect — said they had no clue.

Amy Pawlowski, who was visiting from Phoenix, had not heard about the new restrictions on mobile devices.

"It seems as though the enforcement aspect would be quite difficult and almost that the government efforts would be better spent with the law prohibiting drivers from being on their phones while driving," she said just after glancing at her phone while crossing a Waikiki street. "Perhaps they (pedestrians) are using a navigation device that is helping them navigate Waikiki or Honolulu."

The law applies to the entire island of Oahu, where it is also illegal to drive while using handheld mobile electronics. A first offense for the distracted walking ordinance carries a fine of between USD15 and \$35. It increases to between \$75 and \$99 for a third offense within a year of the first violation.

Officers in tourist-heavy Honolulu have discretion to issue a warning or a ticket, police spokeswoman Michelle Yu said.

"We realize not everyone is going to know," she said. "Local laws could vary."

The National Safety Council, which has been looking at the issue of distracted walking since 2015, praised Honolulu for being a leader on the issue. The small Idaho city of Rexburg passed an ordinance in 2011 making it illegal to text while driving or crossing a street or highway. Other cities have considered similar measures, said Tatyana Warrick, a council spokeswoman.

The ordinance aims to reduce the number of injuries after the state ranked as the 13th most dangerous for pedestrians from 2010 to 2014, said Honolulu Councilman Brandon Elefante, who wrote the measure.

Elefante said he pushed the measure partly because a high school in his district with nearly 2,500 students is on a busy highway. Students at Waipahu High School did a survey and found 1,000 classmates in a 20-minute period jaywalked, crossed against traffic lights and used electronic devices while crossing, he said.

The law went into effect 90 days after the mayor signed it in July. During the 90 days, police say they have passed out informational fliers across the island.

Jim Cartisser, a tourist from Twin Falls, Idaho, said getting a ticket while on vacation "could leave a lot of people with a sour taste in their mouth leaving Honolulu."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Zig Zag
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 Oct - 01 Nov



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 (Chinese)

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: Jounh R. Leonetti

Starring: Joey King, Ryan Phillippe, Ki Hong Lee

Language: English (Chinese)

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: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 107 min

this day in history

1957 LORDS TO ADMIT FIRST
WOMEN PEERS

The Government has unveiled plans to reform the House of Lords which include admitting women for the first time.

Under the scheme, male and female life peerages will be created to ensure a balanced representation of the different political parties. Expenses are also to be paid to peers.

The idea behind the creation of life peers is to enable distinguished and experienced people, who may not feel able to accept hereditary titles, to enter the House. Appointments will be made at the discretion of the prime minister.

The Conservative Leader of the House, Lord Home, announced the proposals to the Lords this afternoon.

There were cheers when he said admitting women would simply be recognizing the place they had commanded for themselves as a right in modern society. He raised a laugh when he added: "Taking women into parliamentary embrace is, after all, only an extension of the normal privileges of a peer."

Labor's Lord Alexander of Hillsborough rose to complain that his party had not been given any warning of the content of today's debate and he therefore felt unwilling to participate.

However, he thought it likely his party would support the admission of women to the House.

The Government has ruled out - for the time being - any discussion on the alteration in the powers of the House and any discussion of abolition or reduction of the right of hereditary peers to legislate.

Lord Samuel for the Liberals welcomed any reform. He said: "House of Lords reform has been rather like a slow motion film of a prima ballerina, not marked by agility or grace, but by languid exhibition and elephantine deliberations."

He said the House of Lords was the only organization which excluded women - directly contrary to the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act passed by the House nearly 40 years ago but which the House had ever since refused to obey.

Talks have been continuing on and off for years about possible reform of the House of Lords. The last attempt was in 1953 when Conservative Lord Simon introduced a Life Peers Bill.

The Conservative Government invited the leaders of the Liberal and Labour parties to attend talks but Clement Attlee refused to take part on Labour's behalf and the discussions did not take place

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Life Peerages Act was passed in 1958. It empowered the Crown to create life peers, both men and for the first time, women, who would be entitled to sit and vote in the House of Lords and whose peerages would expire on their death.

The Peerage Act of 1963 allowed hereditary peeresses to sit in the House of Lords for the first time.

It also allowed peers to give up titles if they wished to be elected to sit in the Commons. This followed the Stansgate case in which Anthony Wedgwood Benn fought to have the right to drop his title in order to remain an MP.

In 1969 further plans to reform the House of Lords had to be abandoned after delaying tactics by MPs.

Following Labor's election victory in 1997, plans for Lords' reform were once again put forward. As a first stage, the number of hereditary peers was reduced to 92 or roughly 10% of the total.

Plans for the second stage of reform hit the buffers in 2003. After MPs failed to agree a plan on a way forward, the Government agreed to delay pending further consultation.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You know you can't just keep running in high gear all day long - eventually, you've got to downshift.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Avoid the temptation to give into fretting or even despair. It sounds too simple (almost silly, really), but a persistently upbeat attitude really helps you get through it all.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can take advantage of today's new possibilities if you understand the necessity of taking care of details right now.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If you are working today, try not to get too emotionally involved. You are not your job! A more detached, observant approach should help.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The time is ripe for you to develop a shiny new interest with the potential to redefine your life. Today's energy deals you a winning hand when it comes to changing things that aren't working.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Love is always a tricky business, especially since it takes away all sense of perspective very quickly. It's important to forgive and forget, but it's just as important to notice reoccurring patterns and unhealthy interactions.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Some murky emotional boundaries are even harder to see today - unless you insist on clarity. Don't just go into a tailspin and indulge in delirious emotional excess.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Aggressive energies are coming your way, and they are likely to push you to act on some big changes you've been talking about for a while.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Today feels somewhat like a dress rehearsal. If things are chaotic, don't panic - that just means things should be smooth on opening night!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your peers may see adversity, but you see something that can help you stay focused. With that kind of attitude, how can you go wrong?

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You've made quite an impression on all the right people with your creative powers, but this is not the time to stop and rest.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You just can't take 'no' for an answer right now, and you're willing to go to nearly any lengths to get the feedback you know you need.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN'. Includes a 'Friday's solution' section with the completed grid.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- List of useful telephone numbers: Emergency calls 999, Fire department 28 572 222, PJ (Open line) 993, PJ (Picket) 28 557 775, PSP 28 573 333, Customs 28 559 944, S. J. Hospital 28 313 731, Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300, IACM 28 387 333, Tourism 28 333 000, Airport 59 888 88.



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BASEBALL

Cancer survivor, World Series champ Rizzo is Clemente winner



Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo talks to the media after winning the award

Stephen Hawkins, Houston

ANTHONY Rizzo is a cancer survivor and World Series champion. The Roberto Clemente Award is a trophy that will stand out for the Chicago Cubs slugger.

"This is something that is so humbling to receive," Rizzo said. "It's the greatest award you can win and I will be forever appreciative of this, and this will go front and center of anything I've ever done on the baseball field."

The 28-year-old Rizzo, a three-time All-Star, was honored Friday night with baseball's biggest honor for sportsmanship and community involvement. He was recognized for his foundation's work to help other families dealing with cancer.

Rizzo was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma when he was 18 and in the Boston Red Sox minor league system, and he vividly remembers sitting with his mother and getting the news from doctors. He was wearing a "LIVESTRONG" T-shirt.

"The LIVESTRONG Foundation was so big at that time. I was saying: 'We're going to start a foundation

like this eventually. And literally 10 years later it's coming full circle," Rizzo said. "Winning this award and being recognized for it, I can't speak enough about the foundation and the work that we do and what we want to continue to do."

This will go front and center of anything I've ever done on the baseball field.

ANTHONY RIZZO

Rizzo went through six months of chemotherapy, at the same time his grandmother was dealing with breast cancer, and six more weeks of treatment before doctors told Rizzo he was clear of his cancer late in 2008.

In 2012, he started the nonprofit Anthony Rizzo Family Foundation to raise money for cancer research and provide support to children and

their families struggling with the disease.

The foundation supports children's cancer centers in Florida and Chicago, and supports oncology life specialists to help children deal with the aspects of the disease that are beyond medical treatment. It also sponsors camps for children with cancer.

"More important, though, than any of those support activities is Anthony's personal involvement with kids," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

Rizzo spoke to how much it means to be able to visit a kid in the hospital.

"They light up like a Christmas tree, for five minutes of escaping the reality, because they're going through treatment," he said. "They're battling for their lives and I'm just grateful to be able to go in there and say hello to them and make them escape reality for a second."

The Clemente Award was presented before Game 3 of the World Series. A year ago, Rizzo and the Cubs ended a 108-year championship drought with their World Series victory.

Major League Baseball has been recognizing players for their philanthropic work since 1971. The honor was named the Roberto Clemente Award in 1973 after the 15-time All-Star was killed in a plane crash on New Year's Eve 1972 while attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. **AP**

AD



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Andrea Dovizioso wins Malaysian Moto GP

ANDREA Dovizioso won yesterday's Malaysian MotoGP to keep alive his slim chance of winning his first world championship and ensuring this year's title race will come down to the last round of the year.

The Italian won his sixth race this season to narrow the gap to championship leader Marc Marquez to 21 points with only the Valencia Grand Prix on November 12 to come.

After crashing heavily in practice, Marquez took no risks on a wet Sepang circuit, crossing the line fourth to remain in a commanding position to clinch his fourth world title in five seasons.

The only way the 24-year-old Spaniard can lose the championship is if Dovizioso wins in Valencia and Marquez finishes outside the top 11 on his Honda.

Dovizioso's Ducati team mate Dani Pedrosa finished second yester-



Andrea Dovizioso celebrates after winning the race

day after starting from pole position and leading until the last four laps while France's Johann Zarco was third for just his second podium finish of the season.

Portugal's Miguel Oliveira won the Moto2 race

Italy's Franco Morbidelli wrapped up his first Moto2 title when his lone

remaining challenger for the championship, Switzerland's Thomas Luthi, was ruled out of yesterday's race after breaking his ankle in qualifying.

With an unassailable lead and light rain falling on the track, Morbidelli cruised across the line in third place, behind Portugal's Miguel Oliveira who won his first race in Australia last week, and South Africa's Brad Binder.

Spain's Joan Mir, who clinched the Moto3 crown in Australia, won his 10th race of the season in Malaysia. **AP**

FOOTBALL

English clubs said to weigh breakaway 'Premier League 2'

David Hellier

SOME of England's most-followed football clubs currently playing in the second-tier Championship are in early discussions about forming a breakaway league, according to people familiar with the matter.

Frustrated by a recent broadcast contract with Sky Plc which they see as too long and too small in value, at least 10 clubs have given their support to trying to find an alternative, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter is private and the teams don't want their names public.

One idea being discussed is a Premier League 2 of 18 clubs that would try to ally with a new broadcast partner, the people said. The teams intend to discuss the plan with current football broadcasters as well as technology giants such as Amazon.com Inc. and Facebook Inc., which are showing increasing interest in live sports, the people said.

Championship clubs such as Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest are former European Cup winners, Leeds were one of the game's big powers in the 1960s onward for nearly 30 years and Sheffield Wednesday still draws in big attendances and television audiences.



A Nottingham Forest player celebrates a goal

day and Nottingham Forest have strong followings and rich histories, including league and cup titles in England and Europe. While currently in the second-tier series, many of the teams have had long spells in the top league, competing against clubs such as Manchester United and Liverpool.

Under the current system, the bottom three teams from the first-level Premier League get relegated to Championship after each season, and three teams from that

competition get promoted to Premier League.

The group has discussed the idea with Richard Scudamore, the executive chairman of the Premier League, according to the people. The Premier League declined to comment.

In September, England's lower-tier teams agreed to a five-year deal with Sky that gives them 120 million pounds (USD157 million) a year in total. The contract was negotiated by the teams' parent organization, the English Football

League. Each Championship club will earn about 7 million pounds a year under the new deal, while Premier League teams make a minimum of more than 90 million pounds.

Championship clubs such as Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest have strong followings and rich histories

Some of the larger Championship clubs argue they have been short-changed by the recent deal with Sky, given their viewing figures. Derby County, for example, attracted around 400,000 live viewers

to a recent televised match, almost half the Sky average for Premier League matches of 819,000.

Shaun Harvey, chief executive officer of the English Football League, said he hasn't been contacted by any club about a desire to leave the competition.

"Sky Sports has for many years been a hugely important and valued partner of the EFL and we were delighted to extend our relationship by a further five years," Harvey said in an email.

"The detail in respect of the record-breaking 600 million-pound domestic broadcasting agreement was presented to all clubs in September and no questions or objections were raised."

Representatives for Sky, Facebook and Amazon declined to comment.

The Premier League, whose latest three-year broadcast deal with Sky and BT Group Plc attracted a European record value of 5.1 billion pounds, is about to begin negotiations on a new TV contract. Some of its club owners and executives have said they would welcome bids from the likes of Facebook and Amazon, though the companies haven't said whether they will participate. **Bloomberg**

AD

The Venetian Macao
14 - 16 November 2017



Day 1 - 14 November 2017 (Tuesday)
Belt & Road, Smart City, Smart Economy

Day 2 - 15 November 2017 (Wednesday)
**Mobile Game Entrepreneur Alliance & E-Sports Association
Sina Asia Esports Session**

Day 3 - 16 November 2017 (Thursday)
Next Generation of Gaming



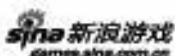
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Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association



opinion

World Views

Andy Mukherjee, Bloomberg

SINGAPORE MUST JUNK HONG KONG'S RAIL MODEL

Singapore works. Or that was the city-state's reputation until one December day six years ago, when a solitary defective fastener brought the subway system screeching to a halt.

That marked the start of a saga of frequent shutdowns and stranded passengers that has continued unabated. Earlier this month, Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan apologized for a 20-hour disruption caused by preventable flooding. This past Wednesday, some trains were slowed during the morning rush because of a track fault.

The latest incidents come a year after Singapore's state investment firm, Temasek Holdings Pte, bought out the minority shareholders in SMRT Corp. Because Temasek is owned by the finance ministry, the deal effectively nationalized the island's main train operator, shortly after Khaw paid it SGD991 million (USD735 million) to offload trains, signaling systems and related assets to the transport regulator.

Relegation to an "asset-lite" operator hasn't brought much discipline. Khaw, who's credited with containing the spread of the deadly SARS epidemic as Singapore's acting health minister 14 years ago, is frustrated that SMRT is failing in mundane tasks like emptying out the holding tanks beneath tracks so they can absorb rainwater without jamming the service.

Time to wield a bigger rod. The Land Transport Authority, the regulator, is seeking an adviser to guide it on "non-fare business."

A Singapore decision to unbundle the running of trains from advertising and property rentals would be a radical departure from the model established by Hong Kong's MTR Corp., arguably the global exemplar for delivering value to commuters by capturing large profits in real estate. Almost three-quarters of MTR's operating income last year came from advertising at stations as well as from renting out, managing and developing malls. Yet it has a solid core: the company, 74 percent-owned by the Hong Kong government, has an on-time record of 99.9 percent.

While Singapore's SMRT crows in its last annual report about improving the number of kilometers between major delays to 140,000 from 65,000 in 2012, MTR's main passenger lines have seen such glitches only after 5.6 million kilometers this year.

As part of a new agreement, SMRT is being forced to sacrifice a part of the 50 to 60 percent profit margin it used to enjoy on advertising and property rentals. Maybe it doesn't deserve any. What's even the point of paying a dividend to Temasek, which funnels the money back into the government's budget, which then helps investment in new lines?

All that would make sense if the rail operator understood its primary obligation. However, a decade under the stewardship of Saw Phaik Hwa, a former overseer of duty-free shops, seems to have altered SMRT's DNA.

In the year ended March 2016, a few months before it was stripped of its major assets, SMRT took in pure rail revenue of about \$500 million and managed to squeeze a \$7 million operating loss out of it*. The company whined about how fare adjustments weren't keeping pace with rising operating costs. By contrast, MTR's Hong Kong rail operations earned an Ebit margin of almost 15 percent on \$1.15 billion of revenue in the first half of this year. Nobody's lamenting the low fares.

MTR sets itself numerical targets in 14 operational areas. Some of them, such as air-conditioning failures, or the reliability of the Octopus stored-value card processor at light-rail stations, aren't even regulatory requirements.

Over in Singapore, the transport regulator gives a civics lesson to commuters. Its "graciousness campaign" features such immortal characters as "Move-In Martin," "Bag-Down Benny," and "Hush-Hush Hannah".

Since Singapore seems unable to give up the paternalistic attitude, that's all the more reason for it to junk the Hong Kong model and let the city's hyper-efficient government take over the subway service entirely.

* A property tax refund, because of over-assessment in previous years, put earnings before interest and income tax into positive territory.

THE TRUMP SUGGESTS MOORE'S BROADWAY DEBUT WAS A FLOP

President Donald Trump has set his sights on a new target: filmmaker and Trump critic Michael Moore. Trump tweets: "While not at all presidential I must point out that the Sloppy Michael Moore Show on Broadway was a TOTAL BOMB and was forced to close. Sad!"

Trump criticized the liberal activist on Saturday, several days after Moore's one-man show, "The Terms of My Surrender," concluded its limited Broadway run on Oct. 22.

Playbill.com says the anti-Trump show examined America's current political and cultural landscape.



In August, Moore led the show's audience to Trump Tower in New York to protest the president's reaction to deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

As Africa tackles child marriage, young survivors speak out



Zali Idu, aged 12, poses in her bedroom. She was married in 2011

Carley Petesch, Dakar

SITTING on the floor and dressed in black, the 15-year-old held her baby as panicked tears welled in her eyes. Her husband, two decades her senior, could kill her if he found out she was telling her story, she said.

She was married at age 13 in the West African nation of Guinea because her parents feared she could harm her marriage prospects by having premarital sex. At the time, she said, she had not even developed breasts.

"I was given to a man that I didn't choose before my body was even ready to have sex," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. "I couldn't even move for a week afterward because I was swollen and bleeding."

Child marriage remains deeply entrenched in West and Central Africa, home to six of the 10 countries with the highest rates in the world. Rights groups and political and religious leaders from across the region gathered in Senegal this past week to seek ways to curb the practice.

Outspoken survivors of child marriage urged them on.

More than half of girls in Guinea are married before age 18. While the country recently banned marriage for those under that age, observers say the practice remains widespread. Some girls enter arranged marriages during times of insecurity or when families are under economic strain.

"This is a complex issue driven by poverty, cultural nor-

ms and families trying to do the best for their children," said Save The Children International CEO Helle Thorning-Schmidt. "But until we break the cycle where the only way a girl can give her family honor is to marry and have children, then we will not change this."

Child marriage affects nearly 15 million girls around the globe. The rate is as high as 76 percent in Niger; in Chad and Central African Republic it is 68 percent. Mali and Burkina Faso have rates above 50 percent, according to data from Save the Children and Girls Not Brides.

Child marriage affects nearly 15 million girls around the globe

Experts say education for girls is key to providing them with opportunities beyond marriage, and to improving regional prosperity.

Musu Bakoto Sawo, now a 27-year-old lawyer and human rights advocate from Gambia, was married at age 14. She was 21 when she became a widow and inherited nothing. She said education is the only reason she has thrived, calling it "the only way I could go against the system."

Even for those who avoid an early marriage, social consequences can be immense. Fatoumata, 14, called it "the ni-

ghtmare of my life" when her family said she was to marry her 39-year-old cousin. She fled that night in her pajamas to stay with a friend's family.

"My father said if I refused this marriage I was no longer his child," she said. "He threatened my mother too [...] she has suffered because of me." She gave only her first name for fear of reprisals.

Some young women may embrace early marriages, seeing them as protection from insecurity in conflict-ridden areas, said Zuwaira Bello of the advocacy group Girl Child Concerns. The group operates in northern Nigeria, where the Boko Haram extremist insurgency is known for kidnapping young women and forcing them into marriages.

Involving former child brides in community activism will help discourage child marriages that seek protection from unrest, Bello said.

Some young women who escaped forced marriages now spread the word against the practice.

Leila, who asked that her last name not be used to protect her family, said her uncle in Niger forced her to marry a man at age 14 because he owed a debt he couldn't repay. A year later, she was pregnant.

She said her husband beat her for refusing sex. After a second pregnancy, she was able to escape, get a divorce and return to her studies.

Through tears, she urged other young brides to remain hopeful. "I would say to them to be patient and remain courageous," she said. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	90-120 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	90-120 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	90-120 Moderate	☹️

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Islamic State militants, routed from one urban stronghold after another in Syria, have recently been moving deeper into Syria's remote desert, where experts say they are regrouping and preparing their next incarnation.

ISRAEL Under pressure from the United States, Israel has delayed a bill that would cede a number of West Bank settlements to Jerusalem, officials said yesterday.



SOMALIA In the wake of a night-long assault on a Mogadishu hotel in which 23 people were killed, Somalia's government has fired the police and intelligence chiefs yesterday. The Cabinet voted to sack the chiefs in response to a recommendation by Somalia's security minister Mohamed Abukar Islow. More on p14

SWITZERLAND Swiss media have reported that six people have been injured in a roller coaster crash and a merry-go-round mishap at a fair in the city of Basel.



ICELAND's ruling Independence Party took the largest share of the vote in the island nation's parliamentary election but faces difficult negotiations to form a new government after populist candidates showed unexpected strength.

CUBA's foreign minister has announced changes to the island's immigration policies, seeking to strengthen ties with the 800,000 Cubans living outside the country.