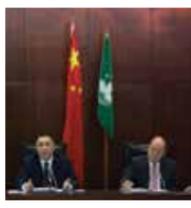




TRAVEL MEET IN MACAU
 Around 650 delegates are registered for the Congress of the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies

P3



POLICY ADDRESS PRACTICE IS OFTEN POINTLESS
 Local analysts are not expecting much from Chui Sai On's Policy Address presentation today

P4 ANALYSIS



BELLISSIMA ITALIA EVENT IN MACAU

P7 MDT REPORT



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Sulu Sou's AL mandate could be suspended

P3



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Powerful earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills over 400

P14

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES President Donald Trump is winding down his lengthy Asia trip with a summit and meetings with Pacific Rim allies, including his host in the Philippines who is overseeing a bloody drug war. More on p13

SOUTH CHINA SEA Southeast Asian leaders were to announce the start of negotiations with China on a so-called "Code of Conduct" in the disputed South China Sea in what they regard as a milestone but some experts dismiss as a non-starter. More on p11



MYANMAR Aung San Suu Kyi used to bristle at the refusal of Southeast Asian governments to collectively pressure Myanmar's generals into loosening their grip on power, but now she benefits from their silence. Meanwhile, rock singer Bob Geldof says he is returning his Freedom of the City of Dublin honor because it is also held by Myanmar leader. More on p16

More on backpage

4 Times
WTCC RETURNS TO GUIA
 GP SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

Residential loans down, commercial loans up

According to statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao, new approvals of residential mortgage loans (RMLs) decreased from the previous month, while those of commercial real estate loans (CRELs) rose in September. In that month, new RMLs approved by Macau banks dropped by 12.3 percent month-to-month to MOP2.8 billion. Of which, new RMLs to residents, accounting for 97.9 percent of the total, decreased by 11.6 percent to MOP2.8 billion. The non-resident component fell by 36.5 percent to MOP58.2 million. When compared with the same period in 2016, new approvals of RMLs decreased by 47.5 percent. New CRELs rose by 57.4 percent month-to-month to MOP4.4 billion; of which, new CRELs to residents, accounting for 99.9 percent of the total, surged by 60.9 percent to MOP4.4 billion. In contrast, new CRELs to non-residents fell by 91.8 percent from a higher comparison base in the previous month to MOP5.2 million. Compared to this time a year ago, new approvals of CRELs decreased by 51.1 percent.

Gov't extends building maintenance scheme

The government announced the extension, for another year, of the temporary subsidy scheme for maintenance of common facilities in low-rise buildings until February 9, 2019, according to a notice published yesterday in the official government gazette. This scheme is only applicable to buildings with a maximum of seven floors that have been issued licenses for more than 30 years. Since the scheme's launching in 2009 until July this year, a total of 2,405 cases were approved, corresponding to an official cost of more than MOP270 million.

All schools advised to offer integrated education

The Macau Special Education Study Association suggested the city should establish laws regarding integrated education in order to promote a more equitable education. The association recently revisited one survey it carried out back in 2015, which sought opinions from 309 teachers from 12 local schools that provided integrated education. Nearly 90 percent of the teachers agreed that schools not providing integrated education should offer such option. Eighty-eight percent of the interviewees believed that Macau should establish laws regarding integrated education. The association expressed its view that changes should be made to improve the current situation, in which only a few relatively less competitive schools are consistently receiving students with special needs.

Consultation of full minimum wage implementation begins

The government's recent legal consultation draft suggests that some employees, including domestic workers and handicapped citizens, should be excluded from the region's planned universal minimum wage.

Starting yesterday, and lasting until December 27, the SAR government is carrying out a public consultation on the legislation for full implementation of a minimum wage.

Based on the experience it gained with the implementation of a minimum wage for cleaning and security workers, the government has decided to extend the implementation of a minimum wage to all sectors in Macau.

However, the consultation draft excludes domestic helpers and workers with disabilities due to "the uniqueness" of the nature of domestic workers and also due to the fact that "the most important



PHOTO ARCHIVE

thing for disabled workers is to have "employment rights," according to Wong Chi Hong, director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

According to the consultation draft, 25,300 people working in Macau provide domestic help, and 24,200 of them are non-local employees.

Wong also noted that the government currently does not hold a fixed stance towards

which sectors should be excluded from the minimum wage scheme, and mentioned the possibility of some other sectors also being excluded from the implementation.

It has been suggested that the minimum wage should be composed of a basic payment and other periodic benefits such as food allowance and family allowance, but it increases in remuneration re-

sulting from the provision of extraordinary work, night or shift work, as well as the 13th month of salary or other periodic benefits of a similar nature should be excluded from the draft.

The consultation draft does not indicate the exact amount of the minimum wage, and, as explained by Wong Chi Hong, that is because the consultation focuses on the establishment of a minimum wage system, and, in turn, the exact minimum wage shall be considered based on the economy.

"We need to listen to the opinions," said Wong, who also noted that the affordability of employers and consumers should be considered, as well as the city's business environment.

The minimum wage for cleaning and security personnel working under property management companies has been set at MOP30 per hour. **JZ**

Julie Zhu

A four-year fake marriage, which was intended to help a mainland woman in gaining Macau citizenship, was exposed after the Public Security Police Force (PSP) arrested a local drug user, the PSP reported during yesterday's joint police press conference.

The local drug user, surnamed Liu, was spotted by PSP while carrying 6.74 grams of heroin and 7.31 grams of tablets on November 10.

Liu admitted to the police that he had purchased these drugs on the mainland at a cost of RMB3,000, and that the drugs were for both self-consumption and sales.

The PSP, while conducting Liu's identity check, found a family relationship certificate amongst the man's belongings. Liu explained to the police that he was carrying the certificate in order to face a

CRIME

Fake marriage revealed as police arrest drug user

potential police investigation.

At that moment, Liu confirmed that he had married his sister in law's older sister, who is a mainland woman, to help her get Macau citizenship. Liu and the mainland woman reached an agreement after she offered him MOP100,000.

However, during police investigation, the woman denied the illegitimacy of their marriage, and claimed that she and Liu even had a daughter (details were not given).

Liu, on the other hand, denied the legitimacy of their marriage, telling the police that he and the woman never met again after they had registered their marriage in

mainland China.

According to PSP, no concrete evidence of a true marital relationship could be found.

The woman is approximately 40 years old and still holds travel documents issued by mainland China.

In October, four casino dealers were found to have married mainland women for the same aforementioned purposes. In those ca-

ses, the dealers charged mainland women a certain amount of money for a marriage which could help them get Macau citizenship.

According to PSP, as seen in all cases, the married couples end up divorcing once the mainlanders obtain their Macau citizenship.

A maximum of eight years in prison can be applied to people who forge marriages.



PHOTO ARCHIVE

11 MAINLANDERS ARRESTED FOR COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

ELEVEN MAINLANDERS (five men and six women) have been arrested for making and using counterfeit currency, the Judiciary Police reported yesterday. The case was detected when a mainland man, surnamed Zhao, was caught in a casino trying to use counterfeit HKD for

gambling. After catching Zhao, the police then arrested another 10 men at an apartment located in Taipa. There, the police also seized 741 counterfeit HKD bills and currency printing machines. It is believed all suspects were involved in the production of counterfeit currencies.

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Commentators say Policy Address practice is often pointless

Lynzy Valles

WITH the Policy Address being conducted by the Chief Executive (CE) at the Legislative Assembly (AL) today, some political commentators and analysts in the region are not expecting much from Chui Sai On's speech, as there are still a number of promises that have not been implemented this year – and in previous years.

These experts in political science have been noting the many shortcomings and delays in implementing and assessing a number of policies that were announced during past Policy Address presentations.

In the CE's speech last year during the Policy Address for 2017, the city's leader admitted that a "few of the works are still lagging behind expectations of local residents" – and political analysts still argue the same.

Speaking to the Times, António Katchi, political commentator and lecturer at the Polytechnic Institute of Macau, expressed that he has low expectations for today's Policy Address.

Katchi noted that when there are new policies announced during the Policy Address, it is usually presented as an intention or a possibility that still needs technical development and public discussion – which "often comes to nothing".

The recently announced measures regarding bus fares, minimum wage, the national anthem and the future Municipal Institute are still under discussion, and the lecturer noted that it is unlikely the government will provide further details on such matters today.

"On the other hand, the government, by the very nature of this regime, apart from managing the administrative machinery inherited from the past, does not work for the benefit of the broad masses of the people, but the interests of the local oligarchy, the external capitalists, and China Communist Party's bureaucratic caste," Katchi explained.

According to him, the government shall only adopt positive measures for the public given a popular mobilization strong enough to compel it in that direction.

Thus, he still believed that it is quite unlikely the government will take any new or politically signifi-



Chui Sai On at the AL during last year's Policy Address presentation

cant steps for "the benefit of the people."

"In short, what matters in Macau is not what the government announces, but the social reaction it triggers," said Katchi.

Echoing the same sentiment, Sergio de Almeida Correia, lawyer and expert in political science, also criticized the current format of the Policy Address, arguing that the large document – which contains some 360 pages – is not an effective way to announce the government's plans for the region.

Due to the numerous amount of measures, political scientists contended that most of the plans and measures listed in the document are likely to never be accomplished.

"According to the law, this document for the CE should contain the most important ideas of the administration and of the CE for the next year," Correia argued.

"If you look at the Policy Address of last year, there are a lot of points that the government simply did not care about during the whole year of 2017. So it seems that there are a lot that doesn't make sense to have it included in the Policy Address," the expert added.

In the 2017 Policy Address, the document pledged to improve the region's democratic process, and improve legislations on the condition and the rights of workers and employees.

However, the plans have not yet been implemented as they have refused to appoint the head of the future Municipal Institute, and have refused to approve the law for trade unions.

Correia also recalled that the 2016 Policy Address noted that it would "fundamentally solve the problems of flooding in the low-lying area of the Inner Harbour," yet this also failed to be implemented.

"So there's a contradiction between practical terms in the Policy Address and what is submitted to the assembly," he said.

"The situation is worse this year than it was last year, at least in [terms of] the subjects which the population considers more important."

He also lamented that questions made to the CE and the five secretariats are not properly addressed as they are given the right to choose which questions to answer.

Meanwhile another political commentator, Eric Sautédé, recalled the failure of several agendas including the provision of updates of the 2010-2020 General Transport Policy.

Describing the Policy Address as one of the most dramatic failures, Sautédé noted that it "disappeared because it was just too blatantly showing the utter incompetence of the relevant departments."

Contrary to any form of proper policy-making agenda, which sets defined goals and targets, Sautédé criticized that it has been failing to implement its promises.

"The inclusion of the planning for Macau in the five-year plan designed in Beijing was seen as a game-changer last year, and yet it has become a good excuse just to wait for Beijing to decide on things," he said.

According to him, the plans will definitely include the phrase "new era," yet he questioned, "what is a new era without clearly defined goals and a realistic and sustainable scheduling?"

"My advice to the government: keep it simple (two to three goals per area of government) and deliver on these with perspectives over 1 year, 5 years and 10 years. Then you will rebuild the trust that was completely lost in the wake of Hato," he concluded.

Interviewed by the Times, sociologist Larry So and economist José Sales Marques listed their expectations regarding today's Policy Address, stressing its focus on Typhoon Hato's destruction.

Aside from the expected speech on the city's cooperation between the Central Government, both So and Sales Marques are expecting that speeches will also be made on concrete plans regarding flood prevention on the Inner Harbor and changes to be made in the prevention of natural disasters.

They stressed that measures to safeguard humans, public and private assets from environmental consequences, flooding prevention and management, and civic education, along with measures to integrate associations and other civic organizations in the government-led civic protection will likely be addressed.

According to So, the CE should strongly address this matter to gain the public's confidence in the government.

"He's got to be very strong with that kind of measures, [...] he's got to be very sure that he will implement these things, that we will not have any flooding, unless it's a very extraordinary typhoon," said So.

"The people in Macau do not have any faith towards the government. [...] I think this time it will have [to be] a different kind of strong statement that [expresses that] the government will be accountable and will have more transparency," the sociologist reiterated.

Regarding the heavily talked-about public housing, So also emphasized that the public is waiting on the government to announce how many public housing units will be available for the residents.

He also believed that the fair increase in salary amongst the civil servants will be announced today, while the controversial bus fare-hike for non-resident workers will not be pushed through.

SECRETARIES PRESENT POLICY GUIDELINES FROM NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 1

FOLLOWING THE Chief Executive presentation, the five Secretaries and their subordinates will present their 2018 policy guidelines to the Legislative Assembly. Sonia Chan, the Secretary for Administration and Justice will deliver the policy guidelines on November 21 and 22, followed by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, on

November 23 and 24. Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Security will present on November 27 and 28, followed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, on November 30 and December 1. The Policy Address presentations will be concluded by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, on December 5 and 6.

WHAT WILL CHUI SAY?

CHUI SAI On is expected to announce a 2.24 percent salary increase for civil servants and the maintenance of the values of the annual health vouchers today, more specifically MOP9,000 for permanent residents and

MOP5,400 for non-permanent residents. Changes are also expected in the judiciary system, with more judges being allocated to the appeal courts. More measures to support people and companies affected by Typhoon Hato are also expected.



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Review of the Government's Work in 2017

(TRANSLATED VERSION)



Coordination and Planning with a Top-down Approach

Established the Working Committee for the Development of "Belt and Road" Initiative

Signed the Framework Agreement on Deepening Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Cooperation in the Development of the Bay Area

Signed the Framework Agreement of Strategic Cooperation on Smart City Development with Alibaba Group

Established the Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements of the Response Mechanism to Major Disasters



Administration and Legal Affairs

Administrative Reform

Completed the first stage of functional restructuring

- restructured 15 public departments,
- abolished six public departments, restructured 11 consultative bodies, and
- dissolved three consultative bodies;

Commenced the second stage of functional restructuring

- involving 17 public departments responsible for economics and finance, public security, and transport, and public works



Added 20 new e-services towards the goal of full digitalisation

- Completed the first stage of the revision of the Civil Servant Ranking System;
- Conducted consultations on the establishment of a municipal organisation that is not an organ of political power; and
- Created an electronic application services platform for unified recruitment of civil servants.

Legal Work



Completed the sixth Legislative Assembly Election

- Commenced legislative procedures regarding the Maritime Area Management Framework Law;
- Completed drafting of the Consumer Rights Protection Law; and
- Completed the fifth induction training programme and practical session for judicial officers of courts and the Public Prosecutions Office.

Municipal Facilities

Completed and commenced operation of the new wholesale market; and



Completed construction of the new Patane Municipal Market Complex.



People's Livelihoods

Healthcare and Sports

Seven health centres in Macao awarded international accreditation by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

- Established the Children's Rehabilitation Services and Treatment Centre;
- Established the Technical Committee for Macao Academy of Medical Specialists;
- Resumed the Mong Ha Sports Pavilion construction project; and
- Commenced construction of the Athletes Training Centre.

Social Security



Law on Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System passed by the Legislative Assembly

- Commenced operation of the electronic declaration service for contributions to the Social Security Fund; and
- Continued implementing all welfare measures.

Public Security and Safety



Officially established the Tourism Police

- Established a database for monitoring dangerous goods;
- Implemented various emergency support and relief measures in response to Typhoon Hato, as at the end of October, 36 relief measures have been launched involving expenses of at least 1.757 billion patacas;
- Completed the Working Report of the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction's Expert Group on Assessing Typhoon Hato Damage in Macao;
- Planned to establish a special department for civil protection and emergency coordination;
- Broadened regional and international police cooperation, to jointly ensure safety; and
- Formulated the Guidelines on Hygiene Practices, to enhance food safety management.

Education and Youth



Law on Tertiary Education System passed by the Legislative Assembly

- Completed Macao's first joint university entrance examination;
- Launched an interest subsidy scheme for graduates of higher education institutions receiving language training;
- Announced the basic academic attainments for junior and senior secondary curriculum;
- Launched the third phase of the Continuing Education Development Plan; and
- Announced the interim report on Macao Youth Policy.

Culture and Tourism

- Announced the Macao Tourism Industry Development Master Plan;
- Launched the Visitor Statistics Databank;
- Macao successfully designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy;
- Commenced the second phase consultation on the Plan for Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Macao; and
- Commenced the assessments of the second batch of properties of cultural significance.

The Elderly and Underprivileged



Completed categorisation of about 10,000 poverty alleviation cases



Provided up to 10,000 subsidised places for child-care services

- Formulated the General Guidelines on Design and Construction of Accessibility Facilities in the Macao SAR; and
- Announced that the ninth day of the ninth month of the Lunar Calendar is Macao's Elderly Day.



Economic Development

Significant Economic Growth



Year-on-year economic growth of 10.9 percent in real terms recorded in the first half of 2017;



Year-on-year growth of 19.2 percent in gaming revenue during the first 10 months of 2017;



The proportion of local employees holding middle and senior management positions in gaming enterprises reached 87 percent; and



Unemployment rate maintained at two percent or below for the fifth consecutive year.

Support and Assistance for SMEs

- Optimised the SME Assistance Programme;
- Formulated the Guidelines of Business Operations for SMEs;
- Launched the Free Wi-Fi Street scheme; and
- Launched the e-commerce training programme for SMEs.

Securing Employment

- Commenced a consultation on the implementation of comprehensive minimum wage
- Prioritised the amendment of the Labour Relations Law regarding overlapping leave and paid paternity leave, and commenced a consultation on the amendment;
- Commenced a consultation on the formulation of regulations for part-time employment;
- Reviewed the enforcement of the Law on the Minimum Wage for Cleaning and Security Workers of the Property Management Industry; and
- Organised diverse training activities and encouraged skills certification.

Platform between China and PSCs

The headquarters of the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Cooperation and Development Fund was established in Macao

- The China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur and Innovation Exchange Centre opened and commenced operation;
- Prepared for the formation of the Federation of Entrepreneurs of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; and
- Perfecting the export credit insurance scheme.

Gaming Industry

Encouraged gaming operators to prioritise purchasing local products and services

- Encouraged gaming operators to invest more in non-gaming elements; and
- Commenced a consultation regarding the Regulation on the Conditions for Entering, Working and Gaming in Casinos.

Diversification

Completed the public service platform of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park

- According to the Annual Report on the Trade Fair Industry in Asia published by the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, Macao ranks as the most outstanding exhibition market in Asia in the past five years;
- Implemented and optimised the assistance scheme to support the convention and exhibition industry;
- Revised the framework regulations on the finance leasing business;
- Completed a study on Macao's industrial development;
- Announced the Statistical Benchmark System for Measuring Progress with Macao's Adequate Economic Diversification - Analysis Report 2016;
- Optimised the Young Entrepreneur Assistance Scheme; and
- Referred Macao young people to the Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre in mainland China.



Housing and Commuting

Transport



The number of motor vehicles recorded negative growth of three percent, indicating growth in vehicle numbers is effectively controlled

- Commenced operation of five new public car parks;
- 100 special taxis commenced service in phases;
- Completed construction of the walkway between Taipa Island Lakeside Garden and Taipa Houses; and
- Commenced operation of Taipa Ferry Terminal.

Land and Housing



Completed screening and selection of 3,800 families on the public housing waiting list

- Resumed acceptance of applications for public housing;
- Completed construction of Home-Ownership Scheme housing properties - Bairro da Ilha Verde Building, Cheng Tou Building, Fai Ieng Building, and Iat Fai Building;
- Resumed construction of the second phase of the Mong Ha Public Housing project;
- Urban planning conditions completed for the 7,000 public housing units in the phase one development of New Urban Zone A; and
- Commenced a feasibility study on the public housing project on Avenue Wai Long, Taipa.

Environmental Protection

Announced the Macao Solid Waste Resources Management Programme (2017-2026)

- Completed construction of the natural gas trunk pipe network in Coloane and Taipa;
- Shortened the intervals between vehicle inspections; and
- Implemented the new exhaust emissions standards for vehicles.

Urban Planning

- Commenced international tenders for the formulation of the Urban Development Master Plan;
- Completed the study on the Coordinated Development Plan of the Eastern District of Macao; and
- Deepened the planning of New Urban Zone B and Zone E1.

Macao moved from below the top ten to the fourth place on China's Liveability Competitiveness Index in 2016, announced by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.



Italian champions (center)



Pierazzuoli and Colette Lam

GASTRONOMY

The French get forked

Daniel Beittler

EQUIPPED with only knife and spoon, diners stared eagerly into a bowl of seafood broth at a 16th century wedding dinner reenactment last month, wondering how best to proceed without their pronged cutlery companion.

Organized by Hong Kong wine distributor Cottage Vineyards, in partnership with Bellissima Italia, the October 28 wedding dinner was an occasion for three Italians to set the record straight on their country's contribution to French culinary tradition. But what started as an exploration into the roots of Franco-Italian food culture soon turned into a night of lighthearted rivalry between the two cultural titans.

The dinner was a tribute to Caterina de' Medici and the culinary novelties she brought to France during and after her marriage to Henry, Duke of Orléans, on the same day, 484 years ago.

Hundreds of years later, the

contribution of Caterina has been enshrined in legend for the Italian people. The young bride is said to have insisted on bringing three of her own chefs to France, where in 1533 they debuted previously unknown ingredients such as basil and artichoke.

But Caterina is also credited with having introduced – or at least popularized – the use of the fork among the French aristocracy, in what would be described today as a feat of cultural diplomacy.

Resisted for centuries by most of Western Europe, the fork was unpopular for its resemblance to the Devil's pitchfork and later because of its effeminate reputation among the continent's ruling nobles. Something changed around the time of Caterina's ascension to the French throne.

To mark this revolution in dining etiquette, guests at last month's dinner were denied a fork for their seafood broth, just as the ancestors of the Duke of Orléans would have been.

During the Renaissance era, the cultural superpowers of France and Italy imprinted an indelible mark on western civilization, including notable contributions in art, architecture, literature, etiquette and culinary tradition.

Bellissima Italia is Italy's answer to the popular Le French May

A Renaissance woman herself, Caterina belonged to a powerful lineage of part political dynasty and part banking family that ruled and financed from its Tuscany heartlands. She was the great granddaughter of Lorenzo the Magnificent, the de facto ruler of Florence and one of the most enthusiastic patrons of the early Renaissance period.

Implicit in the tone of the dinner was the idea that at least some of

France's cultural heritage – particularly in the areas of dance, art and cuisine – can be traced back to Italy, and that much of this began with the legendary Caterina.

"Tonight is about strong characters and the how the character of Caterina de' Medici made history for Italy and France," said Sarah Negro, deputy consul general at the Consulate General of Italy in Hong Kong and Macau, who attended the dinner on behalf of Bellissima Italia. "Caterina was responsible for bringing cultural [items] to France, which later became a part of the cultural heritage of both countries."

Recalling Caterina's extensive contribution, Negro said that the young bride was not merely seeking home comforts in Paris, but understood the power of cuisine as an instrument of diplomacy.

"This was a strategic wedding for political reasons between two very powerful countries in Europe at that time, [...] but it was also a cultural marriage," she said.

An initiative dedicated to the promotion of Italian culture and lifestyle, Bellissima Italia is Italy's answer to the popular Le French May. Though it includes some 50 events spread across the two Special Administrative Regions, only one this year was held in Macau.

"I am proud to say that, for once, we successfully copied the French," joked the consular official, comparing the young Italian initiative with 25-year-old Le French May.

Negro was joined by two other champions of Italian culture, Giuseppe D'Angelo – a chef formerly based in Moscow and Singapore but now working in Hong Kong – and jovial winemaker Dario Pierazzuoli.

Pierazzuoli said that the evening was not only about commemorating Caterina's influence on French culinary culture, but also about a plate of cabernet grapes

that she received as a gift from the French court.

He was at the dinner to promote the wines of his two Tuscany-based estates, Tenuta Cantagallo and Le Farnete, which are being exclusively distributed in Hong Kong and Macau by Cottage Vineyards. Among them was a Vin Santo del Chianti Montalbano, an amber-gold, traditional Italian dessert wine, known as the Italian "wine of hospitality."

"Vin Santo [meaning Holy Wine] is considered the wine of hospitality [...] because in the past each family only produced a very small amount and it was offered only to the best of friends."

Here too the Medici influence can still be felt in Tuscany. It was in this central region of Italy that the world's first law to protect quality wine-growing areas was implemented in 1716, decreeing "one and only one bottle of wine per vine."

The many-coursed, long evening of copious food and wine was rounded by operatic performances by Colette Lam and the good-natured jesting of Pierazzuoli.

As the forks were finally distributed to the dinner guests – just in time for a plate of Italian pasta – the winemaker instructed, "We can use the fork to eat the pasta and the knife if somebody doesn't like the wine."

A contested legend

THE early Renaissance period was a time of cultural bloom for Italy and so it is perhaps no surprise that it would fall to a Florentino to introduce the fork to France. However, while there is little doubt that the French nobility were greatly influenced by their Italian neighbors, there is little evidence to show Caterina was personally responsible for introducing this culinary novelty.

Some historians suggest that the French started using the fork decades earlier, after Charles VIII's invasion of the Italian peninsula in the 1490s, and that Caterina was more likely to have

promoted its acceptance in France, rather than introduce it.

Then, last year, the controversy took an unusual turn when a deputy minister of Poland claimed that it was in fact the Polish who "taught the French how to use a fork".

What is somewhat less controversial is its origin on the European continent. With its roots either in Persia or Byzantium, the instrument is thought to have spread across the Mediterranean to the Italian trading states, before its gradual and begrudging adoption in Northern Europe.

FLORENTINE STYLE

CATERINA DE' Medici is said to have had an insatiable fondness for spinach and her trusted Tuscan chefs were instructed to include it in her meals whenever possible. Her love for spinach became famous among the French and they subsequently dubbed any dish containing spinach as 'Florentine style'. Today, dishes such as eggs Florentine and quiche Florentine still bear the title inspired by Caterina.

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Tokyo pushes back on 'bizarre' death tax that deters expats

Gareth Allan, Yuki Hagiwara

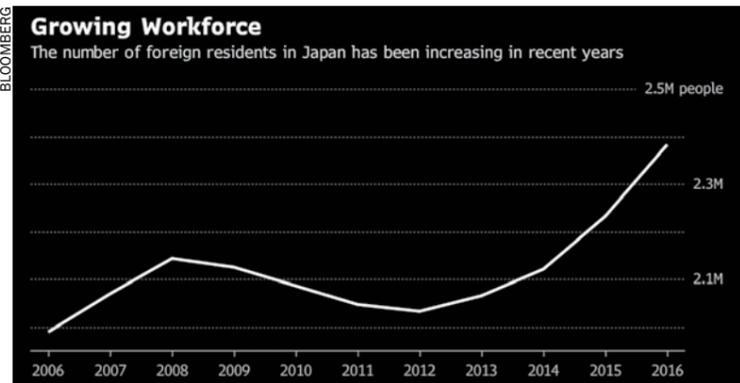
CONSIDERING a work stint in Japan? You'd better make it short, and you'd better stay alive.

That's because the government subjects long-term foreign residents to inheritance tax of up to 55 percent on their worldwide assets - meaning heirs could be forced to give up their family homes or businesses, even if they've never set foot in Japan.

Now, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is trying to ease the impact of the rule as part of her bid to make the city a global financial hub. Her government released a report last Friday urging the rule to be reviewed, together with other measures aimed at attracting asset managers to the Japanese capital instead of rival centers such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Yet there's no guarantee that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government will heed Koike's call on the tax, especially since it only just amended the law in April.

"Japan doesn't seem to want long-term residents anymore," said Paul Hunter, secretary ge-



neral of the Tokyo-based International Bankers Association, which represents about 50 overseas financial institutions and has been lobbying against the rule. "Why would you do that at a time when you're doing Tokyo as an international financial center?"

When the inheritance tax was introduced in 2013 - mainly to target Japanese nationals who give up their citizenship to avoid paying taxes on their overseas assets - it potentially applied even to short-term foreign residents. In April, the rule was tweaked to restrict it to people who have lived in Japan for more than 10 years. At the same time, the government added a "tail" clause

that allows tax authorities to claim a former resident's global assets even if he or she dies within five years of leaving Japan.

Expatriates "can't die in this country," Shigesuke Kashiwagi, Japan head of U.K. investment company Schroders Plc, told Koike in June at a meeting of a panel formed last year to advise the local government on luring financial firms to Tokyo.

Not only will the tax prompt talented people to hesitate about coming to Japan, it could also force financial-industry veterans already living there to leave, according to Hunter. Ten years is "not a long time out of a working career" and the tail provision is "really, really bizarre," he said.

Heirs could be forced to give up their family homes or businesses, even if they've never set foot in Japan

Finance Ministry official Kei-chiro Inui said the amendment eases the impact on short-term foreign residents. "We will monitor the situation with the new framework and consider any revisions if necessary," said Inui, a deputy director in the tax bureau.

Koike is seeking to attract asset managers who are keen to handle more of Japanese households' \$16 trillion of wealth. Yet her goal faces challenges beyond just the estate levy. Japan's income taxes are higher than those in Hong Kong and Singapore, and its labor laws remain inflexible. Her panel also identified low English proficiency and cumbersome bureaucracy as weaknesses.

In last week's report, the committee recommended lowering corporate tax rates for asset managers and financial-technology firms located in special economic zones.

It also announced a 30 billion yen (USD260 million) fund to help fledgling asset managers that want to start handling money for investors and build a track record. The local government will set up meetings between foreign funds and domestic institutional investors.

The inheritance tax issue may also create a strain on a labor market where skills are in short supply due to Japan's shrinking population, according to Toshihiro Nagahama, chief economist at Dai-Ichi Life Research Institute Inc. Imposing the levy "runs counter to government policy" of trying to secure skilled workers through measures such as easing conditions for permanent residence, he said.

Matt Sweeny, a Bain & Co. consultant who took up his post in Tokyo about two years ago, learned about the tax liability at a seminar soon after he arrived. "It was a shock," he said. "It limits my career options."

Sweeny, who owns assets outside of Japan including real estate, has already consulted with his tax adviser. "I'll keep working in Japan for now," he said. "But I'll need to consider whether or not to stay here before I go over the limit." **Bloomberg**

Iron ore wars erupt as Hong Kong picks fight with Singapore

Jasmine Ng, Krystal Chia

CALL it the iron ore wars. Two of Asia's financial heavyweights are going head-to-head as Hong Kong Exchange & Clearing Ltd. starts futures for a commodity that's seen extraordinary volatility and been a popular way to bet on China, challenging Singapore Exchange Ltd.'s leading position.

HKEX began trading the futures yesterday, pitting the new dollar-denominated contract against those offered by SGX, which introduced its first swap contracts in 2009 and has become the world's largest clearer of the derivatives. To add firepower to the opening salvo, HKEX has promised newcomers all trading fees for the new product will be waived for six months.

Iron ore sits at the heart

of the global economy, especially in largest user China, and the commodity has attracted growing investor interest in recent years. The derivatives are used by miners and mills for hedging, as well as traders and funds, and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. found in an 2016 study that it was SGX's product that probably swayed the global market, rather than the more restricted offering on the mainland's Dalian Commodity Exchange. Given the lead, the HKEX may find it a hard task to break out of its beachhead.

"They're going up against a more established offshore contract in Singapore," said Hui Heng Tan, an analyst at Marex Spectron. "It's too early to gauge whether the new contract will gain much traction. Some of that will depend on the terms they're able to offer, such as trading

fees and margins, as well as the liquidity of the contracts."

The shakeup comes after the commodity's been on wild ride. In 2013, spot ore fetched more than \$100 a dry metric ton. By 2015 it fell below \$40 as supplies swelled and investors expected China's appetite to wane. This year, it's gyrated between almost \$95 and close to \$50, and last was at \$62.19, with China's environmental clampdown in focus along with booming mine output.

That's been a boon for SGX, where trading of iron ore derivatives jumped 59 percent last year. Among other global exchanges, CME Group Inc. and Intercontinental Exchange Inc. also offer products tracking the raw material. While HKEX has been building up its presence in metals - buying up the iconic London Metal Exchan-

ge - the new offering is its first ferrous product.

"HKEX believes this contract is going to be complementary," a spokesman told Bloomberg. "With very active onshore iron ore futures on the Dalian Commodity Exchange and the heavy weighting of China in the trading of iron ore and iron ore derivatives, HKEX believes a transparent offshore iron ore futures will allow more efficient and timely price interaction among the markets."

The Hong Kong contract will be settled in cash against The Steel Index Ltd. price, which refers to ore with 62 percent content delivered to China. Trading will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. before a second session from 5:15 p.m. to 1 a.m. The SGX product is priced against the same spot index, and trades from 7:25 a.m. to



8 p.m., with an overnight session that runs through 4:45 a.m.

Beyond trading hours, there are other differences. Hong Kong's new futures are mostly traded electronically, unlike the SGX AsiaClear contracts, where more than 85 percent of transactions are done over-the-counter, or OTC, according to the Singapore bourse.

"If you look at volumes on the SGX today, the majority of that is coming from the OTC community - meaning buyers and sellers who execute the transaction through

the broking community," William Chin, SGX head of commodities, said in an interview. "Brokers are extremely helpful when it comes to reaching out to clients in marketing the contract."

Chin says while any exchange launch helps to improve visibility of existing products, it will be important for the new contract to create value, such as bringing new trading participants on board. "The ability to do that will be value-accretive, rather than looking at ways to shift the pie," he said. **Bloomberg**

US colleges draw fewer Chinese, foreign students but avoid crisis so far

INTERNATIONAL enrollments at U.S. colleges have fared better than expected this year, but many schools still fear the country's political climate, according to a national survey.

The Institute of International Education reported yesterday that the number of new students coming from abroad fell by an average of 7 percent at nearly 500 colleges and universities surveyed this fall, but said the results from school to school are more mixed than many had feared.

Students from China and India made up nearly half of all international students last year, reaching a combined 530,000. Their numbers have continued to grow, but at a much slower rate than in previous years. Iran, the only nation in President Donald Trump's travel ban with heavy numbers of students in the U.S., sent 12,600 students here last year, an increase of about 3 percent.

Many schools nevertheless have concerns about the U.S. political climate and fear that it could drive students away.

While 45 percent of schools saw declines in international enrollment, nearly a third said their numbers have increased since last year, the survey found. The remaining 24 percent said they



saw no change.

"It's definitely a wake-up call, but by no means is it a crisis, and it does not come anywhere close to the precipitous decline and plummeting of numbers that the entire sector had been predicting," said Rajika Bhandari, head of research, policy and practice for the nonprofit group based in New York.

The White House's proposed travel bans and separate reports of violence against immigrants had fueled fears of a sharp decline in students coming from abroad. The anxiety spurred

many campuses to boost their recruiting efforts, while some launched marketing campaigns meant to make foreign students feel welcome.

Despite the improved outlook, the survey found that half of the 500 colleges still worry the nation's atmosphere could discourage potential students, and 20 percent reported that the climate has already led some students to leave.

"We don't know what the trends are going to look like for next year, but for sure there are concerns," Bhandari said.

The survey offers only a preview of this year's trends and was released alongside the institute's annual "Open Doors" report, which tracks international students at 3,000 U.S. schools but lags a year behind.

The broader survey covering the last school year found that U.S. colleges hosted a record number of international students but also saw new enrollment fall 3 percent since 2015, the first decrease in at least six years.

That downturn took place before the presidential election and can be blamed on factors inclu-

ding the rising cost of tuition in the U.S., growing competition from schools in other countries, and political factors outside the United States, the institute's leaders said.

Governments in Brazil and Saudi Arabia, for example, have slashed national programs that helped students study abroad in recent years, fueling a combined 23-percent drop in students from those countries last year.

"So many campuses are used to having very large numbers of Brazilians, very large numbers of Saudis, and now they need to think more about diversification," said Allan Goodman, president of the institute. "You can't count on that steady stream any longer."

The top states for international students remained unchanged last year, with California topping the list followed by New York, Texas and Massachusetts.

The report found that the number of Americans studying abroad grew by about 4 percent, marking another year of slow but steady growth. Their top destinations were the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and France.

About 325,000 Americans studied abroad last year, while nearly 1.1 million international students came to colleges here. **AP**

ANALYSIS

Singles' Day needs a Grinch. Just don't tell advertisers

AS far as manufactured Annual celebrations are concerned, Singles' Day is up there with the best of them in terms of commercialization and irrelevance.

That hasn't stopped media and analysts covering the event as though it were the Super Bowl of online shopping. At least that other over-hyped yearly occurrence, Valentine's Day, has some semblance of historical relevance (he was a saint).

For those grappling to tie Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s 24-hour shopping bonanza to actual revenue at the Chinese e-commerce company, don't bother. Global merchandise volume for its payments provider Alipay is the headline figure flashed onto giant screens and banded about in press releases. I've already discussed how useless GMV [gross merchandise value] is as a financial metric, and

Alibaba later agreed by dropping it from financial reports.

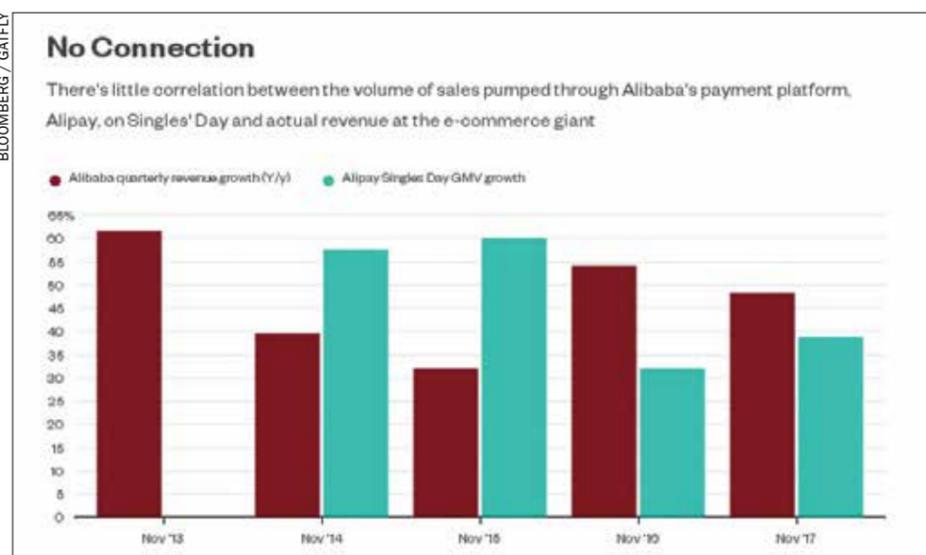
Comparing Singles' Day data with Alibaba revenue proves this point.

The 60 percent growth in Alipay Singles' Day GMV back in 2015 stands as a record to this day. Yet, Alibaba's revenue for the fiscal third quarter climbed just 32 percent that year, the slowest pace in the past five years. The reverse is also true: 54 percent sales growth last year, the second fastest since 2013, occurred when Singles' Day GMV climbed a mere 32 percent, the slowest rate of the past four years.

Shopping via cellphones, called Mobile GMV in Alibaba parlance, is another fascinating data point: More than 90 percent of Singles' Day transactions are now done on the go. Alibaba loves trotting out this metric every year, and we love reading it as if it means a lot. But it doesn't.

If there's anything to be said for mobile-commerce data, it's that providing consumers an experience that removes friction from the shopping process is more likely to result in a completed sale. Generally, that's a good thing (for shareholders, maybe not consumers). No longer needing a customer to sit down and boot up a PC to make a purchase tends to boost transaction volumes. A more mobile user base has also resulted in better average revenue per user, as I discussed back in August, though we need to remember that ARPU [average revenue per user] and GMV are not the same.

This difference is crucial, and again speaks to the importance of mobile and the irrelevance of GMV, because despite its label as being China's largest e-commerce giant, Alibaba actually makes most of its revenue from adverti-



sing. Just 18 percent of its China commerce revenue last quarter came from commissions. Almost 50 percent flowed from what it calls customer management, which refers to an ad-driven division that gets paid by luring would-be shoppers to click on a client's promo.

Furthermore, customer

-management revenue is climbing faster than commissions as Alibaba leverages its data and technology platforms, especially on mobile.

That's why for all its transaction data, Singles' Day isn't about investors. It's purely marketing hype designed to convince e-commerce merchants to jump

on board and buy ads, lest they miss out. By publicizing ever bigger (but probably irrelevant) GMV numbers, Alibaba isn't selling itself to shoppers or shareholders. It's pitching to sellers who need to be convinced the pie is getting bigger and they should pay more to get a slice. **Bloomberg /Gadfly**

AP PHOTO



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Trump offers to mediate in protracted territorial feud

Jim Gomez, Manila

PRESIDENT Donald Trump offered to mediate in the South China Sea disputes, while his Chinese counterpart played down concerns over Beijing's military buildup and the prospects of war in the contested waters.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke separately about the territorial rifts ahead of an annual summit of Southeast Asian nations that also includes the U.S., China and other global players. The disputes are expected to get the spotlight at the summit, along with the North Korean nuclear threat and terrorism.

The long-simmering disputes are one issue where the two major powers' influence, focus and military might have been gauged, with the U.S. and China both calling for a peaceful resolution but taking contrasting positions in most other aspects of the conflict.

Unlike China, the U.S. is not a claimant to the potentially oil-rich and busy waters, but it has declared that it has a national interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of the disputes. Several nations back an active American military presence in the region to serve as a coun-

terweight to China's increasingly assertive actions, including the construction of seven man-made islands equipped with military installations.

"I'm a very good mediator and arbitrator," Trump said at a news conference with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, before flying to Mani-

la for the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Trump's offer faces major obstacles. For one, China has steadfastly opposed what it calls U.S. meddling in the disputes and has balked at the U.S. Navy's incursions into what Beijing considers its territorial waters in the South

China Sea.

The Philippines, the head of ASEAN's rotational chairmanship, said member states of the 10-nation regional bloc have to consult each other but thanked Trump for the offer.

"He is the master of the art of the deal but, of course, the claimant countries have to answer as a group or indi-

vidually [...] mediation involves all the claimants and nonclaimants," Philippine Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano told reporters.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Xi, during a meeting in Danang, Vietnam, where they attended the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum this past week, assured him of China's peaceful intentions in the strategic waterway, where Beijing, the Philippines, Vietnam and three other governments have overlapping claims.

When he raised concerns over China's increasing military capability in the South China Sea, Duterte said Xi replied, "No, it's nothing."

"He acknowledged that war cannot be promoted by anybody, (that) it would only mean destruction for all of us," Duterte told reporters after flying back to Manila. "He knows that if he goes to war, everything will blow up."

The Chinese leader, however, would not back down on Beijing's territorial claim, Duterte said, and justified his decision not to immediately demand Chinese compliance with a ruling by a U.N.-linked tribunal that invalidated China's sweeping claims in the South China Sea on historical grounds.

China has dismissed that ruling as a "sham" and did not participate in the arbitration case that the Philippines filed during the administration of Duterte's predecessor. Duterte took steps to thaw frosty relations with China after he won the presidency last year.

"If you go to the negotiating table and you start with the statement that I am here to claim validity of our ownership, you're wasting your time. They will not talk about it," Duterte said of China. **AP**

Southeast Asia nations to start talks with China on sea code

SOUTHEAST Asian leaders were to announce the start of negotiations with China on a so-called "Code of Conduct" in the disputed South China Sea in what they regard as a milestone but some experts dismiss as a non-starter.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations also will sign an accord aiming to protect migrant workers from the poverty-wracked region during a two-day summit that opened yesterday in Manila, according to a draft of a post-summit communique seen by The Associated Press.

The ASEAN leaders also will reiterate their "grave concern" over North Korea's development of "weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and chemical weapons, and ballistic missile technologies," and press their strong condemnation of terrorism in the communique.

A draft a joint statement to be issued later in the day after ASEAN's summit with China and seen by the AP welcomes

the adoption by their foreign ministers in August of the framework of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea as "an important milestone." It announces that both sides have agreed to officially start negotiations on the code.

The statement expresses trust "that we will continue this positive momentum and work towards a substantive and effective COC" and looks forward to the code's early conclusion.

Greg Poling, a Washington-based South China Sea expert, however, said, "The idea that this is going to lead to a binding way to manage things like fisheries depletion and oil and gas development or coast guard cooperation is a fantasy, and Beijing knows that."

"It took 15 years to negotiate a one-page outline that just restated the exact same thing they're going to do with DOC," he said, referring to the nonbinding Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South



From left, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodia Prime Minister Hun Sen, Indonesia President Joko Widodo and Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, join hands during a family photo before the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila

China Sea signed in 2002. "If you look at the framework agreement signed earlier this year, there's nothing there."

China has been opposed to a legally binding code, and Southeast Asian diplomats said even ASEAN is not unanimous in seeking a legally binding set of rules. **AP**

KOREAN CRISIS

Seoul: North fire at soldier trying to defect to South

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

NORTH Korean soldiers shot at and wounded a fellow soldier who was crossing a jointly controlled area at the heavily guarded border to defect to South Korea yesterday, the South's military said.

North Korean soldiers have occasionally defected to South Korea across the border. But it's rare for a North Korean soldier to defect via the Joint Security Area, where border guards of the rival Koreas stand facing each other just meters away, and be shot by fellow North Korean soldiers.

The soldier bolted from a guard post at the northern side of Panmunjom village in the Joint Security Area to the southern side of the village, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. He was shot in the shoulder and elbow and was taken to a South Korean hospital, the South's Defense Ministry said. It wasn't immediately known



North Korean soldiers stand on steps overlooking the border village of Panmunjom, North Korea

how serious the soldier's injuries were or why he decided to defect.

South Korean troops found the injured soldier south of the border after hearing sounds of gunfire, a South Korean Defense Ministry official said, requesting anonymity, citing department rules. South Korean troops didn't fire at the North, he said.

The defection came at a time of heightened tension over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and could escalate animosities between the rival countries. North Korea has typically accused South Korea of enticing its citizens to defect, something the South denies.

About 30,000 North Koreans

have defected to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, but most travel through China.

Panmunjom, once an obscure farming village inside the 4-kilometer-wide Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas, is where an armistice was signed to pause the Korean War. Jointly

controlled by the American-led U.N. Command and North Korea, the DMZ is guarded on both sides by hundreds of thousands of combat-ready troops, razor-wire fences and tank traps. More than a million mines are believed to be buried inside the zone.

American presidents often visit Panmunjom and other DMZ areas during their trips to South Korea to reaffirm their security commitment to the South. President Donald Trump planned to visit the DMZ to underscore his stance against North Korea's nuclear program when he came to South Korea last week as part of an Asian tour, but his plans were thwarted by heavy fog that prevented his helicopter from landing at the border area.

At Panmunjom, North Korean soldiers wearing lapel pins with the images of late North Korean leaders often use binoculars to monitor visitors from the South. They stand only several meters away from tall South Korean soldiers wearing aviator sunglasses standing motionless like statues. This makes the area a popular stop for visitors from both sides.

Areas around Panmunjom were the site of bloodshed and defection attempts by North Koreans in the past, but there have been no such incidents in recent years. **AP**

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Jonathan Lemire & Jill Colvin,
Manila

HIS lengthy Asia trip down to its final days, President Donald Trump once more pushed for equitable trade deals and opted to publicly prioritize strategic interests over human rights, declining to shine a spotlight on the violent drug war overseen by his Philippine host.

Trump repeatedly praised Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, pointedly calling him by his first name, sharing a joke about the media and even complimenting Manila's weather. What he did not do was what many predecessors have done before: highlight human rights abuses while overseas.

Duterte has overseen a bloody drug war that has featured extrajudicial killings and has boasted about killing people with his own hands. But during brief remarks to reporters, Trump said he and Duterte have "had a great relationship" but avoided questions on whether he'd raise human rights issues.

The White House later said the two leaders discussed the Islamic State, illegal drugs and trade during the 40 minute meeting. Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said human rights came up "briefly" in the context of the Philippines' fight against illegal drugs. She did not say if Trump was critical of Duterte's program.

That appeared to conflict with the Philippines' version of the meeting. Harry Roque, a spokesman for Duterte, said "there was no mention of human rights. There was no mention of extrajudicial killings. There was only a rather lengthy discussion of the Philippine war on drugs with President Duterte doing most of the explaining."

On the sidelines of an international summit, Trump looked to strengthen ties with Pacific Rim allies, aiming to strike bilateral, rather than multinational trade agreements, and increase pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. He met with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday and touted their two nations "deeper and more comprehensive" ties, looking to strengthen a relationship that is vital to the U.S. vision of an Indo-Pacific region that attempts to de-emphasize China's influence.

He jointly met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, with whom he had a contentious phone call last winter, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who hosted the president in Tokyo earlier in the trip. Trump raved about his accomplishments on his five-nation journey, including on trade and on North Korea, which the White House has suggested may be designated a state sponsor of terror.

Trump said he would wait until his return to Washington on Wednesday to elaborate with a "major statement" on those two topi-

AP PHOTO



First name basis: Donald (Trump) and Rodrigo (Duterte)

PHILIPPINES

Trump embraces Duterte as Asia trip winds down

cs but hinted at progress while in Manila.

"We've made some very big steps with regard to trade — far bigger than anything you know," Trump told reporters, touting business deals forged between U.S. and foreign companies.

"We've made a lot of big progress on trade. We have deficits with almost everybody. Those deficits are going to be cut very quickly and very substantially," Trump said.

"Except us," Turnbull chimed in, to laughs.

■ The two leaders discussed the IS, illegal drugs and trade during the 40 minute meeting

"You're the only one," Trump responded. Trump also the trip had been "very fruitful" for the United States and pointed to the warm welcomes he had received in capitals like Tokyo, Seoul and Beijing.

"It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever

received," Trump said. "And that really is a sigh of respect, perhaps for me a little, but really proud of that."

Trump was slated to have dinner with Turnbull last night. But his interactions with Duterte drew the most scrutiny.

Advisers have said that while Trump was always unlikely to publicly chastise the Philippine president, he may offer criticisms behind closed doors. Trump would plan to hold his tongue in public in order not to embarrass Duterte, whom he is urging to help pressure North Korea and fight terrorism, and to avoid pushing him into the arms of China. Duterte has seemed less committed to the strategic partnership with the U.S.

Duterte's war on drugs has alarmed human rights advocates around the world who say it has allowed police officers and vigilantes to ignore due process and to take justice into their own hands. Government officials estimate that well over 3,000 people, mostly drug users and dealers, have died in the ongoing crackdown. Human rights groups believe the victim total is far higher, perhaps closer to 9,000.

The opening ceremonies of the Association for Southeast Asian Nations conference began with

pageantry, including a group photo of the leaders and the summit's traditional handshake. That cross-body handshake, during which each leader shakes the opposite hands of those next to him or her, briefly baffled Trump, who then laughed as he figured out where to place his arms.

But swirling questions about Russia followed Trump halfway across the globe.

He tried to have it both ways on the issue of Russian interference in last year's presidential race, saying he believes both the U.S. intelligence agencies when they say Russia meddled and Putin's sincerity in claiming that his

country did not.

"I believe that he feels that he and Russia did not meddle in the election," Trump said Sunday in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"As to whether I believe it, I'm with our agencies," Trump said. "As currently led by fine people, I believe very much in our intelligence agencies."

But just a day earlier, he had lashed out at the former heads of the U.S. intelligence agencies, dismissing them as "political hacks" and claiming there were plenty of reasons to be suspicious of their findings that Russia meddled to help Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. AP

AP PHOTO



Protesters are dispersed with water cannon as they protest the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump as well as the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits yesterday



Destroyed buildings and a car are seen after an earthquake at the city of Sarpol-e-Zahab in western Iran

Powerful earthquake on Iran-Iraq border kills over 400

Nasser Karimi And Amir Vahdat, Tehran

A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake that struck the Iraq-Iran border region killed over 400 people in both countries, sent people fleeing their homes into the night and was felt as far west as the Mediterranean coast, authorities reported yesterday.

Iran's western Kermanshah province bore the brunt of the temblor, with Iran's state-run news agency reporting the quake killed 328 people in the country. State television said some 3,950 were injured. The area is a rural, mountainous region where residents rely mainly on farming to make a living.

In Iraq, the earthquake killed at least seven people and injured 535 there, all in the country's northern, semiautonomous Kurdish region, according to Iraq's Interior Ministry.

The magnitude 7.3 quake was centered 31 kilometers outside the eastern Iraqi city of Halabja, according to the most recent measurements from the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck at a depth of 23.2 kilometers, a shallow depth that can have broader damage. Magnitude 7 earthquakes on their own are capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Iranian social media and news agencies showed images and videos of people fleeing their homes into the night. More than

100 aftershocks followed.

The quake's worst damage appeared to be in the town of Sarpol-e-Zahab in Kermanshah province, which sits in the Zagros Mountains that divide Iran and Iraq.

Iran's western Kermanshah province bore the brunt of the temblor

Kokab Fard, a 49-year-old housewife in Sarpol-e-Zahab, said she could only flee empty-handed when her apartment complex collapsed.

"Immediately after I managed to get out, the building collapsed," Fard said. "I have no access to my belongings."

Reza Mohammadi, 51, said he and his family ran out into the alley following the first shock he felt.

"I tried to get back to pick some stuff but it totally collapsed in the second wave," Mohammadi said.

Those in Sarpol-e-Zahab also said the power and water were out in the town as telephone and cellphone lines were spotty.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered his condolences yesterday and urged rescuers and all gover-

ment agencies to do all they could to help those affected, state media reported.

The semi-official ILNA news agency said at least 14 provinces in Iran had been affected by the earthquake.

Officials announced that schools in Kermanshah and Ilam provinces would be closed on Monday because of the temblor.

In Iraq, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi issued a directive for the country's civil defense teams and "related institutions" to respond to the natural disaster. Brig. Gen. Saad Maan, an Interior Ministry spokes-

man, gave the casualty figures for Iraq.

The quake could be felt across Iraq, shaking buildings and homes from Irbil to Baghdad, where people fled into the streets of the capital.

The Iraqi city of Halabja, closest to the epicenter, is notorious for the 1988 chemical attack in which Saddam Hussein's regime killed some 5,000 people with mustard gas — the deadliest chemical weapons attack ever against civilians.

Iraqi seismologist Abdul-Karim Abdullah Taqi, who runs the earthquake monitoring group at the state-run Meteo-

rological Department, said the main reason for the lower casualty figure in Iraq was the angle and the direction of the fault line in this particular quake, as well as the nature of the Iraqi geological formations that could better absorb the shocks.

Turkey dispatched emergency aid to northern Iraq as officials expressed their "deep sadness" at the tragedy. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said his country took immediate action to provide medical and food aid to northern Iraq.

Kerem Kinik, Turkish Red Crescent's vice president, told The Associated Press from Habur border crossing that 33 aid trucks were en route to Iraq's city of Sulaimaniyah, carrying 3,000 tents and heaters, 10,000 beds and blankets as well as food.

A Turkish military cargo plane arrived in Iraq as the official Anadolu news agency reported multiple dispatches by Turkey's disaster agency. Ankara also said it would help Iran if Tehran requests assistance.

Relations between Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region and Turkey were strained following the Iraqi Kurds' controversial September independence referendum.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's government also extended its deepest condolences for the loss of life and injuries suffered by "our Iranian and Iraqi brethren."

Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Pakistanis' "thoughts and prayers are with the Iranian and Iraqi brothers who lost their lives in this tragic calamity and we pray for the speedy recovery of the injured."

Iran sits on many major fault lines and is prone to near-daily quakes. In 2003, a magnitude 6.6 earthquake flattened the historic city of Bam, killing 26,000 people. The last major casualty earthquake in Iran struck in East Azerbaijan province in August 2012, killing over 300 people. AP



Relatives weep over the body of an earthquake victim, in Sarpol-e-Zahab

WHEN Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced his resignation in a televised speech from Saudi Arabia last weekend, it stunned his country and created a mystery that lasted for more than a week. Yesterday [Macau time], another TV appearance by Hariri was filled with bizarre moments.

The Nov. 4 resignation triggered a political crisis in Lebanon, along with rumors about whether Hariri was under house arrest or being coerced to quit. Although he met with various ambassadors in the Saudi capital of Riyadh in the days that followed, no one in Lebanon was really sure what was happening to him.

A much-awaited live interview was done with Hariri by Future TV, a channel associated with his political party. It sought to dispel those rumors, but also raised some new questions.

At one point during the interview, Hariri's eyes were wide open, moving to the back of the room. The camera caught a man in the back corner, behind the interviewer, who was holding what appeared to be a rolled paper. The man, whose face was outside the frame, soon disappeared but not before the camera moved back to Hariri, who was staring toward him with an angry and disgusted look. On Twitter, some Lebanese shared clips of the vi-

MIDDLE EAST

TV interview with Lebanon PM full of odd moments

deo and wondered if the man in the back had some kind of message for Hariri, fueling reports that the prime minister was being held against his will. Hariri and the interviewer, Paula Yacoubian, realized the moment was caught on camera. Hariri explained after the break that the man was one of his staff, telling him of the latest developments in Lebanon.

After a belligerent resignation speech on Nov. 4, Hariri looked sad and tired on TV, at times holding back tears in the interview that went on for over an hour. He repeatedly drank water, finishing his glass and asking for more, prompting Yacoubian to hand him her own glass of water. He pleaded with her to finish the questioning after an hour has passed. "You made me tired," he said. He repeatedly said he was ready to die for Lebanon — his father, former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, was killed by a car bomb in Beirut in 2005 — but he added that he didn't want his children to go through that kind



Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri reappeared at a live TV interview with a reporter from Future TV, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

of ordeal. When asked about reports that he is not communicative and doesn't use his phone much, he said: "I am in a reflective state," adding that he didn't want any distractions amid a very busy schedule. His demeanor triggered a new hashtag, #Under-Pressure, reflecting that people were unconvinced he was a free man.

The Future TV channel had asked its viewers to share questions for Hariri under the hashtag #AskthePM in an attempt to dispel reports that the interview was pre-recorded. "I would never say it was live, if it was a recorded episode," Yacoubian said near the end of the interview. Throughout the interview, Yacoubian went to great lengths to prove the inter-

view was live. She first read the time from her phone and then reported to Hariri developments in Lebanon, including protests. She also read a British Foreign Office statement on the air. Then, when an earthquake was reported in Iraq and Iran, she referenced it, telling Hariri it was to make sure people believed the interview was live. **AP**

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what's ON



A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZER: Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8396 8305

COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM

TIME: 9am-5:30pm daily (Ticket sales is closed 30 minutes prior to closing; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 7, Estrada de D. Maria II

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063; 2871 8570

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: December 10, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

'A WEAR OF DANGEROUS CLAM' CERAMIC WORKS BY CHAN ON KEI

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

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



GELDOF TO TURN IN DUBLIN HONOR TO PROTEST PLIGHT OF ROHINGYA

Irish rock singer Bob Geldof says he is returning his Freedom of the City of Dublin honor because it is also held by Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi, accusing her of complicity for what he and others, including the United Nations, call "ethnic cleansing" of Rohingya Muslims in the Asian nation.

The founder of Live Aid says Suu Kyi is a "handmaiden to genocide" whose association with Ireland's capital "shames us all."

Suu Kyi is a Nobel peace laureate for her leadership of the democracy movement in Myanmar but she has come under widespread criticism as her country's civilian leader because of violence that has caused many in the Rohingya minority to flee the country.

In a statement, Geldof says he will turn his award in at City Hall yesterday. He says he is a "proud Dubliner" and does not want the ceremonial title while Suu Kyi also holds it.

He says that "her association with our city shames us all and we should have no truck with it, even by default."

Myanmar is a Buddhist-majority country that doesn't recognize Rohingya as an ethnic group, contending they are Bengali migrants from neighboring Bangladesh living illegally in the country. It denies them citizenship, leaving them stateless.

The latest violence began with a series of attacks Aug. 25 by Rohingya insurgents that was followed by attacks by Myanmar security forces on Rohingya villages that the U.N. and human rights groups have criticized as a campaign of ethnic cleansing. AP

TV canal macau



| | |
|-------|---|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | RTPi Live |
| 14:55 | Statement by the Chief Executive on the Report for the Financial Year 2018 (Live) |
| 16:44 | Press Conference of the Chief Executive (Live) |
| 18:10 | Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated) |
| 18:40 | TDM Sports (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Interview |
| 21:30 | Grimm Sr. 2 |
| 22:10 | Brazilian Mini Serie |
| 22:40 | Miscellaneous |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

09 Nov - 15 Nov



LOGAN LUCKY

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Daniel Craig, Channing Tatum, Adam Driver, Ridley Keough

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



THOR: RAGNAROK

ROOM 1

7:00pm

Director: Taika Waititi

Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Cate Blanchett, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



MIX!

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Junichi Ishikawa

Starring: Yui Aragaki, Eita Ryoko, Hiroe Koji Seto, Mei Nagano, Yu, Aoi

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 120 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

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

this day in history



1973 CROWDS CHEER MARRIAGE OF PRINCESS ANNE

The wedding of the Queen's only daughter, Princess Anne, has taken place at Westminster Abbey.

Princess Anne, 23, married Mark Phillips, a lieutenant in the Army.

An estimated 500 million television viewers around the world are believed to have watched the ceremony.

Princess Anne wore an embroidered Tudor-style wedding dress with a high collar and mediaeval sleeves.

Lieutenant Phillips was in the full scarlet and blue uniform of his regiment, the Queen's Dragoon Guards.

The princess' bridesmaid was her nine-year-old cousin, Lady Sarah-Armstrong Jones, daughter of Princess Margaret.

Her youngest brother, nine-year-old Prince Edward, was her pageboy.

The wedding day had been declared a national holiday and crowds lined the streets to watch the newly married couple on their way back to Buckingham Palace.

Many well-wishers had spent the night sleeping in the Mall to guarantee a good view of the pair who travelled in a horse-drawn carriage.

Later they appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace and waved to the crowd below.

After a wedding lunch, the Princess and her new husband left to stay overnight at White House Lodge in Richmond Park.

They are due to travel to Barbados tomorrow where they will board the royal yacht Britannia for 18 days sailing in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The couple met through their mutual interest in horse riding and their engagement was announced in May.

It is only the second time in more than 200 years that a member of the British royal family has married a commoner.

The last commoner to marry into the royal family was the Queen Mother in 1923.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The couple had two children - Peter, born in 1977 and Zara in 1981. Princess Anne and Mark Phillips were divorced in April 1992 - only the second royal couple to part in the 20th century.

The first was the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret and her husband, Lord Snowdon.

In December 1992 Princess Anne married Commander Timothy Laurence, who was formerly one of the Queen's equerries.

Captain Mark Phillips remarried in 1997 and had a daughter, with his new wife, a former Olympic horse rider.

The baby, Stephanie, was Captain Phillips' third daughter - he fathered an illegitimate child during his marriage to Princess Anne.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You don't like to hold back when you have something to say. In fact, it's so completely out of character that when you do, your friends start asking what the heck is wrong with you!

Taurus
April 20-May 20
It's long past time for you to stop worrying about everyone else's feelings but your own. It's officially time for you to renew your interest in yourself. Schedule a nice, long talk with a loved one.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You're sharp and funny, and you learned a long time ago to listen to your instincts to build on those qualities. At the moment, your built-in radar is telling you that something big is coming up.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You've heard all about this thing called 'love at first sight,' in which people are said to meet the love of their life through blind dates or odd coincidences. Despite your skepticism, it's all true.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
If you've been thinking about finding some new way to earn your living, this could be just the excuse you're looking for. On the other hand, if you like your current spot, don't just resign yourself to all this.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Whether you end up traveling to see a friend, road-tripping with a friend or receiving a visit from a long-lost loved one, it should be a time to remember. Keep your eyes - and your mind - wide open.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Are you still in the mood to stay home and forget all about the rest of the world? If you can afford to take some time off, talk your partner or your best friend into hunkering down with you.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You insist on depth, intensity, and passion in all your encounters, and anyone who wastes your time with meaningless chit-chat doesn't rate a second conversation.

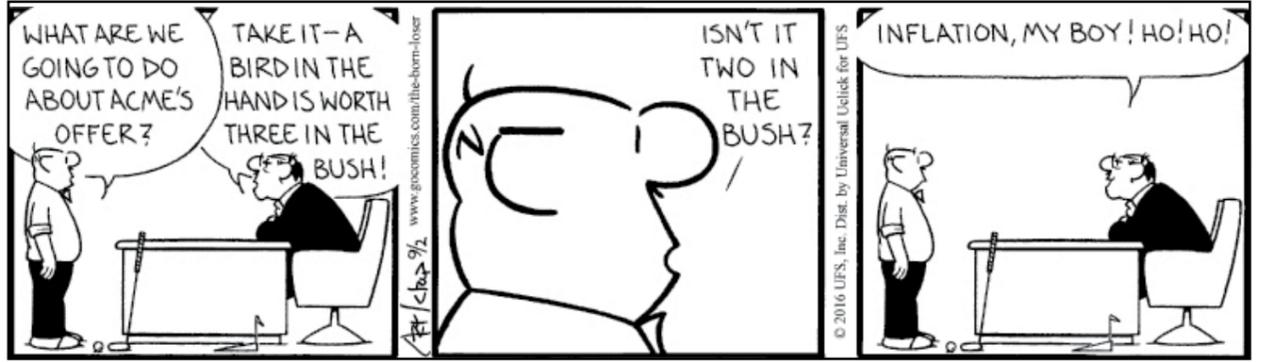
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You've spent lots of time lately thinking about one particular person. Now, you finally have the chance to actually spend some quality time with them. You may have a lot to say...

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You're all set for a sweetly romantic evening - and if you're lucky, that energy could last for the next 48 hours. You likely find that your companion needs a serious heart-to-heart conversation.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Things have been pretty crazy for you lately, and your loved ones haven't been quite sure what to do with you. Your phone should be ringing off the hook, actually.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You've got another nice, quiet day - the stuff that lovely memories are made of. Your heart is primed for romance, tenderness and the exchange of truly meaningful words with the right person.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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| | 8 | | 2 | | | | | 7 |
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| 8 | | | | 6 | | 7 | | |
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Hard

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| 7 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | 8 | | 5 | | | | |

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 0 | 8 | clear |
| Harbin | -6 | -2 | cloudy/snow shower |
| Tianjin | 2 | 9 | clear |
| Urumqi | -3 | 2 | cloudy |
| Xi'an | 5 | 12 | cloudy |
| Lhasa | -1 | 17 | clear |
| Chengdu | 12 | 17 | drizzle/overcast |
| Chongqing | 15 | 19 | overcast |
| Kunming | 7 | 21 | clear |
| Nanjing | 11 | 18 | overcast/cloudy |
| Shanghai | 13 | 17 | drizzle |
| Wuhan | 9 | 17 | overcast/cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 14 | 17 | drizzle/overcast |
| Taipei | 22 | 25 | drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 19 | 26 | overcast/cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 22 | 25 | overcast |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 0 | 3 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Frankfurt | 0 | 7 | sleet/drizzle |
| Paris | 4 | 9 | drizzle/cloudy |
| London | 1 | 13 | drizzle |
| New York | 1 | 8 | drizzle/clear |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Goes with the flow; 7- Strike callers; 11- Mao ___-tung; 14- Hammerlike tool; 15- Deep cut; 16- Flee; 17- Not susceptible; 18- Person engaged in a lawsuit; 20- Abandonment of faith; 22- BoÃ@te ___; 23- Storage container; 24- Star Wars letters; 25- Constituent of blood serum; 27- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 29- Freelancer's encl.; 31- Nuisance; 32- List of corrections; 35- He ran from Iran; 37- Wide shoe size; 38- Capital of Israel; 41- Cookie fruit; 44- Fail to win; 45- Hams it up; 49- Let's just leave ___ that; 51- Cong. meeting; 53- Desire; 54- Associated; 56- Viper; 59- "Today" rival, briefly; 60- Muse of poetry; 61- Guiding light; 63- Dolphinfish; 66- Writer Hemingway; 67- Loss leader?; 68- Actor Stoltz; 69- Gladden; 70- Actor Beatty; 71- "Rhyme Pays" rapper; 72- Swarmed;

DOWN: 1- Affable; 2- English navigator; 3- Social worker in a hospital; 4- Asset; 5- Camp sights; 6- Lieu; 7- Unattractive; 8- ___ tai; 9- L.A. clock setting; 10- Lower legs; 11- Apprentice; 12- Morning; 13- International accord; 19- Yucky stuff; 21- Bro's sibling; 25- Dept. of Labor div.; 26- Norman Vincent ___; 28- ___ Mahal; 30- Beasts of burden; 33- Business card abbr.; 34- "___ by any other nameÃ"; 36- Skirt stitching; 39- Drew on; 40- Cut down grass; 41- Stoker; 42- Repeat; 43- Noblest knight of the Round Table; 46- Two wrestlers on the same side; 47- As a group; 48- Began; 50- French actor Jacques; 52- ___ Paulo; 55- Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"; 57- Slumbered; 58- Hostess Mesta; 61- Ancient Briton; 62- Dagger; 64- Circle segment; 65- Get a move on;



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Ramped up security at Las Vegas marathon after mass shooting

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

LAS Vegas ramped up security for the annual Rock 'n' Roll Marathon, which was the first major outdoor event on the Strip since the mass shooting.

The city posted snipers and used a helicopter to watch for danger as tens of thousands of people participated in the race. Many wore T-shirts that read "Vegas Strong," in memory of the Oct. 1 attack.

Some runners who picked up their race packages Thursday at a convention center mentioned defiance, strength and resilience among their reasons to take part in the event less than two months after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history rattled a city known for its partying atmosphere.

With an American flag pinned to his shirt, Ben Rumph, who lives in the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson, said he never considered canceling his participation after the shooting. The 80-year-old U.S. Navy veteran had trained year-round to run the half marathon for the 10th time.

"The shooting was an entity, an event, by itself. I was going to run whether that happened or not," Rumph said. "I'm a veteran. I stood up and raised my hand that I would either kill some peo-



Competitors run by Mandalay Bay, the site of the mass shooting

ple or be killed to protect what we have in this country. My decision is to do the same thing today. I don't mean to go kill or anything like that, but to stand up for that principal."

Another half marathon participant, Esther Reincke ran to honor a friend who was killed during the massacre. Reincke said 28-year-old Cameron Robinson, who she described as a happy and "wicked smart" guy, had been part of her team in a 200-mile relay race last year. They both met while working for the city of Las Vegas.

"It is still hard to believe not only that this event happened in our city, but for it to hit home that close, he was one of our co-workers and a friend of mine,"

Reincke, 60, said. "I'm running because Cameron can't. He loved running and that's kind of my connection to him. When I get my Vegas Strong shirt, I'm going to have his name somewhere front or back."

The start of the marathon is usually outside Mandalay Bay, where Stephen Paddock unleashed gunfire from a 32nd-floor suite. Because of security concerns, the start line was moved a mile north.

Capt. Andrew Walsh said about 350 officers were working and were aided by a helicopter. Large city vehicles were positioned at key intersections to prevent anyone from driving onto the course.

Gilles Rubio prevailed on the

Many wore T-shirts that read "Vegas Strong," in memory of the Oct. 1 attack

men's side Sunday with a blistering time of two hours, 38 minutes and four seconds. Americans Karel Burger and Tyler Pence finished in second and third place, respectively, with times of 02:41.27 and 02:43.55.

Marisa Hird, also an American, won the women's field with a time of 02:55.19. **AP**

F1 Massa says final goodbye to Brazil fans at Interlagos

Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

FELIPE Massa said his second and final goodbye to home fans in the Brazilian Grand Prix yesterday [Macau time] with a seventh-place finish that the Williams driver insisted "was just like a victory."

The 36-year-old Massa delivered one of the best starts of the race and finished ahead of long-time rival Fernando Alonso of McLaren.

Massa announced his retirement before the Brazil race in 2016, but was eventually invited back to F1. This time he says his decision to leave is final.

"I am going to miss you



a lot. The thrill I felt today was immense, just like last year. I will never forget today," the Brazilian said after being invited to the podium in a crowded Interlagos track in Sao Paulo.

His 7-year-old son Felipinho was the first to congratulate him after the race, which was won by Sebastian Vettel of

Ferrari.

"Daddy, I'm so proud of you... by the way, I loved your start!" Felipinho said on the team's radio. The Brazilian jumped from ninth to sixth and was only overtaken by world champion Lewis Hamilton.

An emotional Massa said he will spend more time with his family af-

ter his F1 retirement, but he is likely to join the electric-powered Formula E series in 2018.

Massa's first farewell to Brazilian fans was much less exciting. On the 48th lap of the Brazilian Grand Prix last year

he lost control of his Williams and crashed onto the entrance of the pit lane.

A runner-up in the 2008 season, Massa has 11 wins in 269 starts in his F1 career.

Massa currently has 42 points and is 10th in the 2017 standings. His last race in F1 will be in two weeks in Abu Dhabi.

Massa's retirement means there will be no Brazilian drivers in F1 for the first time since 1969. **AP**

VETTEL WINS BRAZILIAN GP

It was all about who got the best start at the Brazilian Grand Prix. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel had it, starting from the second spot on the grid. Pole sitter Valtteri Bottas didn't, and it probably cost the Mercedes driver the race. Vettel overtook Bottas on the first turn and essentially held the lead the entire way for his 47th career victory, his fifth this season, and his third in Brazil. The victory solidified Vettel's hold on second place in the season standings after Lewis Hamilton clinched the title two weeks ago in Mexico City. Bottas finished second with Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari taking third. Hamilton was fourth, just 5.4 seconds behind Vettel.

RUGBY

Osthuisen out for Springboks, replaced by Vermeulen



South Africa prop Coenie Osthuisen has damaged knee ligaments and been replaced in the squad by No. 8 Duane Vermeulen for the remainder of the Springboks' end-of-year tour of Europe. SA Rugby says Osthuisen needs surgery after sustaining medial collateral and anterior cruciate ligament damage during the 38-3 loss to Ireland on Saturday. Vermeulen, who plays for French club Toulon, will join up with South Africa's squad in Paris on Monday ahead of the team's match against France on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

England coach considers penalty shootout at friendly

England coach Gareth Southgate appreciates the penalty-shootout woes of his national team as well as anyone, and he's trying to do something about it before next year's World Cup. Southgate has raised the prospect of putting England's players through a mock shootout at one of the team's friendlies ahead of next year's tournament in Russia. "It's something that we are considering, how we prepare best for penalty shootouts," Southgate said.

NBA

Celtics beat Raptors 95-94 for 12th straight victory



Al Horford had 21 points in his return from a two-game absence for a concussion and the Boston Celtics hung on to beat the Toronto Raptors 95-94 on Sunday for their 12th straight victory. Boston (12-2) was playing without Kyrie Irving after he took an inadvertent elbow to the face from teammate Aron Baynes on Friday night against Charlotte. Irving has a minor facial fracture but has not been diagnosed with a concussion as initially feared.

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



DRIVING LICENSE RECOGNITION THREATS COME FROM GUANGDONG

The government recently proposed introducing mutual driving license recognition between mainland China and Macau.

The proposal stirred up a lot of controversy among the local community, mainly because of the possibility of more mainland tourists choosing to drive in Macau. In addition, in light of mainlanders' driving habits, Macau would have even more traffic problems.

Several government officials have made it clear that they have no issues with the aforementioned anticipated problems. The government's main concerns are towards non-local workers who work as drivers in Macau because they might decide to work beyond what they are allowed to.

But do mainlanders really want to drive in Macau when they pay a visit to the city?

I, personally, do not think mainland tourists will want to drive in Macau. Macau and Hong Kong have a reputation among mainlanders for being massively populated places, and indeed they both are two of the most populated places in the world.

Being aware of this fact, would the reader even want to drive in Macau if he or she were a tourist? I suppose not. I tend to believe that even the most ignorant person would think to do some basic research about the transportation network of the place they intend to visit.

Nevertheless, Macau and Hong Kong are also well-known for their expensive lifestyle, their expensive housing markets, expensive food prices, and also expensive taxi services.

I think it sensible that someone should first, before coming to Macau, do a little research on the costs of each of the different kinds of transportation in Macau. Regardless, one would easily have already come across enough negative online comments about Macau's taxi services through traveling sites. It would be fairly easy for tourists to find out that the only cheap transportation method in Macau lies in either walking or taking a bus.

Moreover, how much would it cost for a tourist to rent a car in Macau?

After knowing that virtually everything is expensive in Macau, except buses, which are cheap, and casino shuttle buses, which are free, are tourists willing or, I dare to ask, able, to pay for a car rental?

Let us also not forget that the majority of mainland tourists spend a short time in Macau. If they spend three days in Hong Kong, they will spend two days in Macau, but if they decide to spend five days in Hong Kong, they will still spend only two days in Macau.

For all the above reasons, overall I do not think that there will be an increase in the number of tourists from the mainland driving cars in Macau.

Will more cars come to Macau though? The answer to this question depends on tourists from Guangdong province. It is the closest province to Macau, has a large population, and people there find it convenient to travel to Macau or Hong Kong to do some shopping.

As a result, there might be a surge of cars coming from Macau's neighboring regions, specifically Zhuhai, Zhongshan, and other cities within Guangdong.

Even though not everybody owns a car, we are still talking about millions of drivers from these areas potentially driving over.

It's important to note that in 2015, there were 28.74 million registered drivers in Guangdong, which tops the numbers across mainland China.

Hence, while I do not worry about tourists in general, regarding the flow of cars to Macau from China, I do, indeed, hold a conservative expectation regarding Guangdong drivers.

Traffic accidents account for about 90 percent of the total number of fatalities in Guangdong province (the highest in China).

On average, from 2013 to 2015, 695 people were banned from driving on a daily basis in Guangdong.

THE IMF SAYS EUROPE'S RECOVERY IS SPILLING OVER TO REST OF WORLD

The global economy can thank Europe's robust growth for the improving outlook, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Forecasting 2.4 percent expansion in the region this year, up from 1.7 percent in 2016, the Washington-based lender said the brighter prospects accounted for the bulk of an upward revision to its global outlook published in October. It also said the difference in growth rates within the 19-nation euro area is the lowest in nearly

two decades.

"This recovery in many countries of Europe is now increasingly solidifying and strengthening," Jorg Decressin, deputy director of the IMF's European Department, said at a briefing for its Regional Economic Outlook, published yesterday.

The region has benefited from years of unprecedented monetary stimulus that has helped reduce unemployment and bolster private consumption.

Global carbon pollution rises after three straight flat years



An airliner flies behind steam and white smoke emitted from a coal-fired power plant in Beijing

Seth Borenstein, Washington

GLOBAL carbon pollution rose this year after three straight years when levels of the heat-trapping gas didn't go up at all, scientists reported yesterday.

Preliminary figures project that worldwide carbon dioxide emissions are up about 2 percent this year, according to an international team of scientists. Most of the increase came from China.

The report by the Global Carbon Project team dashed hopes that emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas had peaked.

"We hoped that we had turned the corner... We haven't," said study co-author Rob Jackson, an Earth scientist at Stanford University.

Carbon dioxide emissions rose steadily and slowly starting in the late 1880s with the Industrial Revolution, then took off dramatically in the 1950s. In the last three years, levels had stabilized at about 40 billion tons of carbon dioxide.

Estimates for 2017 put it at about 40.8 billion tons. Sixty years ago, the world spewed only 9.2 billion tons.

"It's a bit staggering," said co-author Ralph Keeling, a Scripps Institution

of Oceanography scientist, noting in an email that levels have increased four-fold since he was born in the 1950s. "We race headlong into the unknown."

Man-made carbon dioxide is causing more than 90 percent of global warming since 1950, U.S. scientists reported this month.

The report dashed hopes that emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas had peaked

This year's increase was mostly spurred by a 3.5 percent jump in Chinese carbon pollution, said study co-author Glen Peters, a Norwegian scientist. Declines in the United States (0.4 percent) and Europe (0.2 percent) were smaller than previous years. India, the No. 3 carbon polluting nation, went up 2 percent.

The 2017 estimate comes to on average of 2.57 million pounds of carbon dioxide spewing into the air every second.

The study was published

yesterday and is being presented in Bonn, Germany, during climate talks where leaders are trying to come up with rules for the 2015 Paris deal. The goal is to limit temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius since preindustrial times, but it's already warmed half that amount.

"It was tough enough and if this paper is indicative of long-term trends, it just got tougher," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer, who wasn't part of the team of 76 scientists who wrote the report.

While he called the study authoritative, Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann said he sees no need to do figures for 2017 that are not complete, saying it may be "jumping the gun a bit." Jackson said the team — which produces these reports every year in November — has confidence in its 2017 report because it is based on real data from top polluting nations through the summer and in some cases through October. Plus, he said past estimates have been correct within a couple tenths of a percentage point.

The top five carbon polluting countries are China, the United States, India, Russia and Japan. Europe taken as a whole, would rank third. **AP**

| Station | Air quality | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Roadside | 30-50 Good | |
| High Density Residential Area | 30-50 Good | |
| Ambient | 25-45 Good | |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA All senators have three weeks to prove they were not foreign nationals when elected under an agreement the major political parties reached to resolve a deepening citizenship crisis that could upend the government.

HONG KONG's red-hot market for technology listings has already surpassed the heady days of the dot-com boom. Fundraising from tech-related initial public offerings in the city, led by ZhongAn Online P&C Insurance Co., has hit a record USD4.2 billion this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's more than five times the amount raised in Hong Kong during the global dot-com boom in 2000.



JAPAN's technology conglomerate SoftBank is investing billions in ride-hailing giant Uber with a goal of attaining a 14 percent stake in the company.

USA International enrollments at U.S. colleges fell 7 percent this year, less of a drop than had been feared, but schools still fear the political climate may drive students away. Nearly half the students are from China and India. *More on p10*



USA President Donald Trump has picked a former top pharmaceutical and government executive to be his Health and Human Services secretary. If confirmed by the Senate, Alex Azar (pictured) will oversee a USD1-trillion department responsible for major health insurance programs, medical research, food and drug safety, and public health. In making the pick, Trump turned to an industry's he's rebuked.