



A DIVISIVE PROPOSAL

Lawmakers have different views on the mutual recognition of driving licenses between Macau and mainland China

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LUSOPHONE FILM FEST RETURNS

The second edition of the Lusophone Film Fest will be held in the city on November 18 and 19

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Police breaks up plot to kill Kim's nephew

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WORLD BRIEFS

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SPAIN's state prosecutor said yesterday that he would seek charges of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement against members of Catalonia's ousted secessionist government, pushing the crisis over the region's independence declaration into an uncertain new phase. **More on p15,18**

SINGAPORE wants to bolster its status as a wealth management and foreign exchange center as part of plans to create more financial-sector jobs and mitigate the effect of rapid changes in technology.

INDONESIA Authorities have lowered the alert status of Bali's Mount Agung volcano from the highest level, following a significant decrease in activity in recent days. More than 140,000 people fled the area around the mountain after its alert status was raised to the highest level on Sept. 22, indicating an eruption may be imminent.

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Starbucks benefits from coffee's climb to the top of beverage food chain

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Divisive proposal on mutual recognition of driving licenses

DURING a TDM talk show which took place on Sunday, five directly elected lawmakers, including Ng Kuok Cheong, Leong Sun Iok, Ho Ion Sang, Si Ka Ion, and Mak Soi Kun, voiced their different stances regarding the mutual recognition of driving licenses between Macau and mainland China.

Last week, the Transport Advisory Committee reunited for a meeting to discuss several topics relating to transportation. One of the topics addressed a proposal which would recognize mainland drivers' licenses in the MSAR, and vice-versa.

Ng said that the program "is essentially deteriorating the local environment, not optimizing it." Leong worried that there will be more non-local drivers driving in an unfamiliar environment. Ho believes that "there is no urgency at the current stage" to implement the policy.

Si and Mak, however, agreed with the project.

In Si's opinion, the cooperation between Macau and Guangdong, especially concerning the Greater Bay area development, will be a key trend in this region's integrated development. Therefore, recognizing driving licenses on both sides will be more convenient for the residents.

"Macau will be closing and limiting itself," if the city refuses to accept the project, Si concluded.

One of Mak's suggestions was



for Macau to accept the project and to improve its transportation network, for instance, by making road signs more recognizable and by making the penalties for transportation infractions more severe.

The director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin Sam, based his preference for the mutual recognition of driving licenses between Macau and mainland China on the benefits it would offer to Macau residents.

According to the head of DSAT, the policy helps the local youth in adapting to the new living, working, and operating standards of businesses across the Greater Bay area. He also noted

that the number of local residents who are taking the mainland's driving exams is continuously growing.

This year to date, around 6,000 MSAR residents have taken the mainland's driving exams, approximately 1,000 residents more than last year.

As Lam explained, the mutual recognition policy would only concern holders of driving licenses for light vehicles.

"We should all be absolutely confident in the mainland's driving exams because they have become increasingly tighter," said Lam. Lam continued to explain that the penalties in the mainland for driving infrac-

tions are more strict than in the MSAR.

On whether Lam himself is concerned about Macau's road safety, he shared that he expects that Macau will be able to adapt easily to the increased number of drivers.

He gave the example of Hong Kong, where, according to Lam, mainland driving licenses have been recognized for 13 years and it has not caused any serious disruption.

In Lam's opinion, the increase might arise in the non-local employment market, particularly in the private transportation sector.

He also noted that the tourists

have never had a high inclination for driving their own vehicles in Macau. "Overall, we do not think there is a problem," concluded Lam.

According to Lam, there is no need to amend the city's transportation law to implement the policy. He believes that if the mainland confirms the agreement, the project can be carried out because Macau already has a very similar set of driving regulations, when compared to the mainland.

We should all be confident in the mainland's driving exams.

LAM HIN SAM

Vong Vai Hong, head of the Transport Department of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), said on Sunday that his department will, as usual, support any government policy. He also believes that the project will not result in an increase in the number of accidents.

Vong also shared that he does not think that the mutual recognition policy would place any burden on the police in Macau.

Currently, no implementation schedules have been made for the project, as noted by Lam, and the transport authority will need to discuss the project's details with state representatives.

This project was suggested in 2013, however, in 2013 it only involved Guangdong and Macau and it was strongly opposed by society. **JZ**

HERITAGE

Museum of the Orient shows unseen folding screen in Japan

THE Portuguese Museum of the Orient, located in Lisbon, holds in its permanent collection a previously unseen art piece and has chosen to loan the piece, for its first public display, to the city of Fukuoka, Japan.

The art piece, a Chinese origin folding screen, portrays scenes of the life of Jesus Christ and is on display in the Kyushu National Museum. The display

is dedicated to the Portuguese presence in Asia. The piece is part of the exhibition titled "Japanese Art in the Age of Discoveries" that, according to the information provided by the Museum of the Orient, explores art in the perspective of cultural interaction, namely during the period from 1543 to 1639, when the Portuguese were present in Japan. This was the pe-

riod when the Portuguese introduced firearms to Japanese culture and when the regime of Xogunato Tokugawa forbade the monopolization of commerce by the Christians in Japan. At the time of their arrival in Japan, Macau was used as a base for the Portuguese travels to the Far East. Evangelization and commercial exchange were the two main purposes of those travels.

The exhibition gathers a collection of over 120 art pieces from several Japanese National Museums, Emperors Collections and temples. The collection also includes pieces from Museo Soumaya (Fundación Carlos Slim), in Mexico. As the spokesperson for the Portuguese Museum, Joana Belard da Fonseca, noted, "the folding screen is a very rare piece that

HUGO MAERTENS



combines the Coromandel lacquer and eastern painting style done, most probably, in China with European religious paintings

and images," and is likely, "a piece done by special order that shows the work of the Jesuit missionaries in China." **RM**

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitter, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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Norbert Tan and Ada Chao

RETAIL | TRENDS

Starbucks benefits from coffee's climb up to the top the beverage food chain

Lynzy Valles

STARBUCKS Macau expects to open its first store with Starbucks Reserve Coffee Experience Bar at MGM Cotai on January 29 amid its growing popularity in the region.

The "reserve bar" will offer its customers various premium coffees with a variety of brewing methods, and rare beans on offer.

Given the significant growth of coffee lovers in the territory, Norbert Tan, executive director of Coffee Concepts, which operates the Starbucks outlets in Hong Kong and Macau, shared with the Times that the company, which is now celebrating its 15th anniversary in Macau, has a role to play in catering to the sophistication of local coffee drinkers.

Coffee Concepts operates a total of 13 Starbucks outlets in Macau, with one store currently under renovation at Galaxy Macau.

With the continued growth of the company in Macau, as well as the significant numbers of

Chinese tourist arrivals, Tan said Starbucks Macau recorded a total of two million customers in 2016.

"It continues to grow. Think about the millions of tourists that visit Macau, yet we are [receiving] such strong local support. We have built up to 23 percent of our total transactions on [...] Starbucks Rewards," Tan said.

Starbucks Macau recorded a total of two million customers in 2016

Technology had a vital part to play in this growth: customers can order and pay for their drinks prior to arriving in the store.

Starbucks also focuses on reformulating drinks and enhancing its mobile app.

As there are still a few months

to go until the end of the year, Tan hopes to exceed last year's customer numbers in 2017, adding that Starbucks is still looking at opportunities to grow its brand in the region.

With Macau and Greater China's strong "tea drinking" culture, Tan noted that Starbucks has brought a variety of global coffee origins to local consumers.

He is confident in the stores'

service offerings despite the rise of local cafes in Macau, claiming that the company differentiates itself by – among other measures – sourcing its quality Arabic beans from around the globe.

"We stand by the quality and the way that we also ethically source our coffee. That's a big differentiator," said Tan.

The director also added that Starbucks stores are designed based on the store's location,

citing special store designs in Wynn Palace and City of Dreams.

Tan said Starbucks has operated in Macau for 15 years and continually strives to understand the local community, catering its food programs to local preferences with a 'twist of Starbucks.'

"We try and not only [meet] Greater China's [needs] but also [...] local needs," said Tan.

Company's CEO sees decades of growth from its Chinese expansion

CHINA is Starbucks Corp.'s biggest growth opportunity, and its expansion there could last decades without letting up.

That's the view of Chief Executive Officer Kevin Johnson, who recently spoke with Bloomberg in the company's hometown of Seattle. Though the U.S. will remain a key market, Starbucks' crusade to spread lattes and macchiatos across the Asian nation is key to its future.

"China is our second-largest and fastest-growing market," he said. "We can build new stores in China for decades and still have opportunity for growth there."

Starbucks doubled down on the market in July when it announced plans to buy out the partners in its East China joint venture. The company agreed to acquire the remaining 50 percent of the business in a USD1.3 billion transaction, gi-



ving it complete ownership of about 1,300 cafes in Shanghai and the Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces.

The company is betting that China's growing middle class and urbanization will boost demand for coffee in a tea-loving country. Slowing sales in the U.S. have only added pressure to go big overseas. Starbucks has set a target of operating 5,000 cafes in mainland China by 2021.

Johnson, who joined Starbucks after a career in the tech industry, also sees innovation as key to fueling sales. That includes reformulating drinks, trying new store designs and enhancing its mobile app.

"The tech industry and the coffee industry certainly have two different business models, but they have a lot in common," he said. "We have to innovate to stay relevant." **MDT/Bloomberg**

MORE SAVVY CUSTOMERS

ADA CHAO, Starbucks partner and seven-year Store Manager at Starbucks Macau, told the Times that customer orders have gradually changed over the past few years. Beyond a daily caffeine fix, local consumers are now more aware of authentic coffee beans. "They now ask more about the origin, the beans and the methods of brewing coffee."

So there's a difference there in terms of how they consume coffee," said Chao. "They pay more attention [to] the coffees that they drink." With coffee's rising acceptance among the masses, the store manager shared that the team is observing its clientele's spending habits and patterns to create programs that "make sense" to customers.



Grand Prix promoted in HK

A promotional campaign for the Macau Grand Prix was held in Hong Kong over the weekend. The roadshow, staged by the Macao Government Tourism Office, included several fun activities and exhibitions on the fascinating history of the event and its famous Guia Circuit. Participants had the chance to get up close and personal with the Mercedes Dallara Formula 3 car in which Spanish star Daniel Juncadella rocketed to victory on the Guia street circuit in 2011, as well as the 1000cc Ducati ridden in 2003 by Michael Rutter, eight-time Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix winner and undisputed two-wheel King of Macau. The roadshow included an immersive VR experience featuring remote control cars, while interactive games offered prizes such as Grand Prix tickets. The Grand Prix will take place from November 16 to 19.

60 temporary stations to collect furniture waste

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) will set up 60 temporary large-scale furniture waste collecting stations across the city from November 1 to 7 to help the public in disposing their unwanted furniture, IACM announced. The public may dispose of the furniture at any designated collection point from 8 p.m. until 11 p.m. during the above period. The cleaning company will send staff to collect the items and will handle the clearance on the same night. There will be 50 stations in the Macau Peninsula, six in Taipa and four in Coloane.

Most SMEs use new sources of media for publicity

The latest survey from the Macau Advertising Association shows that nearly 80 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are using new sources of media to advertise themselves, according to a report by Tai Chung Pou. Eighty percent out of the 401 retail and catering companies interviewed spent an average of 58.5 percent of their total advertisement expenditures on new methods of advertisement. More than 70 percent of the interviewed companies spent less than MOP10,000 on their advertisement in 2017. Ninety percent of these enterprises target local residents, with only a few carrying out advertisement strategies outside Macau.

Lusophone Film Fest to return next month for second edition

THE second edition of the Lusophone Film Fest will be held in the city on November 18 and 19, showcasing six films about the Portuguese-speaking world. The festival is designed to highlight these countries and societies to those who do not speak Portuguese.

The Portuguese-speaking world consists of countries spread across four continents, covering more than 270 million people worldwide. However, most film productions originating from these communities struggle to find exposure on a global scale.

"This festival allows people to see [for free] some cinema that comes from the Lusophone world," said local organizer Isabel Figueiredo. "The films are not all in Portuguese – that's a general misconception – they are in various languages and creoles," but they all come from Portuguese-speaking societies.

The festival is aligned with two strategic initiatives of the Macau SAR government currently being implemented: the promotion of the city's cultural and creative industries and the elevation of Macau into a platform for trade and exchange between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

With the Macau-based Portuguese and Macanese people enthusiastic about such programs, the key lies in attracting mainland Chinese students, the organizer told the Times.



The event is going to be held at Casa Garden

"I want to build bridges [between China and the Portuguese speaking world] but maybe I have not been that successful yet," said Figueiredo. "About one-third of the attendees [in May] were Chinese, but we did not have that many students from the mainland [as I had hoped]."

"One film this year is from Australia and it is about the maritime border with East Timor. I thought the Chinese might find it interesting as it shows the hypocrisy of Australia scolding the Chinese about maritime borders [in the South China Sea] when their own backyard is not that simple," she said.

The organizer added that the

topic discussed in the film was timely as Australia and East Timor, only last month, reached a resolution over the disputed

territory, which contains large oil and gas deposits worth an estimated USD40 billion.

The Lusophone Film Fest is now in its second edition after its debut in May. It is an extension of an older festival born in Kenya with the same name, which has since spread to cities such as Sydney, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Zanzibar.

In May's edition, the focus of the films was on Cape Verde, Macau, Mozambique, Portugal and East Timor. In this second edition, the films are from Portugal, Mozambique and Brazil and are about Guinea-Bissau, Timor and Cape Verde, according to a statement released by the organizer.

Screenings of the films will be held at Casa Garden free of charge on the evenings of November 18 and 19, starting from 6 p.m. The films are all subtitled in English. **DB**

DOCLISBOA FILM FESTIVAL CURRENTLY PLAYING

THE MACAU extension of Lisbon-based documentary film festival, Doclisboa, is currently being held and is showcasing a selection of 13 films. The festival kicked off yesterday with a film called Crash, which has been dubbed the "best local entry" for the Sound and Image Challenge 2016. Crash, along with three other Macau-produced shorts, were screened on the same day. The other films on the program

are from Portugal, though at times the films are listed in conjunction with other countries. The one exception is the 57-minute film Macao Music Box, an exploration of the atmosphere of different communities in multicultural Macau. The festival is being held at the Dr. Stanley Ho Auditorium at the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong and the documentaries are free to attend.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Hong Kong, Macau with unique advantages in national development

FINANCIAL Secretary of the HKSAR government Paul Chan Mo-po said that as China's special administrative regions, both Hong Kong and Macau have unique advantages which enable them to play different but complementary roles in the country's development.

Chan co-chaired the 10th Hong Kong-Macau Cooperation High Level Meeting, which was held last week in Hong Kong, with Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong.

The two sides signed the HK-Macau Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) before the meeting commenced.

Noting the arrangement covers investment, intellectual property, economic and technical cooperation, as well as goods and services trade, Chan said the commitments go beyond those undertaken by the two sides under the World Trade Organization.

"Complementing the development strategy of the Belt and Road Ini-

tiative, the bay area development will present historic opportunities for the future development of Hong Kong and Macau," Chan said.

The HK-Macau CEPA comes into effect immediately, while commitments on the liberalization of goods and services trade will come into effect on January 1, 2018.

In the meeting, both sides pledged to continue creating a business-friendly environment for companies of the two places and jointly promote multi-destina-



Paul Chan Mo-po

tion itineraries, investment, and trade and exhibition.

They also agreed to work with Guangdong

Province to press ahead with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. **MDT/Xinhua**



NEW FRENCH BRUNCH FAVORITES AT AUX BEAUX ARTS

After the splashy debut of its sharing menu last month, MGM's Aux Beaux Arts is jazzing up Sunday brunch with a French twist

Thanks to fresh ingredients and French techniques, the chefs at Aux Beaux Arts have breathed new life into their appetizer menu. The six-piece escargots à la bourguignonne are a highlight, as is the smoked salmon. Even brunch staples like eggs benedict are presented in a fine dining spread that's bound to entice Instagram-happy diners.

Aux Beaux Arts' signature fresh seafood has been integrated into many of the main courses: the truffle pasta contains scallop or lobster, while the seared black cod is a tasty treat. A solid alternative is the French oyster spread, imported from three regions of France; decadent diners can drop MOP1888 to MOP3888 on two kinds of Petrossian caviar.



Savoury surf-and-turf sharing plates will be familiar to the restaurant's regulars. Customers can choose the ribeye with warm Boston lobster – served with a helping of garlic butter or mornay – or a generous portion of either seafood flambé or assorted grilled meats. MOP588 will fetch a filling platter of chilled seafood, where the Boston lobster is joined by half a dozen assorted oysters as well as sea prawns, mussels and Alaskan crab legs.

No meal at Aux Beaux Arts would be complete without sampling the restaurant's famous wines; connoisseurs are welcome to a glass of 2014 riesling, 2015 pinot noir, or even a bubbly burst of

prosecco. Those not in the mood for a boozy brunch can opt for iced peach tea, mint verbena or fresh fruit juices. Spoiled for choice? The well-trained wait staff will be on hand for recommendations. Pair your drink with crêpes suzette, French cheeses with homemade compote, or pastries hand-picked by the pâtissier.

Travelers and locals alike love Aux Beaux Arts for its old-world French atmosphere and top-notch service. Yet the al fresco dining element is as much of a draw as the award-winning French cuisine and wine cellar; diners can be found relaxing at MGM MACAU's atrium, admiring the central aquarium.

Aux Beaux Arts is open daily from 6:00pm to midnight and is located at the MGM MACAU along Avenida Dr Sun Yat Sen. Brunch is available from 11:00am to 3:00pm during weekends.

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AUX BEAUX ARTS





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THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has published the names of the five recipients of the 2017 Academic Research Grant, the bureau announced in a statement last week.

The IC said the program, which received 36 applications this year, was established to encourage original academic research into Macau culture as well as exchanges between Macau, mainland China and other countries.

To ensure the integrity and impartiality of the selection process in accordance with grant regulations, the IC commissioned the Institute for Social and Cultural Research at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) to organize a panel of experts to review applications. The panel included senior university employees of MUST, the City University of Macau and Peking University.

The successful research programs are:

- **Research on Folk and Liturgical Music in Macau in the Twentieth Century**

Presented by Dai Dingcheng, who works as a Professor of the School of Arts at Macao Polytechnic Insti-

IC announces Academic Research Grant recipients

tute, this project will involve a detailed categorization and division of folk and liturgical music in Macau in the context of the territory's socio-cultural and historical background.

- **Research on Robert Morrison's A Dictionary of the Chinese Language**

Presented by researcher Sio Chio Ieong, who is an assistant professor of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at the University of Macau, this project aims to complete an exhaustive survey on Morrison's work, covering the areas of systems, religions, names and laws, as well as concepts in history, geography, culture and society.

- **From Portugal to Macau: Portuguese Nationality reflected in Portuguese Literature**

Presented by researcher Yao Jingming from the University of Macau, this project aims to "fill in gaps in Macau Studies" by producing a

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monograph on the culture of Portugal and its people that can be easily understood by Chinese readers.

- **Images and Appreciation - The Art of Sculpting in Macau in Light of Sino-foreign Art Exchanges**

Presented by researcher Gu Yue from MUST, this project aims to explore the value of sculpture images in Macau, for which the history of Sino-foreign art exchanges since the 16th century will be revisited.

- **Research on the Design of Space-saving Furnitu-**

re and the Spatial Function of Macau's Economical Housing

Presented by Yan Shaoshi from MUST, this project aims to analyze the spatial function of Macau's economical housing, including methods of designing space-saving furniture.

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World's hottest PC Game could get locked out of China

Lulu Yilun Chen

THE world's hottest video game is set to be shut out of the biggest market. A Chinese gaming association said in an announcement posted online that PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds is too bloody and violent for sale in the country. The gladiator-style mentality of the computer game - where competitors kill each other until only one remains - deviates from the values of socialism and is deemed harmful to young consumers, according to the China Audio-Video and Digital Publishing Association.

It's highly unlikely for the game known as PUBG to receive an official license for China, given that the association consulted with the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television before issuing its statement. SAPPRFT is the regulator that licenses virtually all content in China, and has previously banned content such as the TV series "BoJack

Horseman" and "The Big Bang Theory." PUBG's premise runs counter to President Xi Jinping's recent calls for unity, aimed at tightening party control.

China's content watchdog strongly opposes duel-to-the-death games

"This basically spells the death sentence for PUBG in China," said Benjamin Wu, an analyst at Shanghai-based consultancy Pacific Epoch. "PUBG's main problem is that the underlying ideology clashes with what's preached in China."

PUBG, published by South Korea's Bluehole Inc., has been the surprise hit of the gaming indus-



Customers at an internet cafe play online games in Beijing

try this year, selling more than 13 million copies globally. The title sells for about USD30 a copy and is played on PCs.

There's been growing interest among Chinese gamers in getting their hands on PUBG, but the game has lacked official approval for distribution. That means users can only download and run the game through virtual private networks, which are slow and often blocked. Tencent Holdings Ltd., China's biggest gaming company, was in discussions to purchase licensing rights, the

South Korean company said last month. Neither company responded to requests for comment.

Not all violent games are banned in China. One of the country's most popular games is Tencent's Honour of Kings, in which teams of five hack their way through a battle arena to vanquish opponents. But the characters are cartoonish, while PUBG's are realistic.

The Korean title is like a digital version of "The Hunger Games," where 100 combatants are dropped onto an island and proceed

to slaughter each other. China's content watchdog strongly opposes duel-to-the-death games and they will have a hard time winning operating licenses, according to the industry body. The association also recommended that Chinese companies do not develop such games and discouraged live streaming of related content.

"I suspect it won't affect Tencent too much because no one can touch survival games anymore," said Wu. "It doesn't have to worry that a competitor will supersede it."

China is the world's largest market for videogames, with industry revenue expected to hit \$27.5 billion this year, slightly ahead of the U.S. with \$25 billion, according to researcher Newzoo. But regulators in the world's second-largest economy periodically clamp down on forms of content they deem threaten social stability, often without warning.

Honour of Kings did come under scrutiny this year when the leading government newspaper blasted the title for harming children in the pursuit of profit. The Chinese company also publishes a first-person shooter called CrossFire, developed by South Korean developer Smile-Gate Holdings. Both titles are still available in China. **Bloomberg**

AD

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H SBC said yesterday that its profit rose in the third quarter as a sweeping corporate overhaul aimed at winning more business in Asia paid off.

The London-based global bank said pretax profit rose to USD4.6 billion in the July-September period, a more than five-fold increase from \$843 million a year ago.

It reported net income of nearly \$3 billion, swinging from a loss of \$617 million the previous year as revenue climbed 38 percent to \$13.2 billion.

HSBC also said it has carried out 71 percent of a \$2 billion share buyback announced three months ago and plans to complete it by the year's end.

Chief Executive Stuart

HSBC posts higher Q3 profit as Asian pivot pays off

Gulliver said the bank "maintained good momentum" in the latest quarter, with higher revenue in all three of its main global businesses.

"Our pivot to Asia is driving higher returns and lending growth, particularly in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta," said Gulliver, referring to the affluent industrialized region in southern China's Guangdong province.

HSBC is in the midst of carrying out a restructuring with the goal of increasing profitability.

The plan includes bringing in new leadership, shedding thousands of workers and shrinking its global footprint so it can focus even more on Asia's emerging markets.

This month, new Chairman Mark Tucker, the first outsider to hold the job, named veteran banker and company insider John Flint to replace Gulliver as chief executive in February.

HSBC shares in Hong Kong closed 0.3 percent lower, in line with the market's broader trend. **AP**



Google blasts EU's untried theories in USD2.8b appeal

Gaspard Sebag

G OOGLE attacked the European Union for basing its record-breaking 2.4 billion-euro (USD2.8 billion) penalty in June against the search-engine giant on untested antitrust theories and ignoring the competitive pressure exerted by the likes of Amazon.com Inc. and eBay Inc.

Google contends that a fine "was not warranted" on grounds that the European Commission put forward a novel theory and pre-

viously signaled the case could be solved without a financial penalty by initially seeking an amicable solution with the Alphabet Inc. unit. The details of Google's court appeal at the EU's Luxembourg-based General Court were revealed yesterday in the bloc's Official Journal.

Google also said in its appeal that the commission "fails to take proper account of the competitive constraint exercised by merchant platforms" in its decision to fine the Moun-

tain View, California-based firm for abusing its market power to edge out smaller shopping search rivals.

After losing its biggest regulatory battle yet, Google is bringing the matter to EU courts in a legal challenge filed in September that could take years to conclude. Intel Corp. waited eight years for a ruling on its legal challenge to a 1.06 billion euro fine in 2009 only to be told last month that the General Court must re-examine the case.

EU Competition

Commissioner Margrethe Vestager took over the Google probe in 2014 from her predecessor, Joaquin Almunia, who had sought to finalize a settlement with Google but failed to reach a satisfactory accord as his term came to an end. The deal would have included binding concessions from Google in exchange for the EU dropping the probe without levying any fines.

The commission said in a statement on yesterday that it "will defend its decision in court." **Bloomberg**

China change on recyclables could impact Alaska

A policy change in China has officials in the Alaska panhandle city of Sitka anticipating a major change in the city's recycling program.

China is the top purchaser of Sitka's recyclables and advised the World Trade Organization in July that it planned to ban imports of 24 types of recyclables.

The city's recycling contractor, Republic Services, has now put Sitka on notice that it might have to stop accepting mixed paper, plastics and cardboard as of Nov. 1, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reported last week.

Mayor Matt Hunter said it appears that Sitka's cardboard, paper and plastic can no longer be sold in China but that officials are waiting for final confirma-

tion, which could come in early November.

"China's government's decided that China will no longer be the dumping ground for the planet," Hunter said.

Republic Service also notified clients in Petersburg, Wrangell, Klawock, Thorne Bay and Ket-chikan about the situation.

China's policy change starts on Jan. 1, but the contractor said it would have to stop accepting mixed plastics and other recyclables by Nov. 1 because of the time it takes to ship them to China.

"It is prudent to now plan for a complete rejection of all mixed plastics and mixed papers," said Matthew Pederson, municipal relationship manager for Republic Services. **AP**

corporate bits

SHERATON GRAND MACAO AND SODA PANDA PAIR UP TO LAUNCH TOURIST PROGRAM



The Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central is pairing up with a talented team of local artists and the creators of the popular Soda Panda character from Macau Creations to launch a tourist program.

Titled "Uniquely Macao", the program seeks to provide visitors with the opportunity to explore and learn about the city's rich Portuguese and Chinese heritage.

Mark Chang, chief concierge at the 4001-room Sheraton Grand Macao, stands behind the project. According to a statement from Sheraton Grand Macao, Chang and his team make hundreds of recommendations to guests every day and are well acquainted with the city's tourist attractions.

"Macao has so much to offer with its rich history, colorful traditions and cultural treasures," said Chang, according to the statement. "With our dedicated team of experts, we're able to provide itineraries and experiences that you won't find in travel guides. Taipa Village is one such hidden gem that is just minutes from the Cotai Strip, but feels as though you are stepping back in time with its old temples, churches and cobblestoned streets."

Wilson Lam is the creative director and founder of Macau Creations who oversaw the design of Soda Panda. "As a leader in promoting local Macau creativity through art, we are pleased to work

with the largest Sheraton in the world - Sheraton Grand Macao - to showcase our 'Macao-inspired' Soda Panda creations," Lam said.

Guests who book "Uniquely Macao" will receive an exclusive Soda Panda designer shopping bag created by Macau Creations and a box of almond cookies from "Choi Heong Yuen", one of Macao's most famous bakeries.

From now through February 15, 2018, customers who book the package can also enjoy accommodation for two in a deluxe king or twin room, as well as one-way ferry tickets between Macau and Hong Kong or MOP200 in credit redeemable at the hotel's dining outlets, Shine Spa or admission to Planet J.

Chinese universities compete to embrace Xi Jinping thought

Tom Hancock, Financial Times, Shanghai

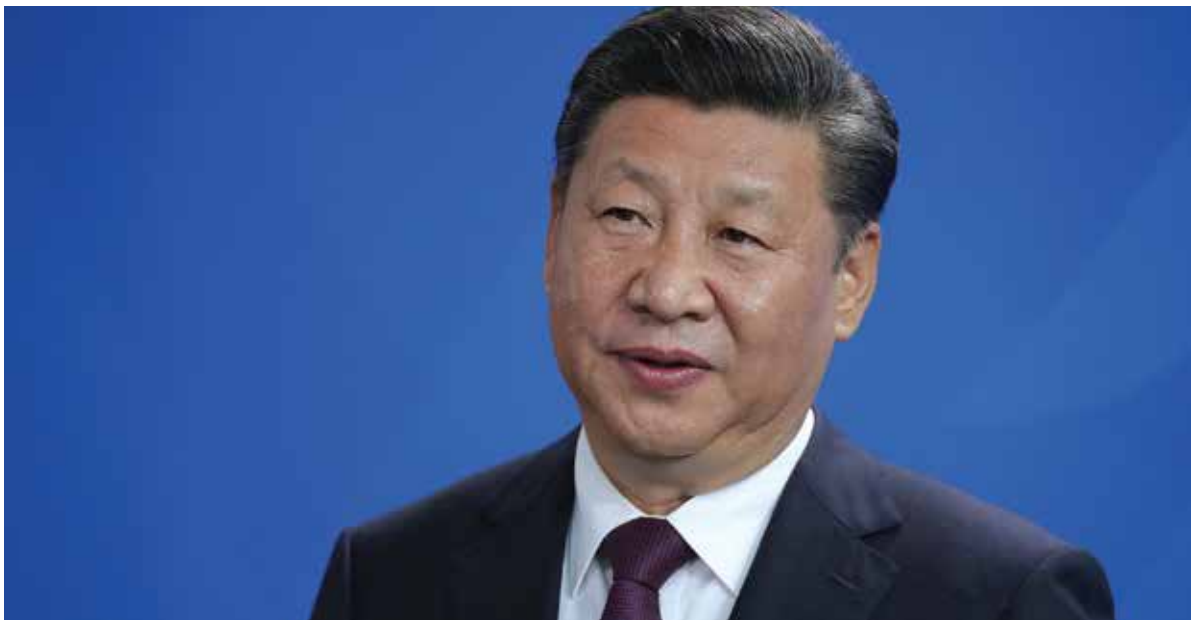
At least 20 Chinese universities and colleges have announced plans to launch research institutes dedicated to “Xi Jinping thought”, following the enshrinement of the president’s theories in the Communist party’s constitution.

The plans come as China’s education ministry revealed guidelines that children’s education must emphasise love for the Communist party, in the latest sign of ideological tightening under Mr Xi.

Beijing’s Renmin University, one of the country’s most prestigious, was first to set up a research centre dedicated to “Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era” last week, hours after it was written into the party constitution.

The theory’s elevation made Mr Xi the first leader since Mao Zedong to be honoured with an eponymous reference in the document while still in power.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



The Renmin institute aims to ensure the theory “enters class materials, classrooms and brains”, according to state media. Other institutions, including Hebei University and Tianjin Normal University, have vowed to follow suit.

Analysts said more would follow as universities demonstrated political loyalty. “More

will probably open unless Chairman Xi calls for them to stop,” said Sun Wenguang, a retired professor at Shandong University. “There is something of a herd mentality.”

Mr Sun added that the content of “theories” associated with top leaders in China was vague. “We need political reform most, but Xi Jinping’s comments on

this topic are not clear,” he said.

The emphasis on politics is also clear at the lowest levels of compulsory education. yesterday China’s ministry of education released guidelines requiring schools to devote time to practical activities such as group play and hands-on design as part of a drive to reduce desk-bound learning.

But such activities should induce “affection” for the party among primary school students, it said, while children of middle-school age and older should cultivate “love” for the party.

University students in China have for decades been required to study Communist doctrine but ideological controls have tightened since Mr Xi took the party’s top post in 2012.

China’s education minister has called for a ban on textbooks that promote “western values”, while inspectors from the party’s feared anti-graft commission have been sent to top universities to seek out ideological infractions.

References to Mr Xi’s ideas have gained prominence, with the Chinese Academy of social sciences, China’s largest funder of humanities research, featuring Mr Xi’s thought at the top of its list of approved topics for several consecutive years. Local officials have been ordered to lecture university students on Mr Xi’s ideas.

China has more than doubled its total number of universities and colleges in the past decade as it seeks to boost its scientific and technological research, although children of the country’s political and business elite often prefer to study at institutions in the US and Europe. Mr Xi’s daughter, for example, attended Harvard University. **MDT/FT**

AD

1.º ANIVERSÁRIO



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A Associação para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento do Circuito da Guia de Macau, APDCGM, vem publicamente agradecer, as seguintes entidades públicas e privadas, nomeadamente: a Direcção dos Serviços de Turismo de Macau; o Instituto Cultural de Macau; a Casa de Portugal em Macau; o Taco Restaurant & Bar, e o Hotel Royal Macau, pelo patrocínio e apoio que as mesmas, vieram prestar na realização de vários eventos organizados, por esta Associação, que integram no programa de celebração do 1.º Aniversário da sua fundação, no corrente ano, designadamente: As Mostras Colectivas “O Circuito da Guia como Património Mundial da UNESCO”, com a participação de 21 artistas, em artes plásticas, e visuais, assim como a Exposição de Pintura “Abstraccionismo” de José L.R. Estorninho; e a Palestra “O Circuito da Guia e o seu Futuro”, com a participação dos convidados especiais sir Albert Poon, e André Couto, bem como dos oradores Arqto. Francisco Viseu Pinheiro, e do Antropólogo Carlos Morais José, respectivamente, nas suas temáticas, “A Arquitectura Histórica no Circuito da Guia”, e “O Circuito da Guia na sua Visão Antropológica”, que contribuíram pelo grande sucesso e êxito dos mesmos.

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KIM HAN SOL

CHINESE police arrested several North Koreans dispatched to Beijing on suspicion of plotting to murder Kim Jong Un's 22-year-old nephew, South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported.

Two of seven North Korean agents were arrested over the alleged plot to kill Kim Han Sol, whose father Kim Jong Nam was assassinated in Malaysia earlier this year, the newspaper said, citing an unidentified person familiar with North Korean issues.

Some agents are being interrogated in special facilities on the outskirts of Beijing, the paper said, without elaborating on whether the other five were arrested. China's foreign ministry didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

Two women are currently on trial in Malaysia on charges of murdering Kim Jong Nam at a Kuala Lumpur airport in February. Kim Han Sol identified himself as Kim Jong Nam's son in a YouTube clip in March.

South Korean government officials have speculated that Kim Jong Un was behind the murder of his half-brother, a critic of his leadership who had lived outside the country for years. Authorities in Malaysia said the two women charged with Kim Jong Nam's murder used the chemical weapon VX in the attack, claiming they were trained to swipe the poison on the victim's face and knew the substance was toxic. The pair have pleaded not guilty.

Police breaks up plot to kill Kim Jong Un's nephew, report says



People at a railway station in Seoul, South Korea, watch a TV news program displaying a video in which a man claims to be Kim Han Sol

Kim Jong Nam isn't the first family member to be killed since Kim Jong Un took

power in 2011: he executed his uncle Jang Song Thaek in 2013 on charges of graft

and factionalism. Earlier this month, the leader promoted his 28-year-old sister to the

ruling party's political wing, bringing her closer to the center of power. **Bloomberg**

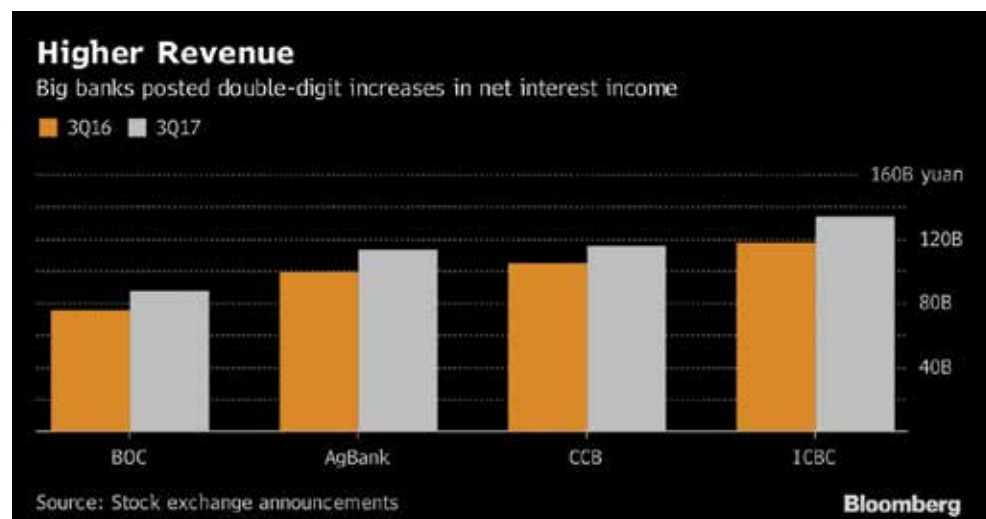
ECONOMY

Big four Chinese banks post double-digit gains in lending income

CHINA'S largest banks posted double-digit increases in lending income in the third quarter, validating some of the earnings optimism that has fueled a rally in their shares this year.

Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd., Bank of China Ltd. and Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. yesterday reported average net interest income gains of 15 percent. The figures come after China Construction Bank Corp. reported a 10 percent rise last week.

For the most part, the four banks' results reflected improvements in interest margins and asset quality, though Bank of China's figures were marred by a jump in impair-



ment losses. The lenders' shares have jumped this year on expectations that sustained economic growth will boost profitability. The quartet's price-to-book ratios are near the

highest level in about two years.

The big banks have benefited from some of the government efforts since April to curtail risks from China's almost USD30

trillion of debt. As authorities moved to increase policy coordination among the country's regulators, they also sought to curb interbank borrowings - a step that has boosted mar-

gins at the big banks as net lenders into that market.

ICBC, the world's largest lender by assets, said its net interest margin rose to 2.17 percent by the end of September, compared with 2.16 percent in the first half, while Bank of China and CCB also reported increases. Agricultural Bank didn't disclose its latest NIM, which is a measure of lending profitability.

Here are the headline third-quarter numbers reported by the Big Four:

ICBC: Net income rose 3.3 percent to 75 billion yuan (\$11.3 billion) from year earlier CCB: Net income up 4.1 percent to 62.9 billion yuan Bank of China: Net income little changed at 41.8 billion yuan Agricultural Bank: Net income gained 4.9 percent to 51.4 billion yuan

"This quarter represents the banks' efforts to boost results to complete full-year targets," said Hao Hong, chief strategist and

head of research at Bocom International Holdings Co. in Hong Kong. "Banks are loosening credit, despite all the talk about deleveraging."

Bank of China's impairment losses in the third quarter jumped 63 percent to 22.8 billion yuan, eroding most of the gains the bank generated in lending income. And for the first nine months of the year, Bank of China's nonperforming loan ratio was 1.41 percent, edging up from 1.38 percent on June 30.

The other banks logged lower NPL ratios.

After three years of virtually flat profits, earnings momentum at the banks should pick up from the third quarter onwards, Credit Suisse analysts said in an Oct. 24 report. Industry net interest margins should increase in the second half of 2017, analysts at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Huatai Securities Co. have said. **Bloomberg**

The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



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The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.


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Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte won pledges from Japan of help with fighting terrorism and assistance in building the country's crumbling infrastructure, as he met with Japan's prime minister yesterday during a visit to Tokyo.

Japan promised its support in the reconstruction of the strife-torn southern Philippine city of Marawi. A military campaign recently ended a five-month siege of the city by Islamic State group-aligned militants that left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the liberation of Marawi and gave credit to Duterte's leadership.

"I express my heartfelt respect for President Duterte's leadership on the recent declaration of liberation in Marawi," Abe said. "We will provide full support for [the Philippines'] counterterrorism effort and steps to ensure peace and stability" in the region.

The two leaders also agreed to cooperate on various projects, including a subway system for metropolitan Manila, the traffic-jammed capital, energy development, maritime safety and the Philippines' fight against drugs and drug trafficking. The two sides are now laying out project details under a 1 trillion yen (USD9 billion) assis-

Japan offers Duterte aid for rebuilding, fighting terrorism



Rodrigo Duterte (right) walks with Shinzo Abe as they review a guard of honor in Tokyo

tance package spanning five years that Japan had pledged earlier this year.

Duterte said he chose Japan as the destination of his first official overseas trip after Marawi's liberation. "The true friend of us stood squarely behind the Philippines in my country's onward advance at greater peace, progress and prosperity," Duterte said.

He praised Japan for its support and thanked Abe for his pledge of help in rebuilding Marawi and the

surrounding region "in a timely manner."

The siege in the southern Philippines displaced some 400,000 residents, including the entire population of Marawi, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines. Military airstrikes, artillery and heavy machine-gun fire turned the lakeside city's central business district and outlying communities into a smoldering wasteland of disfigured buildings

and bullet-pocked mosques and houses.

The assistance from Tokyo also includes 15.9 billion yen (USD140 million) in low-interest financing for a water management project in the Philippines' flood-prone Cavite province, and another 100 billion yen (\$880 million) for the Manila subway, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Japan is also providing patrol boats and speed boats for the Philippine coast guard and financing training programs to step up its security capacity in the region.

Before leaving the Philippines for Tokyo late Sunday, Duterte said he hoped to discuss concerns over North Korea with Abe and declared that someone should talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, reassure him that nobody is out to remove him or destroy his country, and ask him to stop threatening attacks.

"You must remember that he is a leader of his people," Duterte said, adding that "whatever he proclaims himself to be, somebody has got to talk to him."

"So, if somebody could just reach out, talk to him and say, 'My

friend, why don't you just join me in the table and we'll just talk about these things?'" Duterte told reporters in the southern Philippine city of Davao. "Nobody's talking to him."

Duterte echoed U.S. President Donald Trump in saying he believes China has the greatest leverage with Pyongyang, a longtime Beijing ally. And he expressed concern over the potential for dangerous missteps in the standoff with North Korea over its nuclear program.

"We are worried, all of us, that you know, Murphy's Law, 'If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong.'"

Yesterday, Duterte condemned North Korea for threatening peace and stability in the region with its repeated missile launches, urging Pyongyang and other involved parties to return to negotiations to resolve the problem.

Apart from his talks with government officials in Tokyo, Duterte met with Japanese business leaders earlier yesterday and will have an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko before heading home today. **AP**



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Jennifer Appel (right) and Tasha Fuiava (left) hug with crew members of the USS Ashland on the deck of the USS Ashland at White Beach Naval Facility in Okinawa yesterday

JAPAN

Ship with sailors rescued at sea reaches US base in Okinawa

Ken Moritsugu, White Beach Naval Facility

Two women from Hawaii who were adrift on a storm-battered sailboat in the Pacific for months set foot on solid ground yesterday at a U.S. Naval base in southern Japan.

The USS Ashland rescued Jennifer Appel and Tasha Fuiava and their two dogs about 1,450 kilometers southeast of Japan, and brought them to America's White Beach Naval Facility after waiting for a typhoon to pass.

The two women, sporting USS Ashland knit shirts, were standing with the comman-

ding officer and others high on the bridgeway as the ship docked. They later spoke to reporters on the flight deck before clearing customs and walking down metal stairs to the dock.

They had left Honolulu on May 3 aboard Appel's 15-meter vessel, the Sea Nymph, for what was supposed to be an 18-day trip to Tahiti. Storms flooded the engine, destroying the starter, and damaged the mast so badly that they couldn't generate enough wind power to stay on course, they said.

The two women tried to return and at one point in June

were within 1,345 kilometers (726 nautical miles) of Oahu but couldn't make it, Appel said.

"We knew we weren't going to make it," she said. "So that's when we started making distress calls. We were hoping that one of our friends who likes to go deep sea fishing and taking people out might have gone past the 400-mile mark and might have cruised near where we would be."

The women said they drifted aimlessly and sent unanswered distress calls for 98 consecutive days.

They were thousands of miles in the wrong direction when a

Taiwanese fishing vessel found them. Towing the sailboat damaged it further, but Appel said she paddled over to the Taiwanese vessel on a surfboard and made a mayday call. The Ashland, which happened to be in the area to avoid a storm, traveled 160 kilometers and found them the next day, said the ship's commanding officer, Cmdr. Steven Wasson.

The women said they ran out of food for the dogs and began sharing their own, leaving their food supply 90 percent depleted by the time they were rescued.

On Wednesday, the USS Ashland picked up the women

and the dogs, Zeus and Valentine, all four looking remarkably fit for having been lost at sea for nearly six months.

Appel told reporters on Friday that they were beginning to believe they were completely out of luck when they saw the U.S. Navy ship chugging toward them.

"When I saw the gray ship on the horizon, I was just shaking," she said then. "I was ready to cry, I was so happy. I knew we were going to live."

The Navy sent a six-person crew on a small boat over to the sailboat. Wasson said they determined "there were just too many things that needed to be solidified to make that vessel seaworthy again [...]" so that's why we brought them on board.

His ship, which transports and deploys amphibious landing craft, wasn't equipped to bring the sailboat back, so it was abandoned at sea. The two women still hope it will be found and they can repair it. If not, Appel said they want to build an "unsinkable and unbreakable boat" and set out for Tahiti again.

"We still never got to see the 20,000 islands, so I think that would be the most fantastic trip for May of next spring," she said.

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

Appel earlier 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," she said. "And the sailors in Honolulu really gave us good advice. We're here." **AP**

KOREAN CRISIS

Seoul: A North nuke test risks radiation leak at test site

ANY future nuclear test by North Korea risks collapsing its mountain test site and triggering a radiation leak, South Korea's weather agency chief said yesterday.

The head of the Korea Meteorological Administration, Nam Jae-Cheol, made the comments during a parliament committee meeting in response to a lawmaker's question about whether another North Korean test could lead to such an accident.

South Korea has detected several largely small-sized earthquakes near the northeastern nuclear test site the North used for its sixth and most powerful bomb explosion in September. Experts say the quakes suggest the area, which was also used for the North's previous underground nuclear tests, is now too unstable to conduct more tests there.

Lee Won-Jin, a Korea Meteorological Administration researcher, said

the analysis of satellite photos indicated there were landslides around the Punggye-ri test site after the September test. He also said there now might be a hollow space inside Mount Mantap, the granite peak where the North's test site is located, citing studies of past underground nuclear tests by the United States.

Lee said the North's past six nuclear tests were not reported to have caused any radiation damage to

neighboring countries

Analysts believe North Korea will likely conduct more nuclear and missile tests to try to build a reliable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles capable of striking anywhere in the mainland U.S. It's unclear when and where those tests could take place.

North Korea's foreign minister said last month that his country could conduct a hydrogen bomb test over the Pacific Ocean.



South Korea's weather agency chief Nam Jae-Cheol

Aritz Parra, Barcelona

SPAIN

Catalans return to work after Madrid takes charge of region

CATALONIA'S civil servants returned to work yesterday for the first time since Spain's central government rejected an independence declaration by firing the region's elected leaders and taking direct control.

Speculation raged about the whereabouts of ousted Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and his deposed Cabinet, whose reaction will be key to whether Madrid's takeover will be smooth or face opposition, deepening a month-long political crisis.

As staff arrived at the headquarters of the Catalan government in Barcelona, Puigdemont posted a photo on Instagram of a courtyard at the seat of the regional presidency building.

Both the Catalan and Spanish national flags waved from the top of the building.

The ambiguous Instagram post, accompanied by the words "Good morning" in Catalan and a smiley emoticon, left many guessing whether Puigdemont was inside the building. There was no indication of when the photo was taken.

Puigdemont is likely to be accused of rebellion for pushing ahead with secession. Spain's

AP PHOTO



government has said the ousted Catalan leaders could be charged with usurping others' functions if they refuse to comply with their firing.

Catalonia's regional parliament proclaimed independence from Spain in a secret ballot Friday. The Spanish government dis-

solved the legislature, fired the government and regional police chief and called a new election for Dec. 21.

The vote to secede came after an Oct. 1 referendum in favor of independence that was deemed illegal by Spain's constitutional court.

Puigdemont has vowed peaceful and "democratic opposition" to his Cabinet's dismissal, but he hasn't clarified if that means accepting an early regional election as a way out of the deadlock.

Separatist parties and grassroots groups have spoken of waging a campaign of disobedience to hamper the efforts by central authorities to run the region.

A key factor will be how Catalonia's estimated 200,000 public workers would react to their bosses' dismissal, and whether any stay away from work in protest.

Secession moves by this wealthy northeastern region of 7.5 million have tipped Spain into its deepest crisis in decades.

On Sunday, hundreds of thousands took part in an anti-independence demonstration in Barcelona, calling for Catalonia to remain in Spain and backing Rajoy's use of unprecedented constitutional powers to seize wrest

control from the pro-independence regional administration.

"We won't let Spain be torn apart into pieces," read one banner. "The awakening of a silenced nation," read another.

"We have organized ourselves late, but we are here to show that there is a majority of Catalans that are no longer silent and that no longer want to be silenced," said Alex Ramos, head of Catalan Civil Society, a pro-union grassroots group.

The organizers said more than 1 million people turned out but police put the figure at 300,000.

Many who oppose independence fear the political turmoil in Catalonia could have a severe economic impact, both in the region and on Spain itself.

Some 1,700 companies have already relocated their headquarters to other parts of Spain in recent weeks amid the uncertainty. AP

AD



BBAM

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"From Heritage to Narratives to Sustainable Urban Future"

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Venue Oasis Private Room, 2/F
Galaxy Macau, Cotai

12.30: Drinks

1 pm: Lunch

1.45 pm: Presentation by Christopher Law

2.30 pm: Close

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what's ON



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ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

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COLLECTION — 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

EXHIBITION OF LAM IOK HOI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: November 8, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.

Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

'A WEAR OF DANGEROUS CLAM' CERAMIC WORKS

BY CHAN ON KEI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.

Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

A BONSAI OF MY DREAM — ON THE PATH TO THE

INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI

VENEZIA

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 12, 2017

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 981

Offbeat



VIRAL PHOTOS OF COLLEGE STUDENT SPURS MODELING AGENCY CALLS

Two photographs of a New Hampshire college student that have gone viral on social media are bringing her dreams of becoming a model closer to reality.

Anok Yai grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and is a sophomore at Plymouth State University. The Boston Globe reports that a photographer took photos of her for his Instagram account about a week ago while she was at a homecoming event at Howard University in Washington. He said he was photographing people with nice outfits.

The photos had been liked more than 11,000 times by Sunday, and Yai said last week she's heard from three modeling agencies.

The biochemistry student says she's always been interested in fashion and art, but modeling was a dream she didn't think would ever happen.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:15	Miscellaneous
16:30	NOS League: Boavista x Porto (Repeated)
18:10	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr.1 - Final
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live
03:45	Champions League: Sporting x Juventus (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: Jouhn 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



1984 INDIAN PRIME MINISTER SHOT DEAD

Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, has been killed by assassins in New Delhi.

Mrs Gandhi was thought to have been walking through her gardens this morning when she was shot. She was taken to the All India Medical Hospital where she underwent an emergency operation to remove the bullets but died an hour and a half later.

Initial reports suggest the two attackers were guards at her home who were then shot by other security officers.

No exact motive is known but it is believed the pair were Sikh extremists acting in retaliation for the storming of the Sikh holy shrine of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June.

Mrs Gandhi had been receiving death threats since the attack on the temple in which 1,000 people died.

The night before her death she told a political rally: "I don't mind if my life goes in the service of the nation. If I die today, every drop of my blood will invigorate the nation."

Security throughout the country has been stepped up. Roads to the hospital and the home of the prime minister have been sealed off and borders around Delhi have been

The Indian cabinet has started an emergency meeting to choose a successor.

India's High Commissioner, Prakash Mehrotra, said: "Democracy is very deep rooted in our country and the country is prepared to face any situation. A meeting is being called in Delhi, it is usual that the number two man in the cabinet takes charge for the time being,"

Mrs Gandhi first became prime minister in 1966 and again in 1980 and was praised for her battle against famine in rural areas.

Stan Orme from the Anglo Indian Parliamentary Association said: "It is a very terrible thing. She was a very impressive person, very strong-willed. It is a real tragedy."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Riots erupted across India following the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as Hindus took their revenge on Sikhs who were blamed for the assassination.

In the days following the death of the prime minister up to 1,000 people are thought to have died. The army were ordered to go into the cities and quell the violence.

Mrs Gandhi's son, Rajiv, was sworn in as her successor within hours of her death. He went on to win a landslide victory in the general election in December 1984.

On 6 January 1989, Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh were hanged for killing Mrs Gandhi. Balbir Singh was acquitted.

Rajiv Gandhi was himself assassinated by a suicide bomber on 21 May 1991.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Feel like you've been assigned an impossible gig? It's your choice whether or not to accept it. Just because you've been asked nicely (or ordered), that doesn't mean you have to automatically say yes.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

If you try to hide from reality, you only cause more havoc than you've already got right now, so face up to the facts as you juggle personal and professional options. You may have to work through some scary issues.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today is the day to put your money where your mouth is. A few sacrifices (including some that are quite personal) may be necessary, but the rewards of turning your big ideas into real-world effects are totally worth it.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Old family dynamics might be showing up now in your other relationships - often when you least expect it. It's past time for you to take a look at any emotional baggage from your childhood.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A romance can heat up - or even rekindle - when you least expect it. You may see it as a problem if your current mate (or crush) isn't exactly what you expected. This is a good thing, though!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your career track may feel like it's hit a dead end lately, but you're not panicking yet. You can tell that this time you can find a way out or around, with a little work from you.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

A little extra mental energy juices up your personal ambitions, and you should amp up your attention to personal relationships. You're at your most charismatic, so you can cast a spell over even the toughest of friends.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Recruit an unlikely ally if you want to pull off a surprising victory when the opposition least expects it. Now is the time to put aside your differences and tackle this big project jointly.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If you haven't been feeling up to snuff, now is a great time to shape up! Everything is in just the right place for you to revamp your exercise and eating to bring about a healthier, happier you.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You finally get what you really want - do you know what it is? It could be the relationship you've been dreaming of, or maybe that promotion or new project funding falls into your lap when you least expect it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

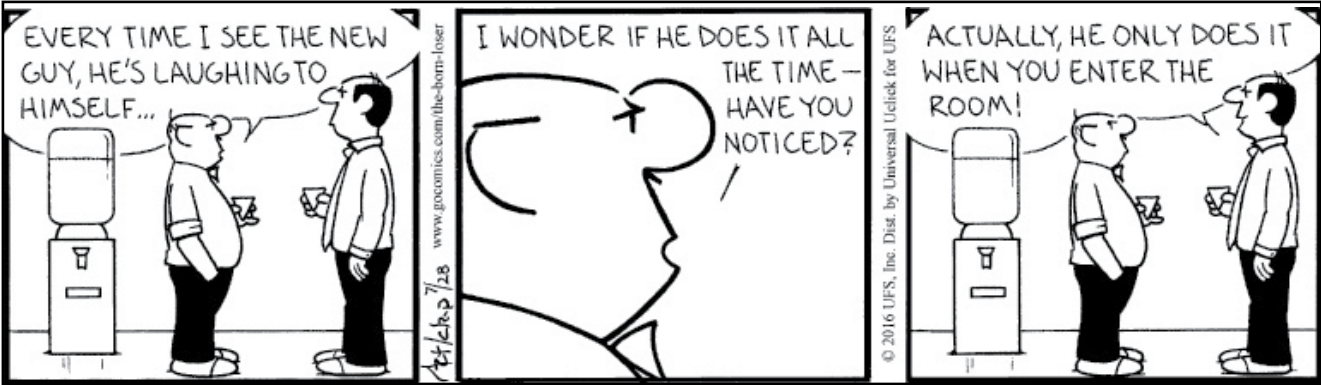
You've been somewhat suspicious for a while, but now you know for sure - something just isn't working out, and it's time to do something about it. Luckily, your energy is perfect...

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Business has to come before pleasure today if you want to defuse that potentially stormy situation brewing at home. If you tackle big tasks as they arise, you should be able to get them done with time for family.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	2	16	clear
Harbin	-2	11	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	6	17	clear
Urumqi	2	12	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	9	13	drizzle
Lhasa	-1	16	sleet/cloudy
Chengdu	12	14	drizzle
Chongqing	14	23	cloudy
Kunming	10	20	cloudy
Nanjing	7	18	clear
Shanghai	12	18	cloudy
Wuhan	8	19	clear
Hangzhou	10	20	clear
Taipei	17	22	drizzle
Guangzhou	16	28	clear
Hong Kong	19	24	clear

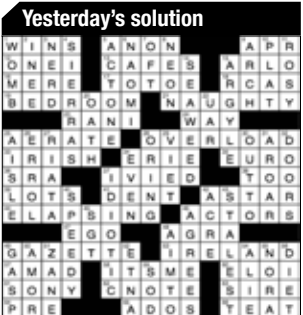
WORLD

Moscow	3	5	drizzle/moderate rain
Frankfurt	5	10	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	3	11	clear
London	3	13	clear/overcast
New York	11	14	drizzle/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Ancient Greek city-state; 6- Turkish bigwig; 10- Zip-___-Doo-Dah; 14- Sad poem; 15- Simpleton; 16- Aloe ___; 17- Kingdom; 18- Tears; 19- Support beam; 20- Airplane with one set of wings; 22- Beneficial; 23- Western Indians; 24- Wounded; 26- Floor covering where the cat sat; 29- Final notice; 31- Kind of cross; 32- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 33- Relocate; 34- Elaborately adorned; 38- Optical device; 40- Nav. rank; 42- ___ mater; 43- Deadly fly; 46- Confident; 49- Ballet step; 50- PIN requester; 51- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 52- Undivided; 53- Having bulbs; 57- Historic Scott; 59- Island off Venezuela; 60- Disposal sale; 65- Highway hauler; 66- Elvis's middle name; 67- Welcome; 68- Paradise lost; 69- London jail; 70- Omit in pronunciation; 71- Album unit; 72- TV award; 73- Borge's countrymen;

DOWN: 1- Salon offering; 2- Butter substitute; 3- The Tower of Pisa does this; 4- Inuit dwelling; 5- Indicator of illness; 6- Like sandpaper; 7- Enter; 8- Wished; 9- Stomach muscles, for short; 10- Indigenous birds of a region; 11- Rid of insect pests; 12- Clear the boards; 13- Dog-___(like some used books); 21- Timber wolf; 22- Gen. Bradley; 25- From ___ Z; 26- Dissolve; 27- Fruity drinks; 28- Day of "Judging Amy"; 30- Uptight; 35- Iams alternative; 36- Counterfeiter catcher; 37- Comfort; 39- Piercing; 41- Abruptly; 44- Greek portico; 45- Relative of an ostrich; 47- ___ avis; 48- Appeared; 53- Foundations; 54- Hives; 55- Light unit; 56- Beat it!; 58- "Our Gang" girl; 61- Apparatus for weaving; 62- Dresden denial; 63- Yield; 64- French summers; 66- Tree-ring indication;



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Catalan secession threatens Spain's golden age for sports

Joseph Wilson,

CATALONIA'S audacious attempt to secede from the rest of Spain represents a threat to one of the world's sporting powers.

For more than a decade, Spain has punched above its demographic weight in sports. The Mediterranean country of 42 million citizens has produced stars in sports ranging from its most beloved football, to tennis, basketball, racing, golf, and even water sports.

But if Catalonia manages to overcome stiff opposition from Spanish authorities to secede, Spain and an independent Catalonia would suffer on the pitch, parquet, and pool.

Catalonia's regional parliament, where separatists hold a slim majority on less than 50 percent of the popular vote, voted in favor of a declaration of independence on Friday. Spain's central government acted swiftly to exercise extraordinary powers to fire Catalonia's government and dismiss its parliament. Catalonia's president responded that he wasn't stepping down and called for a massive public protest.

In the hypothetical case of Catalonia establishing its own state, Spanish sports would retain tennis' Rafael Nadal and Garbino Muguruza, Formula One driver Fernando Alonso, golfer Sergio Garcia, badminton Olympic champion Carolina Marin, and world champion figure skater Javier Fernandez, plus a slew of coveted soccer players.

But it would also lose an important number of talents if a frontier went up around northeastern Catalonia.

A core of footballers for Barcelona and Spain, the pillars of



Catalonian Gerard Pique is one of the pillars of the soccer powerhouse Spain

the successful national basketball team, and several Olympic gold medalists all hail from Catalonia.

Nadal, who is from Mallorca and speaks the island's dialect of the Catalan language, said recently that "I can't see Spain without Catalonia."

"I have said many times that I feel very close to Catalonia. I feel Spanish, of course, and I understand that Catalonia is a part of Spain," he said. "I understand that we are better and stronger together than separated."

Here are the key issues at stake for Spanish sports:

NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

Catalans have played a key part in establishing Spain as one of the best national teams. The team has qualified for the World Cup in Russia relying on defender Gerard Pique, holding midfielder Sergio Busquets, and left back Jordi Alba.

Pique and Busquets helped Spain to its greatest triumph

at the 2010 World Cup, where they helped beat the Netherlands 1-0 in the final alongside fellow Catalans Xavi Hernandez, Carles Puyol, Joan Capdevila, and Cesc Fabregas.

Catalonia does have a regional team that plays the odd friendly, usually during the winter break by Spanish club football. On its own, it would be fortunate to qualify for major tournaments, instead of winning them.

BARCELONA & LA LIGA

The most alarming cost, when it comes to sports, for many Catalans on both sides of the secession debate would be the harm done to the wildly popular Barcelona soccer club.

The Spanish government and Spanish league have repeatedly warned that Barcelona and Catalonia's other clubs, including topflight sides Espanyol and Girona, would not be allowed to remain in Spanish competitions in the case of secession.

Expulsion from La Liga would

put an end to one of sports' greatest rivalries, the at least twice annual clasicos between Barcelona and Real Madrid.

The loss of income from TV and the huge drop off in quality of competition, not to mention access to the Champions League, would put Barcelona in peril of plummeting from its position of one of the world's richest sports clubs.

And it is hard to imagine that Lionel Messi would keep his pledge to finish the best years of his career at Camp Nou if he is limited to testing his skills against a tiny Catalan league.

Spain allows teams from itty bitty Andorra to play in its competitions, but for Catalonia to get a similar deal it would need the good will of Spanish authorities to change the law. That seems very unlikely given the level of acrimony between Barcelona and Madrid.

BASKETBALL

Led by Catalans Pau and Marc Gasol and guards Ricky Ru-

bio and Juan Carlos Navarro, Spain established itself as the next-best basketball power to the United States.

A young Pau Gasol led it to the 2006 World Cup. It lost hard-fought Olympic finals to the U.S. in 2008 and 2012, and it has won three European championships in the last nine years.

OLYMPICS

The star of Spain when it comes to the Olympics is swimmer Mireia Belmonte.

She has delivered four medals in the last two Summer Games, including a gold medal in the 200-meter butterfly in 2016. That made her one of three Catalans who contributed to Spain's haul of seven gold medals in Rio.

TORN BY POLITICS

Secession has put Catalonia's athletes under pressure to declare their allegiance.

Pique has become a divisive figure in Spanish football. Some Spain fans jeer him during Spain matches because of his outspoken defense of Catalonia.

Pique has strongly supported what many Catalans, including some who want to remain in Spain, claim as their right to self-determination. Pique voted in an illegal referendum on secession on Oct. 1, although he has not said he wants a free Catalonia and has insisted on his commitment to the national team.

The Gasol brothers have likewise voiced their support for Catalonia voting on reconsidering, or reaffirming, its place within Spain, without either expressing a desire for secession. Pau Gasol acted as a leading spokesman for Madrid's failed Olympic bid for 2020.

Former Barcelona player and manager Pep Guardiola has gone much further and become a leading proponent of Catalan independence.

Belmonte, however, has said that when asked about the prickly issue she "always say[s] Catalonia is a part of Spain." AP

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RUGBY

Cooper Cronk signs two-year deal to join Roosters in NRL

AUSTRALIAN playmaker Cooper Cronk has signed a two-year deal to join the Sydney Roosters in the National Rugby League, ending months of speculation about where he'd play after ending his long career with the Melbourne Storm. The 33-year-old Cronk has played 323 games for the Storm since making his NRL debut in 2004, ending his long tenure there with a premiership this month. "Cooper has played the game at the highest level for a number of years and we are keenly aware of what he brings to the club," Roosters chief executive Joe Kelly said in a statement Monday. "Together with the established leaders within our squad, we see him as a wonderful

addition to our roster." The veteran Kangaroos and Queensland State-Of-Origin halfback announced during the 2017 season that he was relocating to Sydney for personal reasons. He said he was treating the move to the Roosters, one of the oldest clubs in the league, as a new opportunity. "It marks the start of a new chapter for me both professionally and personally and I look forward to joining my new teammates and coaches, and immersing myself in the club's culture in lead-up to the 2018 season," he said. Cronk was a key player in Australia's win over England in the opening game of the Rugby League World Cup last Friday. He will join the Roosters after the World Cup. AP



Australian players celebrate a goal against England during their Rugby League World Cup game in Melbourne

Saudi women to be allowed into sports stadiums next year

SAUDI Arabia will allow women into sports stadiums as of next year, the kingdom's latest step toward easing rules on gender segregation — but they will be seated in the so-called family section, an area separate from the male-only crowd. The General Sports Authority described yesterday's decision as one that will allow "families" into the stadiums, a term authorities use to refer to public spaces that accommodate women. The authority said the three major sports stadiums in the cities of Riyadh, Jiddah and Dammam will undergo renovations to accommodate families, reversing years of long-standing practice to allow only men into the stadiums. The decision comes after the public appeared to welcome last month's move that allowed women for the first time into the Riyadh stadium for national day celebrations.

AD

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opinion

Our Desk

Daniel Beitler



FORGET TRADE UNIONS, FOCUS ON MINIMUM WAGE

The new legislators elected and appointed to the Legislative Assembly (AL) last month were seemingly not enough to tip the balance in favor of the ayes when it came to the trade union bill, presented on Friday for the ninth time.

On this latest occasion, 12 lawmakers voted in favor of Pereira Coutinho's bill, while 15 opposed it.

In previous defeats, those opposed to the bill made passionate (and sometimes ridiculous) cases for why the city was not ready for such legislation, despite clear reference to it in the city's Basic Law.

In recent years, they argued that it would unsettle businesses and investors at a time when the gaming contraction showed no signs of abating. On earlier occasions the justification for rejection was a lack of prior consultation with the relevant government departments. Some even voted against the bill on the basis that "it would be a burden on the government."

Now that the city is apparently in full recovery mode, opposition lawmakers were almost silent on Friday, in quiet confidence that the bill would not pass.

I am personally unenthusiastic about trade unions, given the industrial action witnessed in Europe in past decades and its degenerative effect on the community or society that depends on such services. I am also unable to condone the practice of employees holding their employer hostage.

My take is that local residents probably do not need trade unions. The people who might in Macau are the non-resident workers, whose rights and living conditions are under continual pressure from economic forces in the city. Most recently, they include a proposal for a bus fare hike that would target such workers, many of whom are among Macau's lowest earners. But what these workers could really benefit from is a universal minimum wage.

A universal minimum wage bill passed its first reading at the AL back in 2014, but since then has been held up by government stalling. The Secretary for Economy and Finance assured us in January that bill would be ready within three years, though it remains to be seen whether such a law, if implemented, will cover the city's 180,000 non-resident workers.

As for local workers, the case made that they are in dire need of trade unions, is frankly, unconvincing.

Aside from the fact that they currently organize themselves in de facto trade union-style associations, these workers are in exceedingly high demand in Macau, largely thanks to the government's protectionist policies.

They command very respectable wages even for a city with high living costs. The average resident worker in Macau earns a similar amount to workers in many western European countries. And here the statistics paint the true picture.

The median wage for local residents is MOP18,000 per month, according to Macau's Yearbook of Statistics 2016, while the median wage for all workers in the territory (including non-resident workers) is MOP15,000 per month.

Meanwhile, the gross national income per capita (which excludes the earnings of non-residents) was USD64,580 in 2015, equivalent to about MOP519,000 on an annual basis or MOP43,250 per month under a system of 12 pay packets per year. These earnings include, but are not limited to, employment wages.

Residents also receive other perks, including the ability to change jobs, the citizen's allowance (commonly known as the handout), interest-free loans for youth entrepreneurs, and most recently compensation days of leave when a public holiday falls on a day the employee would usually not work.

If legislators were serious about wanting to protect employees and their rights then they would focus on how to better protect and empower non-resident workers. But then, non-residents don't get the vote, do they?

THE BUZZ MAY CALLS FOR CHANGES IN HANDLING UK SEX HARASSMENT CASES

British Prime Minister Theresa May is calling for changes in the way Parliament handles allegations of inappropriate behavior as she responds to suggestions that dozens of lawmakers are guilty of sexual harassment.

May wrote to House of Commons speaker John Bercow to complain that the current disciplinary procedure "does not have the required teeth," because members of Parlia-

ment don't have to follow it.

May says it is "vital that staff and the public have confidence in Parliament and resolving this employment irregularity on a cross-party basis can play an important role in this."

The issue is likely to be discussed in the House of Commons today [Macau time] after Conservative Party lawmaker Anna Soubry asked for the leader of the house to make a statement on the complaints process.

Spacey apologizes after actor alleges past sexual advance

AP PHOTO



ACTOR Kevin Spacey said yesterday [Macau time] he is "beyond horrified" by allegations that he made a sexual advance on a teen boy decades ago.

The two-time Oscar winner posted on Twitter that he doesn't remember the encounter. "But if I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years," he said.

In an interview with BuzzFeed, actor Anthony Rapp said Spacey befriended him while they both performed on Broadway

shows. Rapp was 14 when he attended a party at Spacey's apartment in 1986, he said. At the end of the night, an inebriated Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him, Rapp said.

Rapp said the 26-year-old was holding him down tightly, but he was able to get away and left the apartment.

Rapp, who is now 46 and starring in the TV show "Star Trek: Discovery", said he came forward after allegations against Harvey Weinstein sparked conversations about sexual abuse and harassment in the entertainment industry.

Spacey, who is now 58,

spoke publicly about his sexual orientation for the first time Sunday on Twitter.

"As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women," he said. "I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man."

Spacey, who has fiercely protected his private life, had never disclosed his sexuality before but said Rapp's story encouraged him to speak.

"I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior," he said. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Andy Wong



Fashion party. A model presents a creation by Elegant Prosper during the China Fashion Week at the Phoenix Center in Beijing, yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	75-105 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Moderate	
Ambient	85-115 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR People marched in Myanmar's largest city on Sunday to support the military, which has come under heavy criticism over violence that has driven hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

AP PHOTO



INDIA-ITALY The leaders of India and Italy held talks yesterday and signed a slew of agreements that mark a thaw in their relations following the fatal 2012 shootings of two Indian fishermen by Italian marines who mistook them for pirates. Officials from the two sides signed six agreements to boost energy security, bilateral trade and cooperation in railway technology.

SAUDI ARABIA will allow women into sports stadiums as of next year, the kingdom's latest step toward easing rules on gender segregation — but they will be seated in the so-called family section, an area separate from the male-only crowd.

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CENTRAL EUROPE High winds have knocked down trees and caused widespread travel chaos across much of Central Europe, leaving five people dead and several injured. Storm Herwart, whose gusts reached 180 kph, also caused electricity blackouts in hundreds of thousands of homes in the Czech Republic, Austria and other countries.

KENYA Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta says he expects his opponents to mount legal challenges to his victory in the second presidential election since August.

COLOMBIA's largest remaining rebel group has acknowledged its role in the murder of an indigenous leader in violation of a month-old cease-fire, and that's raising tensions in its peace talks with the government.