



LAURENT CANTET TO LEAD JURY

The program of the International Film Festival & Awards Macao has been revealed. Director Cantet will lead the jury

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'THE MOST ATTENDED TRAILHIKER EVER'

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STORM STRIKES PENANG

Penang, a popular tourist destination and manufacturing hub, has been hit by torrential rains and strong winds

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WORLD BRIEFS

US-MYANMAR U.S. lawmakers and human rights groups are putting pressure on the Trump administration to impose sanctions against Myanmar's military over alleged ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims.

AP PHOTO



INDIA-PAKISTAN Smog has enveloped much of Pakistan and neighboring India, causing highway accidents and respiratory problems, and forcing many residents to stay home, officials said.

SAUDI ARABIA has arrested dozens of princes, senior military officers, businessmen and top officials, including a well-known royal billionaire with extensive holdings in Western companies, as part of a sweeping purported anti-corruption probe that further cements control in the hands of its young crown prince. *More on p9*

AP PHOTO



LEBANON Prime minister Saad Hariri resigned from his post in a televised address from the Saudi capital Saturday, accusing Hezbollah of taking the country hostage, in a surprise move that plunged the nation into uncertainty amid heightened regional tensions. *More on p14*

NIGERIA A militant group has announced an end to its cease-fire with the Nigerian government, raising the prospects of renewed attacks on oil installations in the Niger Delta. *More on backpage*

Trump starts Asia trip, calls Japan 'crucial ally'

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RENATO MARQUES



Crowds attend Caritas Charity Bazaar, raise in donations expected

P7 MDT REPORT

IFFAM

French filmmaker Laurent Cantet to lead jury

Julie Zhu

THE second International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM) will be held from December 8 to 14.

The Organizing Committee of IFFAM hosted a press conference on Friday at the Macau Science Center, where IFFAM artistic director Mike Goodridge introduced the new event program and announced that French filmmaker Laurent Cantet will head the event's jury.

"I am so delighted to unveil our program for the festival this year. I am very proud of the line-up, which brings a feast of world cinema to the audiences of Macau. From our outstanding crowd-pleasing opening night film "Paddington 2", to the exciting competition line-up of [directors'] first and second features, our thrilling galas and special presentations and our best of festival panorama, I believe we are showcasing the very best films of the year to the people here. I can't wait for the filmmakers to come and present their films."

Aside from Cantet, this year's international jury comprises four other members: Chinese-American actress Joan Chen, Austrian director Jessica Hausner, British author Lawrence Osborne and Singaporean director Royston Tan.

The jury will select the winners of various categories: Best Film, Jury Prize, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best New Young Actor or Actress, Best Screenplay and Best Technical Contribution. There will also be other awards for the ten films submitted for the Competition section.

The regional premiere of Paul King's "Paddington 2" will open the event. In this year's edition, more than 40 international films will be screened in categories ranging from the Competition and Gala sections to "Flying Daggers," "Best of Fest Panorama," "Crossfire," "Special Presentation" and more categories.

The ten films in the Competition section include "Beast," "The Cakemaker," "Custody," "Foxtrot," "The Hungary," "Borg McEnroe," "Hunting Season," "My Pure Land," "Three Peaks,"



and "Wrath of Silence." This lineup is composed entirely of films made by first and second-time directors.

British war film "Journey's End" will be featured in the Gala section. Two Hollywood films, "The Shape of Water" and "Suburbicon" – both screened at the 74th Venice International Film Festival – will be shown in the Hollywood Special Presentation section.

"Love is Colder than Death," which is the work of a local director, will be screened in the Macao Special Presentation section.

In line with Macau's recent designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, the Organizing Committee has arranged for two food-related movies, "The Last Recipe" and "The Cakemaker," to be screened at the festival.

The Organizing Committee also announced that action star Donnie Yen and Korean star D.O. will be this year's Talent Ambassadors. Last year's Talent Ambassadors were Hollywood star Jeremy Renner and Hong Kong actress Miriam Yeung.

Directors John Woo and Pang Ho-Cheung will share their skills

and experiences in this year's masterclasses, which are designed to help young talent to gain insights into the film industry.

Following last year's BFI Film Academy Project – co-organized by IFFAM and the British Film Institute – the festival will also offer a training program in filmmaking.

For the first time, IFFAM will include winning films from the "Local View Power" contest. Organized by the Macau Cultural Centre, the "Local View Power" contest has given rise to more than 90 local productions in the last decade.

This year's IFFAM Industry Hub will be held at the Macau

Cultural Centre. The Organizing Committee will invite over 250 industry professionals from more than 20 countries and regions, in addition to 165 media from 36 countries and regions, to participate.

Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, President of the IFFAM Organizing Committee and the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), said "IFFAM is such a young and vibrant film festival, brimming with new possibilities and potentials to tap into. With our theme of this year, 'A New Avenue to the World of Films,' we aspire to tailor a high-quality programme fuelled by fresh new elements to fascinate our audience, as we strive for the vision to forge IFFAM into a prestigious brand in the world."

Speaking to media on the sidelines of the press conference, Senna Fernandes announced that a big change in this year's IFFAM would be to the Competition section, which will feature directors' first or second movies. She said this would provide an opportunity for industry newcomers to gain experience.

"We also added a new programme to the Competition section, in which the best movie will [win] a prize," revealed Senna Fernandes.

The MGTO director also noted that approximately 10 percent of all tickets have been reserved for the festival's sponsors.

"Most of the tickets will available for the public to buy [...] This year, we have worked on the Chinese subtitles [...] hoping that they [the audiences] can still see the movies even if they don't understand [the language]," said Senna Fernandes.

Senna Fernandes not worried about more tourists driving in Macau

BEFORE Friday's press conference, Senna Fernandes said she was "not worried" about more tourists driving vehicles in Macau, in light of the mutual driving license recognition between Macau and mainland China, which is currently under consideration.

"I believe that the Transport Bureau [DSAT] had already done an evaluation when it proposed the policy. Therefore, I think we do not need to worry that much," she said.

The MGTO head added that there have always been tourists who drive in Macau, and that several companies rent vehicles for this purpose.

"I believe that there will not be an immediate surge [in the number of tourists driving]," said Senna Fernandes.

"There were never too many in the past [...] There are four tourism car rental companies,



including the one which applied for the license recently."

Senna Fernandes said the car rental segment of Macau's tourism market "is mature" and "has been running for many years."

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Grant Bowie (left) hands a cheque to Sister Juliana Devoy; TrailHiker directors Kowie Goldenhuys (second from right) and Robert Kirby present a cheque to Rotary Club president Fátima Ferreira



The 30km winners cross the finishing line

Organizers: 'The most attended TrailHiker ever'

THE eighth MGM Macau Eco TrailHiker took place on Saturday at The Venetian Macao's Il Prato and ran along different natural trails in Coloane, exploring the green side of Macau.

Held in a relaxed and family friendly atmosphere, the event attracted 2,200 participants in 550 teams, racing for top honors in two categories: 10km family fun and 30km corporate challenge. Organizers claim the event was "the most attended TrailHiker ever."

Like in past editions, entry fees were donated to charity. This year, a total of MOP400,000 went to the Macau Rotary Club and Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

According to a press release issued by title sponsor MGM, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd will use their portion of the proceeds for daily operations, while the Rotary Club will focus on service projects for local children and adults with special needs.

The event attracted not only local enthusiasts but also teams from mainland China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Portugal, Australia, Nepal and the United States.

On the competitive side, the winners of the 10km family race, 愛華跑步, finished the course in 44 minutes and 16 seconds, followed by 珠海K神軍團 and 勵駿 Landmark Tiger.

For the 30km course, the champion was Team Uglow Asia, finishing in two hours, 37 minutes and 29 seconds. The first and second runners-up were Run Plus 泰北男街坊隊 and Wynn Macau Trail, respectively.

To encourage more women to participate, the organizer added two new prizes this year: the First All-Female Team 10km Award and the First All-Female Team 30km Award. The winners were Girls on Heels and Run Plus 4 虎聯盟, respectively.

TrailHiker director Robert Kirby told the Times that the event was particularly challenging to organize, due to the damage caused by Typhoon Hato.

"If we go back to August 23, when the super-typhoon Hato hit, we lost 10,000 trees in Coloane. All the trails were destroyed. That is not an overstatement: I went out there and I saw the devastation. So immediately, my concern was: 'Will we get the trails back in time for November 4?'"

Kirby added that there was also a change of venue, as they had originally planned for the event to take place at the MGM Cotai.

We had extra motivation to make this happen.

ROBERT KIRBY
TRAILHIKER DIRECTOR

"Even though the lovely integrated resort was not going to be open, we were still going to start and finish there. That was the plan. But of course, the typhoon damaged some of their high-level structure, which meant that they couldn't go forward with their licensing process. That meant there wasn't going to be a license, so no license [means that] we can't use any of their facilities."

"Then we had to start searching for alternative venues

and we ended up reaching [out] to our past sponsor [the] Venetian, and they were so gracious that they allowed MGM to use their facilities and welcomed the event back," he continued.

"That's a good example of two competitors creating a win-win [situation] for the two integrated resorts and also for the community at large. Since August, most community events have been canceled and we had extra motivation to make this happen, even though at one point it was looking like we might have to postpone."

Overall, Kirby was enthusiastic about the 2017 TrailHiker, claiming that it is among the "most popular annual sports events in the region," with registration for this year's event filling up in only 90 minutes.

"My gut feeling: It's been probably the best [TrailHiker] yet," he said.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China, said the gaming operator was "honored to be the title sponsor" of the event and looks forward to supporting its future growth. The company had a total of 240 team members join the 10km and 30km courses,

with over 100 volunteers supporting the event.

"I am glad that even though it looked like it would be raining, the event was successfully held in good weather. I can see both our MGM team members, as well as other participants from Macau or abroad, enjoying the event while demonstrating a good team spirit, running through the finishing line as a team. I would like to thank all those who have helped to make this event a wonderful one, and I am looking forward to this great community event being held in MGM Cotai next year," Bowie told the Times.

Anticipating the next edition, Robert Kirby said the 2018 TrailHiker will improve upon previous years, with plans to introduce a 20km course. "Some of the 10km teams are asking for a greater distance, but not going to 30km," he said.

The organizers plan to introduce "a whole weekend of wellness, running and hiking" to future editions, which they expect to attract more international teams. **PB**

Macau Daily Times is Macau Eco TrailHiker's official media partner

REDUCTION OF PAPER AND PLASTIC USE

MEASURES SUCH as the reduction of paper and plastic use were introduced to make the event more environmentally friendly. Certifi-

cates of participation will be issued electronically instead of on paper, and participants were encouraged to bring their own water bottles.



MGM Resorts CEO Jim Murren (right) took part in the event



A team walking the trails



Lunch buffet



Climbing the steps

AMCM: New cheque system expedites clearing process

The new Macau Cheque Clearing Automation System has increased the speed and safety of the cheque clearing process, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM). The system entered into operation on September 25. It provides automated services for 27 local credit institutions, which can now scan the QR codes on cheques to retrieve relevant information, speeding up the clearing process while improving accuracy. The AMCM said this shortens the duration of fund settlement, facilitates better public fund management, and improves overall efficiency in the business sector. According to AMCM, cheques with QR codes currently account for about 20 percent of all cheques in Macau. Although cheques without QR codes can still be used, banks will provide customers with new cheque books as they begin transitioning to the new system.

Health Bureau confirms ninth imported case of dengue fever

The Health Bureau (SSM) has confirmed another case of dengue fever, the ninth this year. In a statement on Friday, the SSM said the patient was a 28-year-old Vietnamese national residing in Rua da Madre Terezina on the Macau peninsula, who recently arrived in the MSAR to find work. The woman began experiencing symptoms of the disease three days after arriving in Macau for the first time, and went to a private clinic on October 30. When her symptoms worsened, she went to Conde de São Januário Hospital Center, where she tested positive for dengue fever. "Taking into account the travel history, the period of incubation and the appearance of symptoms and the laboratory test result, this was considered to be the ninth case imported this year," the SSM stated.

GAMING revenue will grow faster this year than what was initially forecasted, said the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, at a public event on Friday. The Secretary now estimates that gross gaming revenue will see "positive double-digit growth" over last year's results.

According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, Leong noted that gaming revenues have maintained a stable and positive trend, leading him to be confident about Macau's economic situation.

The acknowledgement of the unexpectedly high growth rate for 2017 - higher than what was initially forecasted - is also leading Leong to believe that in 2018, "gaming revenues will be even higher than in this year."

Citing government figures, Leong also noted that the gaming sector recorded revenue amounting to MOP26.63 billion last month, making October the best month for the industry since the period of economic adjustment began. Last month's results are just under the

Lionel Leong predicts double-digit growth in gaming revenue



Lionel Leong

MOP26.8 billion registered during the same month in 2011.

The secretary also said that he expects the gaming and tourism sectors to continue to perform well in November and December.

Questioned separately on the ongoing public consultation regarding the amendment of the labor law and the establishment of a part-time work regime, Leong noted that every time that there is debate over labor issues,

employers and employees present different views on the topic. He noted only his hope that the collected public opinions will be useful for the government to "take the right decisions" during the legislative process.

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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 (1 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

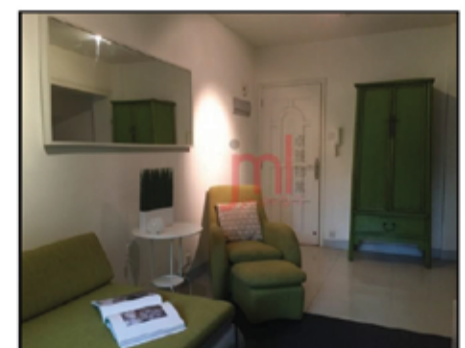
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Nam Long, Taipa Village

(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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Caritas Macau predicts higher donations from Charity Bazaar crowds

Renato Marques

WITH turnout for the 48th annual Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar set to surpass last year's, the organization expects proceeds from the event to increase accordingly.

"Yesterday [Saturday] we had a good number of participants. If we compare to last year, we can see that the number of participants was better [this year]," secretary general Paul Pun told the Times yesterday.

Around 13,000 people attended the weekend event when it opened

on Saturday at the Nam Van Nautical Center, with Pun attributing the crowds to the sunny weather.

Pun said he expected another 20,000 yesterday – the second day of the event – with more people taking their day off, which would bring the total number of attendees to about 33,000.

On the projected donations, he said, "We haven't counted yet. We usually don't count right away. It usually takes a few days [after the event to have a total figure] but I believe that we will have a little bit more than last year."

"We are not looking at the income in the final report, we look at the happiness of parents and children coming together – the parent-child relationship is the main point here – and also activities for young people."

Attending families at the Bazaar strolled and took in the sights of the Nam Van area, while others joined games, recreational activities and raffle contests. There were also several stage performances by local school bands and groups.

Local resident Alice Chan attended the Bazaar to "support [her] kids' school [at the event]."

Chan has participated in the event "every year for a long time", even in her student days. In her opinion, the Bazaar is important

as it gets children involved in meaningful activities and enables them to "support others in need."

Another mother, who wished to be known only as Janice, was present at the Bazaar with her husband and two children.

"Contrary to most of the other days, when there [are] not a lot of things to do [outside], there are many games [...] and raffles here," she told the Times, adding that "our kids are still too young to play but they enjoy the environment [of the event]."

"We also know that the money here goes [to] a good cause," said her husband, which he said was one of the reasons why so many people attend the event every year.

Most of the stalls in the packed Nautical Center belonged to Caritas-related organizations and schools, mainly Catholic institutions, but several government departments, bureaus and gaming concessionaires had also set up booths.

An opportunity to raise awareness

SEVERAL volunteers from the Caritas Macau WelAnser Centre were spotted among the crowds at the Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar, in addition to operating their own food stall.

According to one member, who was distributing the group's latest newsletter to passers-by, the Caritas Macau WelAnser Centre was one of several organizations that viewed the annual Bazaar as an opportunity to "raise awareness" about important social issues.

She explained that the Bazaar is attended by many OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) and other non-resident workers on their day off.

"It's an opportunity for us to raise awareness [of] several issues that are [related to] their interests too," she said.

This time, the Centre is addressing "labor rights and interests," namely those concerning the basic rules regarding the "dismissal compensation for non-resident workers" and what these workers can do "in case these rules are not followed by their employers."

The groups also took the opportunity to "spread the word" about their upcoming events, which include social gatherings and training sessions on diverse topics, ranging from Chinese cooking to caring for infants and the elderly.

Int'l drug policy conference kicks off today in Macau

THE 27th IFNGO World Conference – International Drug Policy Consortium will be held at Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel from today until Wednesday, inviting international representatives to discuss drug prevention, treatment, addiction, harm reduction, and general drug policy.

Organized by the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, the conference invites distinguished drug specialists, policymakers

and law enforcement officials to discuss how drug abuse is being tackled across the world.

Augusto Nogueira, president of the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM) and a member of the MSAR Government's Narcotics Control Commission, is this year's president-elect of the IFNGO and will chair the conference.

He told the Times yesterday that a range of issues will be explored by participants at the three-day event, including law

enforcement approaches and the balance between treatment and incarceration as a means of deterring and resolving drug abuse.

"We will discuss these issues from an international perspective," he said. "We will have Portuguese [drug policy] specialists and law enforcement [representatives]. At the end of the conference we will [submit] a recommendation to the United Nations [based on our findings]."

Asked whether Nogueira believes world authorities have struck the right ba-

lance between treatment and punishment, the IFNGO president-elect said: "Not at all; many people still go for punishment over treatment."

In this respect, Portugal's decriminalization approach to combatting drug abuse is a topic of interest to the conference, not least because the policy's architect, Joao Goulao, will be present as a keynote speaker.

However, Nogueira warned that the decriminalization approach might not work for every country.

"Every country is diffe-



Augusto Nogueira

rent," he told the Times. "Just because Portugal has had success with decriminalization doesn't

mean it will work worldwide. It is up to each country to choose what is best for it." **DB**



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SAUDI Arabia has arrested dozens of princes, senior military officers, businessmen and top officials, including a well-known royal billionaire with extensive holdings in Western companies, as part of a sweeping purported anti-corruption probe that further cements control in the hands of its young crown prince.

A high-level employee at Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Kingdom Holding Co. told The Associated Press that the royal—who is one of the world's richest men—was among those detained overnight Saturday. The company's stock was down nearly 9 percent in trading Sunday on the Saudi stock exchange.

Reports suggested those detained were being held at the Ritz Carlton in Riyadh, which only days earlier hosted a major investment conference with global business titans from the U.S., Japan and other countries. A Saudi official told The Associated Press that other five-star hotels across the capital were also being used to hold some of those arrested.

The surprise arrests, which also reportedly include two of the late King Abdullah's sons, were hailed by pro-government media outlets as the greatest sign yet that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is keeping his promise to reform the country, long plagued by allegations of corruption at the highest levels of government.

Analysts have suggested the arrest of once-untouchable members of the royal family is the latest sign that the 32-year-old

Billionaire prince among dozens arrested in Saudi sweep



Saudi billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal al-Saud

crown prince is moving to quash potential rivals or critics. The prince's swift rise to power has unnerved more experienced, elder members of the ruling Al Saud family, which has long ruled by consensus, though ultimate decision-making remains with the monarch.

The king named his son, the crown prince, as head of an anti-corruption committee established late Saturday, just hours before its arrest of top officials.

A Saudi government official with close ties to security says 11 princes and 38 others are being held. The official spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity be-

cause he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Marriott International said in a statement that it is currently evaluating the situation at the Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh. "As a matter of guest privacy, we do not discuss the guests or groups with whom we do business or may be visitors of the hotel," the statement added.

■ The scale of the arrests is unprecedented in Saudi Arabia

The scale of the arrests is unprecedented in Saudi Arabia, where senior royals and their business associates were seen as operating above the law. Saudi nationals have long complained of rampant corruption in government and of public funds being squandered or misused by people in power.

Shortly before the arrests, King Salman had ousted Prince Miteb bin Abdullah from his post as head of the National Guard. The prince is reportedly among those detained in the sweep, as is his brother, Prince Turki bin Abdullah, who was once governor of Riyadh. Both are sons of the late

King Abdullah, who ruled before his half-brother King Salman.

Prince Miteb was once considered a contender for the throne. Saudi Twitter accounts released several other names of those arrested, such as: Alwalid al-Ibrahim, a Saudi businessman with ties to the royal family who runs the Arabic satellite group MBC; Amr al-Dabbagh, the former head of the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority; Ibrahim Assaf, the former finance minister; and Bakr Binladin, head of the Saudi Binladin Group, a major business conglomerate.

An earlier crackdown on perceived critics of the crown prince included clerics, writers, lesser-known princes and Saudi figures popular on social media.

"The dismissals and detentions suggest that Prince Mohammed rather than forging alliances is extending his iron grip to the ruling family, the military, and the national guard to counter what appears to be more widespread opposition within the family as well as the military to his reforms and the Yemen war," James M. Dorsey, a Gulf specialist and senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, said in an analysis of the shake-up. **AP**

RETAIL

Ralph Lauren's retreat from discounting helps bolster profit

Stephanie Wong

RALPH Lauren Corp., the 50-year-old fashion brand known for its preppy style, is making good on its effort to rely less on markdowns - even if it means selling fewer clothes.

The company posted earnings of USD1.99 a share last quarter, topping analysts' average projection by a dime. Ralph Lauren credited its pursuit of higher-quality sales channels and fewer discounts. Still, the push is taking a toll on revenue, which fell 9 percent in the period.

"As much as this quarter brings the usual dose of negative sales growth, there is finally a faint light at the end of Ralph Lauren's long tunnel of reinvention," said Neil Saunders, mana-

ging director of GlobalData Retail. "This comes in the form of both improved profit numbers and slightly less-bad revenue figures."

The results reflect the trade-offs of Ralph Lauren's comeback plan: The fashion house is willing to sacrifice some growth to restore the brand's exclusivity. The New York-based company, now headed by Patrice Louvet, plans to retreat from 20 percent to 25 percent of its U.S. department-store distribution points by the second half of this fiscal year.

It's also reducing its inventory, while improving its e-commerce sites and increasing marketing, he said on a conference call last week. The goal is to reel in new - and possibly younger - customers.

At the same time, Ralph

Lauren has introduced limited-edition polo shirts and brought back some vintage pieces to generate buzz, while continuing to shorten the time it takes to bring fashion to the market.

"While there is a lot of work to be done, I am encouraged by the early progress we are making," Louvet said in a statement.

Ralph Lauren shares climbed 2.4 percent to \$91.60 as of 11:43 a.m. in New York. The stock had declined about 1 percent this year through Wednesday's close.

The fashion house is focusing on expanding in China, where it has launched sites on Tmall, JD.com and WeChat. In five years, it aims to achieve \$500 million sales in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau

and Taiwan, up from \$170 million in the last fiscal year, Louvet said.

While it makes sense to capitalize on China, a profitable region for many global brands, the company shouldn't lose sight of its U.S. turnaround, said Chen Grazutis, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

"The biggest challenge is - and will remain - consumer demand for the brand in the U.S.," he said. "Only a recovery there will move the dial significantly enough."

Second-quarter revenue amounted to \$1.66 billion, just above the \$1.64 billion predicted by analysts. But same-store sales declined 6 percent, slightly worse than the 5.4 percent average estimate compiled by Consensus Metrix.

Gross margin rose to 59.9



percent on an adjusted basis, 3 percentage points above the prior year. Chief Financial Officer Jane Nielsen expects margins to expand further as the company retrenches from less profitable channels. But along the way, sales will maintain their slide. Ralph Lauren expects revenue to drop 6 percent to 8 percent in the third quarter.

Louvet replaced Stefan Larsson, who left the company after clashing with its eponymous founder over creative direction of the brand. Billionaire Ralph Lauren took back some of the control he gave to the former chief, raising questions about whether the new chief would have enough autonomy to exe-

cute a comeback.

Louvet said Ralph Lauren is still in its early progress of expanding its digital and international presence, as well as its marketing, but the company will partner with more influencers in a campaign that will be revealed during the third or fourth quarter.

While the company "is beginning to think along the right lines regarding product strategy," Ralph Lauren still must go further, Saunders said.

"It has to be accompanied by a host of other initiatives to refocus products and connect more effectively with new customer segments, especially younger shoppers," he said. **Bloomberg**

AP PHOTO



In this Sept. 4, 2017 file photo, trucks cross the Friendship Bridge connecting the Chinese border town of Dandong and the North Korean town of Sinuiju

China border traders losing money amid North Korea sanctions

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

FOR Yu Kaiguang, harsh new United Nations sanctions on North Korea are a disaster.

The trader in the Chinese bor-

der city of Dandong has seen business all but dry up, and he spends his days scrambling to obtain payment from the suddenly broke North Korean state companies to whom he sold on credit.

"They have no money to pay us in cash, and the worst is that because of sanctions they can't settle the bill with goods such as coal, as they did in the past," said Yu, reached by telephone at the offices of his Dandong Gaoli Trading Company.

Yu said he's owed about USD1 million in all for deliveries of toothpaste, instant noodles and other household items. He's trying to avoid laying off staff by continuing to export foodstuffs such as pine nuts and red beans. "If they become unemployed, it would be bad for both the state and society."

Yu's plight appears increasingly commonplace across Dandong, where the bulk of the cross-border trade is handled. Interviews with four trading companies and recent media reports indicate Chinese companies are hurting in a city where North Korean trucks used to rumble across the Yalu River bridge several times a week delivering metal scrap and returning with everything from televisions to toilet bowls.

The owner of another firm, Dandong Baoquan Commerce and Trade Co., which used to import iron ore and coal and export basic consumer goods, said he was still owed around \$200,000 by his North Korea clients.

"I had to lay off about 10 staffers, but I had no other choice because it was the government policy," Han Lixin said, referring to the sanctions. "I'm still in bu-

siness hoping to trade with other countries, but it takes a lot of time and efforts to develop customers."

Large-scale trade involving North Korean resources such as iron ore and coal has been banned entirely under the sanctions, dealing a big blow to Dandong's port, whose operator defaulted on a \$150 million corporate bond this week in part because of cratering revenues.

"The sanctions have a broad effect, and both the economies of North Korea and China are suffering a lot," said Jin Qiangyi, professor at the Institute of Northeast Asia Studies at Yanbian University in Northeast China. "Chinese companies doing business with North Korea may see quite a lot of losses, and the companies that have already invested in North Korea will suffer more."

Dealing with North Korean companies was never easy. Wang Chengpeng, former manager of Dandong Hongwei Trading Company, quit doing business with the North entirely because of hassles, restrictions and low-profit margins, even before the latest sanctions began to bite.

Despite that, China has long been the North's biggest economic partner. Beijing accounted for more than 90 percent of its neighbor's foreign trade of about \$6.5 billion in 2016, according to the South Korean-owned Korea Trade Investment Promotion

Agency. China continues to be a key source of food and fuel aid to help keep North Korea's weak economy from collapsing, and Chinese officials say they won't agree to measures that could cut off basic life necessities and possibly cause Kim Jong Un's dictatorship to topple.

China's patience with Kim has grown increasingly thin, however, and Beijing has lent its support to increasingly tough resolutions unanimously approved by the Security Council this year that target North Korea's economy in response to its ballistic missile launches and latest nuclear test.

China has said it sees sanctions purely as a means of inducing North Korea to return to nuclear disarmament talks and has rejected unilateral measures not approved by the Security Council, of which it is one of the five veto-wielding permanent members.

Still, despite some allegations of cheating, China appears to be seeking to enforce the sanctions that also ban exports of lead, textiles and seafood, prohibit joint ventures, and bar any country from authorizing new permits for North Korean workers — all sources of hard currency for Pyongyang.

The sanctions have also black-listed a number of firms in the extraction and financial industries, imposed travel bans and frozen the assets of some government officials, banned the import of natural gas liquids and condensates, and capped the country's crude oil imports.

It's hard to gauge the exact impact of sanctions on the North Korean economy because the crucial food and energy sectors are less likely to be hurt by external conditions, said Lee Seok-ki, a senior researcher at the South Korean government-run Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade.

However, while the North's economy has been expanding — by 3.9 percent in 2016, according to an estimate by the Bank of Korea in South Korea — that rate almost certainly can't be sustained if sanctions continue, Lee said.

China for its part is watching North Korea to see how its ally will respond to the new measures, eager for signs of a shift in tactics by Kim and an improvement in relations between Beijing and Pyongyang that have "sunk into a standstill," as Jin puts it.

In that context, Kim's message of congratulation to President Xi Jinping upon his reappointment as leader of China's ruling Communist Party last week is being cautiously viewed as a possible indication of change.

"There has been a calm from the North Korean side for about a month, and we are not sure whether it is because of the excessive pressure they are under or their miscalculation on China's determination," Jin said. "It's still too early to say." **AP**

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AP PHOTO



China's answer to anthem disrespect: 3 years in prison

CHINA'S rubber-stamp legislature on Saturday made disrespecting the national anthem a criminal offense punishable by up to three years in prison amid rising nationalist appeals from the ruling Communist Party under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress passed an amendment to the country's criminal law outlining punishments for people found "seriously" disrespecting the national anthem in public.

The move follows Xi's appointment to a second five-year term as party leader, for which he has touted a vision of achieving a "Chinese Dream" of a powerful, prosperous nation. It also comes as the anthem, "March of the Volunteers," has in recent months been a political flashpoint in the southern Chinese city of Hong Kong, where tensions are rising over Beijing's efforts to assert its authority over the territory.

According to the amendment passed Saturday in Beijing, penalties include detention, imprisonment of up to three years and the deprivation of political rights. Such punishments

previously applied to the desecration of the national flag and emblem in public, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The legislature also moved to apply a separate, recently passed law on the national anthem to Hong Kong and Macau, Chinese semiautonomous regions with separate legal systems.

Soccer fans in Hong Kong have booed the anthem when it's played at games between the home team and teams from China or other countries, leading to fines from FIFA, the sport's governing body. Pro-democracy activists and lawmakers fear a national anthem law could be used to undermine freedom of speech in Hong Kong.

The National Anthem Law, which came into effect in October, stated that playing the anthem on occasions deemed improper, including funerals, or for changing its wording or presenting it in a disrespectful manner could be punished with 15 days in detention. China's legislature adopted a decision to include the law in Hong Kong's and Macau's mini-constitutions, known in each territory as the Basic Law. **MDT/AP**

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Inclusion in the workplace

At MGM, we share the Special Olympics Unified Sports' philosophy that training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. This is a belief that permeates our hiring policy of actively seeking to hire persons with disabilities as equal team members, working side-by-side with others, and in doing so creating a better culture of understanding and appreciation.



At present, MGM has 39 employees with disabilities working in seven departments. During October, MGM collaborated with Fuhong and Macau Deaf Association to arrange training for team members on how to better communicate with their co-workers with disabilities such as Sign Language training for those working alongside team members that are hearing impaired.

In addition to creating full-time employment opportunities across our departments, we also offer internship placements for students from the Concordia School for Special Education to help young people with disabilities prepare for their future careers. For the fourth year, MGM participated in the DSAL's "Summer Work Experience Program 2017" designed specifically for secondary school students with disabilities, welcoming four students to work at the Food & Beverage and Floral departments. Through this meaningful program, MGM hopes to provide the program participants the opportunity to gain practical work experience, while enabling them to become more confident in their capacities under the guidance of our seasoned team members.



Cherry Wong, who is a current intern under the internship program works in MGM's Food & Beverage department said, "I was one of the winners of Macau Outstanding Teenager sponsored by MGM in 2016. It was then I started to learn that MGM is a caring company and therefore, I chose to start my internship here despite other opportunities."

In August, MGM is proud to have been recognized by the Hiring Disabled Staff Recognition Scheme for the fifth time, an award scheme organized biennially by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Social Welfare Bureau. This accolade recognizes MGM's inclusive hiring practices and working environment.

Community program focus

Year to date, MGM has held 364 community activities dedicated to assisting the youth, low-income families, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Through these programs MGM has spread care and compassion to over 4,000 people with disabilities.



To raise awareness in the community, MGM sponsored and hosted the "Conference on Intellectually Disabled People in Asia" in April, organized by the Charity Association of Macau Business Readers. The conference highlighted the importance of social inclusion in society, where our individual differences are appreciated and respected. In tandem, MGM also organized an art workshop for over 100 of the Special Olympics Golf athletes, under the guidance of local artists from Art For All Society as well as MGM's Volunteer Team.



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MALAYSIA | TYPHOON DAMREY

Three dead, 2,000 evacuated as storm strikes Penang

A northern Malaysian state was paralyzed yesterday by a severe storm that led to three deaths and the evacuation of some 2,000 people in the worst flooding in years.

Penang, a popular tourist destination and manufacturing hub, has been hit by torrential rains and strong winds since Saturday, said Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng. He said the rains were probably associated with Typhoon Damrey, which also pounded Vietnam where at least 27 people have died and 22 are missing.

Floodwaters as high as 3 to 3.6 meters submerged houses in low-lying parts of the state. Extensive flooding also hit the capital George Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its British colonial buildings.

Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, who are on a weeklong visit to Malaysia, are due to visit George Town tomorrow.

The dead included a 75-year-old man who drowned in his house,



An aerial view shows a flooded George Town city in Penang

an elderly woman at a nursing home and a Bangladeshi worker, Lim said.

Prime Minister Najib Razak pledged to assist the opposition-ruled state. Army personnel were deployed to evacuate those affected to higher grounds and in cleaning up operations. A total of 27 evacuation centers have been set up.

Lim said there was no need to declare an emergency as the si-

tuation is under control. The state government showed reporters security videos of strong wind blowing off large billboards and uprooting trees and floods in the city center.

Rain and floodwaters eased midday Sunday but the meteorological department forecast that the bad weather will continue, with expected continuous rainfall and strong winds. AP



A flooded road in the central province of Binh Dinh

VIETNAM | TYPHOON DAMREY

Typhoon kills 27, leaves 22 missing along coast

A powerful typhoon battering Vietnam has killed at least 27 people and left 22 others missing amid extensive damage along the south-central coast, officials said yesterday.

The missing include 17 crew members of cargo ships that were sunk off the coast of the central province of Binh Dinh, the Vietnam Disaster Management Authority said in a statement. Seventy-four other crew members were rescued earlier.

More than 600 houses have been destroyed and nearly 40,000 others damaged as Typhoon Damrey

caused widespread blackouts across the region, the disaster agency said.

The typhoon, the second to hit Vietnam in a month, also caused extensive damage to the region's rice fields and other crops while 228 fishing boats were sunk or damaged, the agency said. It left some 1,500 passengers stranded at railway stations.

Heavy rains are expected to last until Tuesday including in the central resort city of Danang, just days before the start an economic summit attended by Presidents Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China, among others. AP

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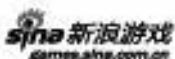


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Jonathan Lemire, Jill Colvin

PRESIDENT Donald Trump praised Japan as a "crucial ally" and warned adversaries not to test America's resolve yesterday as he opened a grueling and consequential first trip to Asia.

Trump landed at Yokota Air Base on the outskirts of Tokyo and was greeted by cheering service members. Trump then donned a bomber jacket for a speech in which he touted American firepower and the U.S. alliance with Japan.

"Japan is a treasured partner and crucial ally of the United States and today we thank them for welcoming us and for decades of wonderful friendship between our two nations," he said, speaking in front of an American flag inside an airplane hangar.

Trump was expected to spend much of his 12-day, five-country Asian tour exhorting allies and rivals to step up efforts to counter the dangers posed by North Korea, which continues to move forward with its nuclear weapons program. Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have been engaged in an escalating war of words, with Trump repeatedly referring to Un as "Little Rocket Man" and threatening in a recent speech to "totally destroy" the nation, if necessary.

Even before he landed, Trump used the first moments of the trip to denounce the North as "a big problem" that must "be solved."

"There's been 25 years of total weakness, so we are taking a very much different approach" toward the North, he told reporters traveling with him.

During the speech, Trump did not mention North Korea by name, but warned of the consequences of crossing what he called the "most fearsome fighting force in the history of our world."

"Together with our allies, America's warriors are prepared to defend our nation using the full range of our unmatched capabilities. No one — no dictator, no regime and no nation — should underestimate, ever, American resolve," Trump told the troops.

Some regional analysts have speculated that Trump's presence in Asia may prompt North Korea

Trump calls Japan 'crucial ally' as he kicks off Asia trip



Trump and Abe hold up hats they have both signed that read "Donald and Shinzo, Make Alliance Even Greater"



U.S. first lady Melania Trump waves to photographers as she and her Japanese counterpart Akie Abe (left) visit Mikimoto Ginza Main Store, Japan's pearl jewelry maker

to take provocative action, like another missile test. Trump, when asked about that possibility aboard Air Force One, said "we'll soon find out." After the speech, Trump flew by helicopter to the Kasumigaseki Country Club about 20 miles outside of Tokyo for lunch and a round of golf with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Japanese golfer Hideki Matsuyama. An avid golfer, Trump said Matsuyama is "probably the greatest player in the history of Japan."

The trip marks the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation

Trump and Abe have struck up a personal friendship, forged through multiple meetings and telephone conversations, as well as on the greens of one of Trump's Florida golf clubs and over intimate dinners at Trump's Florida estate.

At the club, the leaders signed white caps inscribed with the phrase, "Donald and Shinzo: Make Alliance Even Greater," a tribute to the U.S.-Japan friendship and a play on Trump's campaign

slogan. On the menu: a hamburger made from U.S. beef.

The trip, which marks the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation, comes at a precarious moment for Trump. Days ago, his former campaign chairman was indicted and another adviser pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into possible collusion between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russian officials.

The journey will also test Trump's stamina. But the 71-year-old president assured reporters that he was up for the task. "It's grueling, they tell me, but fortunately that's historically not been a problem for me. One thing you people will say, that's not been a problem," he said.

The visit will be closely watched by Asian allies worried that Trump's inward-looking "America First" agenda could cede power in the region to China. They also are rattled by his bellicose rhetoric toward North Korea. The North's growing missile arsenal threatens several of the capitals Trump will visit.

The trip will also put Trump in face-to-face meetings with authoritarian leaders for whom he has expressed admiration. They include China's Xi Jinping, whom Trump has likened to "a king," and the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte,

who has sanctioned the extrajudicial killings of drug dealers.

Trump is also expected to have a second private audience with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a summit in Vietnam. Trump told reporters he "will want Putin's help" in dealing with North Korea. They previously met during a summit in Europe this summer.

The White House has signaled that Trump will push American economic interests in the region, but the North Korea issue is expected to dominate the trip. One of Trump's two major speeches will come before the National Assembly in Seoul. But fiery threats against the North could resonate differently than

they do from the distance of Washington.

Trump will forgo a trip to the Demilitarized Zone, the stark border between North and South Korea. All U.S. presidents except one since Ronald Reagan have visited the DMZ in a sign of solidarity with Seoul. The White House contends that Trump's commitment to South Korea is already crystal clear, as evidenced by his war of words with Kim and his threats to deliver "fire and fury" to North Korea if it does not stop threatening American allies.

The escalation of rhetoric, a departure from the conduct of past presidents, has undermined confidence in the U.S. as a stabilizing presence in Asia.

"There's a danger if there is a lot of muscle flexing," said Mike Chino, a senior fellow at the U.S.-China Institute at the University of Southern California. "Trump has been going right up to the edge and I wouldn't rule out some sort of forceful North Korean reaction to Trump's presence in the region," he said.

The White House said Trump would be undeterred.

"The president will use whatever language he wants to use, obviously," White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster told reporters before Trump departed Washington. "I don't think the president really modulates his language, have you noticed?" AP

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Sheriff: Las Vegas shooter had lost money, been depressed

Michael Balsamo

THE man who killed 58 people at a country music festival in Las Vegas last month had been depressed after losing a significant amount of money in the past two years and that may have been a “determining factor” in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, the city’s sheriff said.

Gunman Stephen Paddock, a 64-year-old high-stakes gambler and real estate investor, had lost a “significant amount of wealth” since September 2015, which led to “bouts of depression,” Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said in an interview this week with Las Vegas news station KLAS-TV.

“This individual was status-driven, based on how he liked to be recognized in the casino environment and how he liked to be recognized by his friends and family,” Lombardo said. “So, obviously, that was starting to decline in the short period of time, and that may have had a determining effect on why he did what he did.”

Investigators still have not determined exactly what led Paddock to unleash a barrage of gunfire at concertgoers from his high-rise suite at the Mandalay Bay hotel and casino on Oct. 1.

Paddock killed himself after the massacre that also wounded more than 500 people. Las Vegas police and the FBI have examined his politics, any possible radicalization and his social behavior but turned up little.



Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo

Investigators have found that Paddock planned his attack meticulously and was “purposeful in concealing his actions,” the sheriff said.

The gunman requested an upper-floor room overlooking the Route 91 Harvest Festival; stockpiled 23 guns, a dozen of them modified to fire continuously like an automatic weapon; and set up cameras inside and outside his room to watch for approaching officers.

One of the laptops found in Pa-

ddock’s hotel suite was missing a hard drive, and searches of his internet history turned up nothing unusual.

Investigators found no evidence that Paddock had help carrying out the attack but are continuing to question his girlfriend, who was visiting family members in the Philippines during the massacre.

Marilou Danley is still considered a “person of interest” in the investigation and was being questioned again this week,

Lombardo said. The FBI previously questioned her about Paddock’s gun purchases and what she may have noticed about his behavior.

Danley has repeatedly denied knowing anything about the attack and said Paddock never said or did anything that would have led her to believe he was going to carry out a massacre.

But the sheriff said he had doubts about her story, calling it “hard to believe.”

“You would think Ms. Danley

would have some information associated with that,” Lombardo said. “Currently, we haven’t been able to pull it out of her, if she has it in her.”

The sheriff also described Paddock’s younger brother, Eric, as “manic” in interviews with news reporters outside his Florida home following the shooting but didn’t elaborate. Eric Paddock has called his brother a multimillionaire.

“You can see there’s something associated with the family,” Lombardo said without elaborating.

A second brother, Bruce Paddock, was arrested in Los Angeles on Oct. 25 on suspicion of possessing child pornography.

In the wide-ranging, two-part interview, the sheriff said he believed Stephen Paddock was able to carry the guns into the hotel unnoticed by bringing them in separate bags over several days. He said Paddock was known among casino staff and nothing appeared unusual.

Fire officials released three hours of radio dispatches Friday that shed more light on the chaotic scene that first responders faced as they arrived and then worked to triage, treat and transport victims.

In just 2½ minutes, a mass-casualty incident unit was requested as firefighters scrambled to figure out where the gunfire was coming from and help victims. A firefighter described hearing “full-auto fire,” a reference to the rapid gunfire coming from the hotel, as dozens of shooting victims were being reported.

It comes as several news organizations, including The Associated Press, have sued to seek 911 calls, police camera video and search warrants related to the shooting.

Spokeswomen for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the FBI declined to comment on Friday. **AP**

LEBANON

Premier resigns, plunging nation into uncertainty

LEBANESE prime minister Saad Hariri resigned from his post in a televised address from the Saudi capital Saturday, accusing Hezbollah of taking the country hostage, in a surprise move that plunged the nation into uncertainty amid heightened regional tensions.

In his resignation speech, Hariri fired a vicious tirade against Iran and its Lebanese proxy Hezbollah group for what he said was their meddling in Arab affairs and said that “Iran’s arms in the region will be cut off.”

“The evil that Iran spreads in the region will backfire

on it,” Hariri said, accusing Tehran of spreading chaos, strife and destruction throughout the region.

Hariri was appointed prime minister in late 2016 and headed a 30-member coalition government that included members of the Shiite militant Hezbollah. But it’s been an uneasy partnership between Hariri, who heads a Sunni-led camp loyal to Saudi Arabia, and Hezbollah, which represents a camp loyal to Shiite Iran. President Michel Aoun, who was elected in October 2016 after more than a two-year presidential vacuum, is a close ally of Hezbollah.

As U.S. and Saudi Arabia sought ways to curb Iran’s growing influence in the region, Hariri has come under pressure to distance himself from the militant group which has sent thousands of troops to neighboring Syria to shore up President Bashar Assad’s forces.

Hariri’s bombshell resignation — even close aides seemed unaware of the announcement — ushers in a stage of deep uncertainty and potential instability. It also throws into doubt parliamentary elections slated for early next year which have been repeatedly delayed.

It comes amid a sharp es-

calation in Saudi rhetoric against its regional archrival Iran and puts Lebanon at the center of that rivalry.

Hazem al-Amin, a Lebanese writer who follows regional affairs, said Hariri’s resignation is “completely a Saudi step” that comes in the context of an international and regional atmosphere against Hezbollah and against Iranian influence in the region.

“Lebanon is a fragile country. This confrontation [between Saudi Arabia and Iran] is more violent than Lebanon can stand up to,” he said, warning of economic and security ramifications. **MDT/AP**



Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri

Catalan ex-president, 4 others in custody in Brussels

BRUSSELS prosecutors said yesterday that ousted Catalan president Carles Puigdemont and four ex-regional ministers were taken into custody to start the process of their possible extradition to Spain.

The five presented themselves to federal police at around 9 a.m.,

Brussels prosecutor's office spokesman Gilles Dejemeppe said the five presented themselves to federal police yesterday morning (afternoon, Macau time), that they have not been arrested and that an investigative judge will shortly hear them.

The Belgian judge will have to decide within 24 hours what comes next for the five separatist politicians wanted in Spain on suspicion of rebellion for pushing through a declaration of independence for the northeastern Catalonia in violation of Spain's Constitution.

Dejemeppe said the judge's options range from "refusal to execute the European arrest, arresting the people involved, releasing them on conditions or under bail." He said if they are arrested then they will be sent to jail as the ex-



Former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont

tradition process continues. Dejemeppe said that the entire process from arrest to extradition, could take more than 60 days.

That delay could give Puigdemont time to participate, albeit from afar and in largely a symbolic capacity, in the snap regional election called by Spain's government for Catalonia on Dec. 21.

A senior official of Puigdemont's party, the center-right Democratic Party of Catalonia, said yesterday that the party wanted Puigdemont to repeat as its candidate. Spanish government spokesman Inigo Mendez de Vigo has said that any

politician can run in the election unless he or she has been convicted of a crime.

Puigdemont and the four ex-ministers fled to Belgium this past week after being removed from power by Spanish authorities as part of an extraordinary crackdown to quash the region's illegal secession claim.

Political forces in Catalonia are hurriedly jockeying for position to start a campaign that promises to be as bitter as it is decisive to Spain's worst institutional crisis in nearly four decades.

While pro-union parties try to

rally support to win back control of the regional parliament in Barcelona, pro-secession parties are debating whether or not to form one grand coalition for the upcoming ballot.

Spain's Constitution says the nation is "indivisible" and that all matters of national sovereignty pertain to the country's parliament.

In all, Spanish prosecutors are investigating 20 regional politicians for rebellion and other crimes that could be punishable by up to 30 years in prison. Another two leaders of pro-secession grassroots groups are also in jail while

an investigation continues into suspicion of sedition.

Fueled by questions of cultural identity and economic malaise, secessionist sentiment has skyrocketed to reach roughly half of the 7.5 million residents of Catalonia, a prosperous region that is proud of its Catalan language spoken along with Spanish.

Hundreds of pro-secession Catalans gathered in town squares across the region yesterday to put up posters in support of independence and to demand the release of the jailed separatists.

"People came today because we want to send a message to Europe that even if our president is still in Brussels and all our government now is in Madrid jailed, that the independence movement still didn't finish and people are still striving to get independence in a peaceful and democratic way," said 24-year-old protester Adria Ballester in Barcelona. MDT/AP

BASQUE SOLIDARITY

SEVERAL THOUSAND people marched in Spain's Basque Country to protest the Spanish government's takeover of Catalonia's affairs to impede the region's secession and to punish the politicians promoting it. The march held Saturday under steady rain in the city of Bilbao also was organized as a show of support for Catalan separatists who claim the region's

people have the right to self-determination. The Basque region in northern Spain has its own separatist movement, one with a decades-long history of armed conflict and violence. An armed separatist group, ETA, has been blamed for the deaths of more than 800 Spanish law enforcement officers, soldiers and civilians people. The group disarmed earlier this year.

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what's ON



FOREVER CRAZY

TIME: 8pm (Tuesday to Friday)

8pm & 11pm (Saturday to Sunday)

UNTIL: November 12, 2017

VENUE: The Parisian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP180, MOP380, MOP480, MOP680

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

CERAMICS AND SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHUI HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: November 19, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Macau Archives, No.91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Offbeat

SWEDES WATCH POSTAL THIEVES BOARD MOVING MAIL TRUCK FROM CAR

Sweden's postal service was puzzled when packages of electronics disappeared from its trucks on a road northeast of the country's second-largest city.

PostNord head of security Alexis Larsson says the service mounted concealed cameras inside the back of a postal truck in September to crack the thefts. The stolen items — mostly laptops, computers and smartphones — were estimated to be worth 2.5 million kronor (about USD300,000).

The cameras provided a live feed of the PostNord truck. That's how Larsson was able to watch as two men leapt onto the moving truck from the hood of a car traveling behind it, entered the cargo area and rummaged through the load.

The truck was going 80 kph when the thieves boarded it, he told The Associated Press Friday.

The idea to equip a mail truck with a roving eye came about after PostNord noticed valuables vanishing from trucks traveling between Stockholm and Goteborg. The vehicles' padlocks had been cut and removed, leading Larsson and his team to conclude the thefts must have happened while the trucks were in transit.

After the camera caught the daring duo that broke into the truck while it was in motion, police were contacted and four men — all non-Swedes — were arrested on Sept. 16, during an operation involving unmarked police cars.

Charges against the men, who range in age between 30 and 45, are expected later this month. Larsson said they are suspected of being part of an international gang.

"This is a modus operandi that has been seen elsewhere in Europe, but it has been hard to prove," said Larsson, a former military officer who has worked in corporate security for the past 10 years.

"I think this is good for the shipping industry as a whole. We have been able to see how it happens," he said.

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

02 Nov - 08 Nov



THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

2:15 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



FLATLINERS

ROOM 2

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

Director: Niels Arden Oplev

Starring: Ellen Page, Diego Luna, Nina Dobrev, James Norton

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110 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

LET ME EAT YOUR PANCREAS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Sho Tsukikawa

Starring: Minami Hamabe, Takumi Kitamura, Shun Oguri

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min

ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

ROOM 3

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

Director: Herman Yau

Starring: Louis Koon, Julian Cheung, Lam Ka Tung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 107 min

this day in history



1956 ALLIED FORCES TAKE CONTROL OF SUEZ

British and French troops have seized control of two major ports in Egypt's Canal Zone and declared a ceasefire. This evening, an official statement said Port Said was in allied hands and the town had suffered little damage.

There was a sense of relief at the United Nations headquarters in New York as the Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold announced the allies had accepted the terms of the UN ceasefire and had ordered troops to stop fighting. The Israelis have also announced a ceasefire in the Sinai.

At dawn today, French commandos sent over from Cyprus landed at Port Fuad and advanced south along the banks of the Suez Canal.

Yesterday, the British Royal Marines 3 Commando Brigade, were brought into Port Said by naval helicopter.

They captured Gamil airfield after what Sir Charles Keightley, the allied commander-in-chief described as "some very tough fighting" with Egyptian troops armed with guns, mortars and tanks.

Allied casualties are reported to be light with 30 members of the 16th Parachute Brigade injured. Some 70 Egyptians soldiers have been killed.

Last week, the Soviet leader Nikolai Bulganin proposed sending his troops to the Middle East to restore peace to the region.

The suggestion was rejected in a statement issued by the White House as "unthinkable" and "an obvious attempt to divert world attention from the Hungarian tragedy".

The next major task for the allies is to restore order to the two ports and to clear the entrance to the Suez Canal currently blocked by ships sunk by the Egyptians.

The canal was nationalized on 26 July by Egypt's President Abdel Nasser after the US turned down a previous offer to fund a new dam at Aswan.

The move outraged the canal's Anglo-French owners as well as the British Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, who has compared President Nasser to Adolf Hitler.

The present military action began on 29 October, when Israel invaded the Sinai.

British and French planes entered the fray two days later after President Nasser refused their offer of creating a buffer zone between Israel and Egypt. They began by destroying most of the Egyptian air force on the ground.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Abdel Nasser not only angered British and French companies by nationalising the Suez Canal, he also blockaded the Straits of Tiran - Israel's main outlet into the Red Sea.

So Britain and France joined forces with Israel to take control of Suez, although this alliance was denied for years afterwards.

US President Eisenhower and delegates at the United Nations feared the USSR would use the crisis as a way of gaining power in the Middle East and deflecting attention from its invasion of Hungary.

They put pressure on Britain, France and Israel to withdraw from Egypt and a UN emergency force took over.

Britain failed to get control of Suez and this, along with condemnation by Commonwealth leaders of military action not sanctioned by the UN, led to the resignation of Anthony Eden in January 1957.

His successor, Harold Macmillan, was quick to restore damaged relations with the United States.

Israel finally withdrew from Sinai in March 1957 after receiving assurances from the US that it would have access through the Straits of Tiran.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Every now and then, everything just falls into place with only the slimmest effort on your part.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take some time to nourish your spirit and celebrate where you are.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Let everything within you rise - your spirits, your secret desires, your kindness and your compassion.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The less good news is that you may have also earned the ire of someone who thinks they're in charge.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Something (or someone) has lit a metaphorical fire under you, and you're back to feeling like your old self.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you keep saying yes when you mean no, you might just end up driving yourself crazy - not to mention the people you love!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Some say that insanity is simply repeating the same action and hoping for different results.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The heart is a funny thing - like all the other muscles in your body, it needs a regular workout.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's time for you to do some serious cleaning. After all, if you've got too much junk cluttering up your available space, you can't add anything new.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Gossip is like fast food: it seems delicious before and during, but later on you just end up feeling disgusted with yourself.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The universe works in mysterious ways, so don't dismiss something or someone that's come into your life for no apparent reason.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Projecting certain traits onto others can be fun, but why not leave that to Hollywood for now? Let's face it - assuming pretty much anything about anyone just leads to more hassle than anything else.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

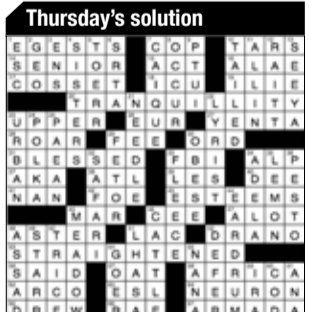
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- PD investigator; 4- Key letter; 9- Vacant; 14- Nasser's org.; 15- Atlas feature; 16- Kentucky college; 17- Shining brightly; 19- Child's building cube; 20- Kofi of the U.N.; 21- Moves with care; 23- Sister of Osiris; 24- Blot out; 27- Creamy-beige color; 30- Domesticated fowl collectively; 32- Cartoon Chihuahua; 33- Distribute; 37- Small antelope; 39- Shut in; 40- Flounder; 42- Cookwear; 43- Illness; 44- Feel bad about; 45- Teachers in habits; 48- Ollie's pal; 50- "Family Ties" mom; 51- Goddess of discord; 55- Join in wedlock; 57- This is only ___; 58- Animated; 60- Tolerable; 64- "The Maids" playwright; 65- Dictation taker; 66- Swiss river; 67- American symbol; 68- Hurl; 69- LBJ's successor;

DOWN: 1- One of the United Arab Emirates; 2- Merits; 3- Singer Lopez; 4- Brick baker; 5- Tropical cuckoo bird; 6- Largest book of the OT; 7- Writing instrument; 8- Bear witness; 9- Declines; 10- Free-for-all; 11- Enjoin; 12- Shamus; 13- Shaggy-haired wild ox; 18- Part of UNLV; 22- Lingus (Irish carrier); 24- Ages and ages; 25- Trick; 26- Malt beverage; 28- Puzzle in pictures; 29- Single things; 30- Lowly workers; 31- Egg parts; 33- Cherished ones; 34- Two cents, so to speak; 35- Uttering screams; 36- Arafat's org.; 38- Tin Tin; 40- Hastens; 41- Farm measure; 43- Dirty digs; 46- Suffix with cloth; 47- Most cunning; 49- Umbilicus; 51- Athenian vowel; 52- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 53- Religion of the Muslims; 54- Severe; 56- Nerve network; 57- Get one's ducks in ___; 58- Ripen; 59- Pasture used for grazing; 61- To the ___ degree; 62- Rosenkavalier; 63- Game with Skip cards;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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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Tales Azzoni, Madrid

FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

Alcacer shines in Messi's 600th game for Barcelona

ON the day Lionel Messi played his 600th match for Barcelona, Paco Alcacer got the job done for the Spanish league leaders, scoring in each half to beat Sevilla 2-1 on Saturday.

Barcelona's 10th win in 11 matches kept the Catalan club four points in front of Valencia, which defeated Leganes for its seventh straight league victory.

Messi attracted a little extra attention by becoming the third Barcelona player to reach the 600-match milestone, behind captain Andres Iniesta (643) and Xavi Hernandez (767).

Meanwhile, Alcacer, who hadn't been getting much playing time, scored the winner by redirecting a right-side cross by Ivan Rakitic on a rainy night at Camp Nou.

"We have to take advantage of the chances we get as a starter," Alcacer said. "I got my chance."

He opened the scoring from inside the area after a long pass by Luis Suarez from near the midfield line in the first half.

Alcacer had scored only once in five games this season. "I hope they will help give him more confidence," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said.

Guido Pizarro equalized for fifth-place Sevilla early in the second half with a firm header that bounced in front of the goal.

Messi, who made his club debut in 2004, had an average night by his standards. He had a goal called off for offside, and was uncommonly issued a yellow card in injury time.

Third-place Atletico Madrid, eight points off the lead, nee-



Paco Alcacer (right) celebrates after scoring with his teammate Lionel Messi

ded an injury-time goal to earn a win at Deportivo La Coruna 1-0.

Defending champion Real Madrid, 11 points behind Barcelona in fourth place, hosts Las Palmas today [Macau time].

LATE TRIUMPH

Atletico Madrid avoided another poor result with a hard-fought win against Deportivo

thanks to Thomas Partey's late free kick. Atletico's second win in nine matches ended a streak of three consecutive 1-1 draws in the league and Copa del Rey.

"We knew how to suffer," said Partey, who also scored on Tuesday in the draw with Qarabag in the Champions League. "In the end we deserved these three points. This win will give us a boost."

The victory at Riazor Stadium moved Atletico to four points behind Valencia.

It was the sixth loss for Deportivo, which stayed in 16th place.

WINNING STREAK

Valencia's attack keeps impressing, having outscored opponents 28-8 in its run of eight straight wins in all competitions.

"We are not getting too excited, we know it's difficult to maintain this," Valencia coach Marcelino Garcia said.

Dani Parejo scored the first against Leganes from a free kick, Rodrigo added a header in the second, and Santi Mina converted a late penalty.

Italian striker Simone Zaza, who entered the game at Mestalla Stadium with eight goals in six games, was visibly upset when he was substituted near the end. He refused to greet his teammates or coach Garcia and went straight into the locker room. Zaza has nine goals for the season, three fewer than league-leader Lionel Messi.

"He wanted to play 90 minutes and got upset, but we already talked about it," Garcia said.

Leganes, in its second season in the first division, had won three of its last five league games. It is eighth in the standings.

HOME VICTORY

Alaves beat Espanyol 1-0 for its first home win of the season.

Christian Santos scored the winner one minute into the match, ending Alaves' five-game losing streak at Mendizorrosa Stadium.

Espanyol played a man down from the 39th because of a red card to defender Mario Hermoso. AP

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

New Zealand at full strength for WCup qualifier vs Peru

ENGLISH Premier League stars Chris Wood and Winston Reid have been passed first to join New Zealand for the World Cup qualifying playoff against Peru next weekend.

Burnley striker Wood and West Ham defender Reid recently missed league matches — Wood with a hamstring strain and Reid a calf muscle injury — but both took a full part in their teams' most recent games. Reid played all 90 minutes in its 4-1 loss to Liverpool and Wood played 65 mi-

minutes in Burnley's 1-0 win over Southampton.

Ipswich defender Tommy Smith, Canada-based Deklan Wynne and A-League players Andrew Durante and Storm Roux have also been cleared of injuries, allowing New Zealand's England-born coach Anthony Hudson the rare luxury of being able to name a full-strength squad.

Hudson has recalled strikers Jeremy Brockie and Rory Fallon, who have been absent from the All Whites lineup for more than a year.

Fallon scored the winning goal in New Zealand's final qualifier against Bahrain in 2010, sending it to that year's World Cup in South Africa. He is playing for Dorchester Town in the Southern League Premier Division, the seventh tier of England football.

Brockie has only one goal in an international career which began 11 years ago. The first-leg match next Saturday will be his 50th for New Zealand.

New Zealand is the Oceania champion, ear-

ning the right to face Peru — which finished fifth in South American qualifying — over two legs, the winner of which will play at the World Cup in Russia. The second leg will be in the Peru capital Lima on Nov. 15.

Hudson has called up uncapped goalkeeper Max Crocombe from Salford City and recalled Clayton Lewis, who recently signed with Scunthorpe United. He said the focus of his selection was on quality and experience.

"The goal for our squad is simple," Hudson said.



Burnley's Chris Wood (left) chases the ball during an English Premier League football match

"We need to deliver the best performance of our campaign and if we do that then we have a good chance of qualifying for the World Cup.

"We have decided to bring back Rory [Fallon] and Jeremy [Brockie] for the quality they bring to

the team but also what they offer the team off the field. We know that experience is going to be a huge factor in this tie and the guys who have been there before can add a huge amount to this group and our chances of success." AP

opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



STOP MAKING SENSE

Once again the Legislative Assembly killed the trade union bill on the first reading... if we are allowed to borrow from an inspired spaghetti-western style book to address the ninth rejection of the proposal presented by the unrelenting labor lawmaker Pereira Coutinho. No doubt he will be at it again next year, but that is not the point - even though Coutinho will not be riding alone - if we are to believe the words of the Macau Workers Federation legislator Leong Sun lok on the AL plenary meeting rejection: regrettable!

The point is these tiring and tedious tactics no longer do the job to prevent the MSAR having a trade union bill that would enshrine a right duly contemplated in the article 27 of the Basic Law. seventeen years in a row the MSAR has pretended that there are no objective (we presume) conditions to fulfill the Basic Law. It appears we are challenging the scope of the (in)famous Keynes evaluation on the long term - here, almost in keeping with every word of the full quote: "But this long run is a misleading guide to current affairs. In the long run we are all dead".

Actually, the trade union bill rifle rounds on the AL floor are now exposing the shortcomings of the political system, and, taking from the inability to answer to objective circumstances in society, it is a sign of the breeding of popular politics in the Legislative Assembly. When 10 out of 14 directly-elected legislators, plus two from the indirectly-elected sector of functional constituencies, vote for the trade union bill, to be defeated by 15 votes, of which only two are from the directly-elected (or universal suffrage legitimized) plus the bulk of the functional legislators, and seven out of seven appointed lawmakers, we are dealing with a social and political divide. We are not considering the pair of abstaining votes since we cannot figure out the rationale for not taking a position on such a fundamental issue.

Anyway, among all the nay-sayers, only lawmaker and counsel Vong Hin Fai dared to justify his kill vote on the proposal, on grounds of "violation" of Macau's ordinary legal procedures; nothing other than the need to forward the bill to the Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs for consultation, and a more than vague one size fits all "consultation of Macau society". At first reading we spot here not one but two Catch 22.

Veteran lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, himself the driving force behind labor legislation in the MSAR, chose white gloves to respond to Vong Hin Fai. Coutinho kept himself from challenging the Kafkaian obligatory consultation of the CPCS, as an example of de facto erosion of the legislative initiative of the AL benchers, but cared to reply on the absence of "consultation of the Macau society" with reference to what happens with some of the bills coming from the government that completely lack any such consultation, and the government proposals the Legislative Assembly usually tables without much ado.

Pereira Coutinho, not only the veteran legislator but the seasoned and mature one, did forget to mention that despite no assessment of the above mentioned CPCS, Vong Hin Fai was able to affirm that he cannot see any traces of feasibility in the trade union law. Perhaps, Vong is trying to spare CPCS of undeserving matters.

Finally, one note to salute the decision to rebrand that anachronistic Latin Parade as International Parade, reflecting the zeitgeist and making peace with that strident nonsense disguising cultural resentment.

THE BUZZ US DRY TOWN MULLS ALLOWING ALCOHOL

The rural Utah city of Blanding, one of the last "dry" communities in the Mormon-majority state, will ask voters tomorrow whether to allow beer and wine sales in town for the first time in more than 80 years.

Even though most locals are Mormon and their faith teaches its members to avoid alcohol, some restaurant and hotel owners say the city of 3,500 people needs to accommodate drinkers and the influx of tourists.

"I think that we shouldn't be imposing our

standards on other people," said Sharon Guymon, a restaurant owner pushing for the change after years of customer complaints, including tourists sometimes storming out of her steakhouse after being denied a glass of wine.

Opponents of alcohol sales, like longtime resident and health department inspector Rick Meyer, said the prohibition is key to the city's character and public safety. "You don't see anybody drunk walking up and down the streets," Meyer said.

Crashed Russian helicopter raised from its Arctic seabed

Jan M. Olsen, Copenhagen

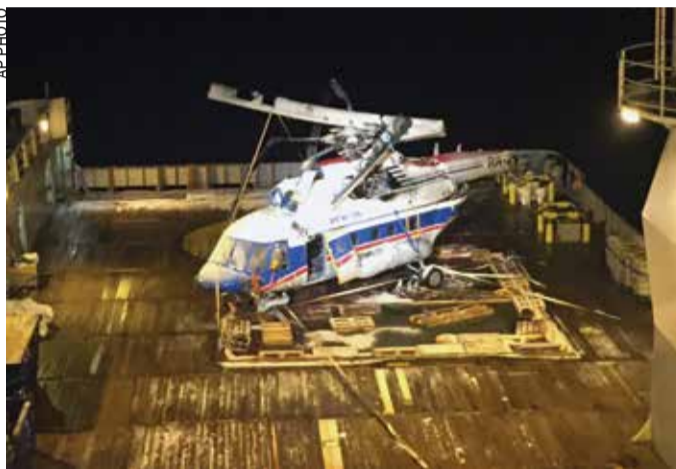
A Russian helicopter was raised Saturday from the seabed where it had crashed last month off Norway's Arctic Svalbard archipelago with eight people on board.

Norway's Accident Investigation Board says none of the missing people were inside the helicopter that went down Oct. 26 near the Svalbard settlement of Barentsburg. So far, only one body has been recovered from the Mi-8 helicopter's wreckage, which was located at a depth of nearly 210 meters.

The agency says the helicopter's cockpit voice recorder was found when the aircraft was brought to the surface early Saturday by a ship equipped with a sturdy crane. It will be sent to Moscow together with the GPS units from the helicopter for analysis.

It said the search continued for the helicopter's flight data recorder, which had not been found, and the missing crew and passengers.

The helicopter had been



carrying five crew members and three members from Russia's Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute.

The helicopter went down near Barentsburg, the archipelago's second-largest settlement, which is a Russian coal-mining town of about 500 people. It came from the Russian hamlet of Pyramiden, a largely abandoned mine that attracts some tourists to see its empty Soviet-era buildings.

"We continue to comb the coast with people from the police and the Red Cross," said Gunnar Johansen, a spokesman for the local governor.

Since the crash, more than 150 people have searched more than 200 kilometers of coastal areas - some places twice, according to the governor's website.

Under an international 1920 treaty, Norway has sovereignty over Svalbard, which is 800 kilometers north of its mainland. Other signatory countries have rights to exploit the archipelago's natural resources, including Russia.

Formerly known as Spitzbergen, the archipelago is known for stunning snow-covered mountains, fjords and glaciers. AP

National anthem law to be implemented in Macau, HK

CHINA'S top legislature on Saturday announced that it would implement the newly-adopted National Anthem Law in the Macau and Hong Kong SARs.

Effective October 1, the National Anthem Law will be included in Annex III of the Macau Basic Law, which lists national laws to be applied in the region. This is in accordance with the decisions of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) at a bi-monthly session, which closed on Saturday.

The NPC Standing Committee may add or delete laws listed in Annex III after consulting the governments and Basic Law committees of both SARs.

A Xinhua report cited Zhang Rongshun, deputy director of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, as stating that both SARs' committees and governments agreed that the change is in line with their basic laws.

"In recent years, incidents of disrespecting

the national anthem had occurred in Hong Kong, challenging the bottom line of the principle of "one country, two systems" and social morality, and triggering rage among Chinese including most Hong Kong residents," Zhang said.

"It is urgent and important to apply the National Anthem Law in Hong Kong, in a bid to prevent and handle such offences," he added.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	100-130 Bad
High Density Residential Area	100-130 Bad
Ambient	105-135 Bad

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA Scores of people have been arrested in the center of Moscow while trying to gather for an unauthorized protest demonstration called for by an extreme nationalist group. Yesterday's arrests came two days after the domestic security agency said it had arrested some group members on suspicion of planning to firebomb administrative buildings.

ITALY The United Nation's refugee agency says the bodies of 26 migrants who apparently drowned have arrived at the Italian port of Salerno as rescues intensify on the Mediterranean Sea.



SPAIN Several thousand people marched in Spain's Basque Country to protest the Spanish government's takeover of Catalonia's affairs to impede the region's secession and to punish the politicians promoting it. The Basque region in has its own separatist movement, one with a decades-long history of armed conflict and violence. More on p15

MEXICO A study in Mexico has found horse DNA in almost 10 percent of the ground beef and meat dishes served or sold in public markets, butcher shops, street stalls and taco stands in five Mexican cities.

VENEZUELA One of Venezuela's most prominent opposition leaders has sought refuge in the Chilean ambassador's residence after being targeted for arrest by the Supreme Court.