



### DISCOVERING PORTUGAL'S DIVERSITY

During a visit to IFT, Portugal's Secretary of State said that Chinese tourists are visiting more destinations in Portugal

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### DEEPER TIES WITH GUANGDONG

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong favors policies to allow locals to work or live in Guangdong

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

### WORLD BRIEFS



**INDONESIA** A volcano on the island of Bali has rumbled to life with eruptions that dusted nearby resorts and villages with ash and forced the closure of the small international airport on neighboring Lombok island as towering gray plumes drifted east. [More on p13](#)

**INDIA** As the Indian city of Mumbai commemorated the 2008 terror attacks that left 168 people dead, relatives of the victims said yesterday that they're angry Pakistan has released a militant linked to the massacre. [More on p12](#)

**TONGA** More than 35,000 fans have signed an online petition calling for an explanation of the no-try call Saturday that cost Tonga an historic victory over England in a semifinal of the Rugby League World Cup.



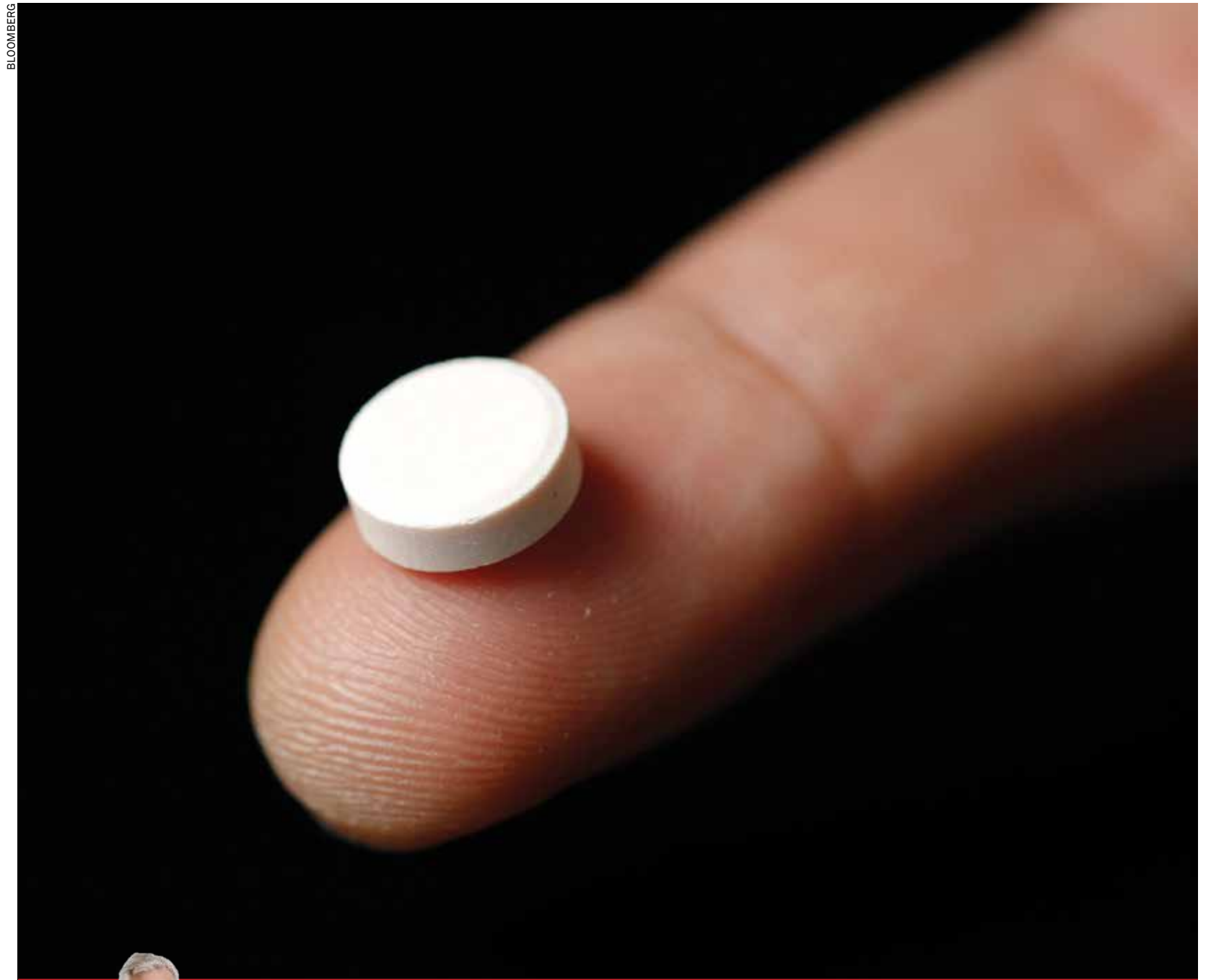
**JAPAN** More than six years after a tsunami overwhelmed the Fukushima nuclear power plant, Japan has yet to reach a consensus on what to do with a million tons of radioactive water, stored on site in around 900 large and densely packed tanks that could spill should another major earthquake or tsunami strike.

**RUSSIA** President Vladimir Putin has signed a bill allowing Russia to register international media outlets as foreign agents in a quid pro quo to the U.S. demand made to a Kremlin-funded TV channel. [More on backpage](#)

### STUDY

# Many migrant workers affected by depression

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## Paulo Malo denies any role in TaivexMalo management

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Ana Mendes Godinho pictured during the visit to IFT

## TOURISM

# Chinese are discovering Portugal's diversity, Secretary of State says

Julie Zhu

**P**ORTUGAL'S Secretary of State for Tourism, Ana Mendes Godinho, said that the Chinese tourism market is setting its foot into more corners of Portugal.

Last Friday, Godinho paid a visit to the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), where she told the media "what we feel right now is that the Chinese market is discovering Portugal [instead of] the traditional areas that they know."

"Traditionally, the Chinese market went to Lisbon and Porto, and it is spreading all around the country. [...] In Algarve, which was not a destination for the Chinese market, the Chinese market this year is growing 15 percent. [...] In Évora, a UNESCO heritage city in Alentejo, the Chinese market this year became the third most important market," said Godinho. "This shows the commitment and interest the Chinese market has in regard to Portugal, as well as the

commitment and interest that Portugal has, with Macau as this [...] traditional and historical bond."

According to Godinho, this year, 14 hotel groups of Portugal participated in a workshop in China promoting themselves.

**Traditionally, the Chinese market went to Lisbon and Porto, and it is spreading all around the country.**

ANA MENDES GODINHO

"These hotel groups are already operating in the Chinese market. We do think as the figures of the Chinese market are growing so much in Portugal, it will obviously spread to all the country," the

Secretary of State declared.

The Portuguese tourism governor was at the IFT discussing the strengthening of "the relationships between Macau and Portugal tourism schools" in order to enhance the exchange programs among students and "to have more collaborations between tourism schools of Portugal and IFT."

"Next year, [there] will be a team from the Tourism of Portugal coming here and there will be a team from IFT going to Portugal. [...] I think we will make some changes in our relation for the future," said Godinho.

Regarding the number of students involved in the aforementioned program, Godinho noted that the organizers are still doing some calculations.

"This will maybe not only involve IFT, but also other schools and universities. We are identifying the number of students that may go. We want it to be an ambitious project. [...] This is a win-win project: it will help

Portugal to cope and be prepared to answer to the needs that we have in Macau, to adapt our market to the Chinese market. [...] Currently we have an increase of 40 percent of the Chinese market in Portugal. The Chinese are discovering Portugal, but also Macau, which is positioning itself as a platform to make a bridge, a dialogue, between Portugal, between Europe and China."

"We are preparing two types of exchange programs. Some [students] go to tourism schools in Portugal; [...] Portuguese students come here, and also directly [within] the industry, so they [can] do their practical training in the [hotel] sector," said Godinho.

Eleven students from IFT already went to Portugal, according to Godinho. They were in the School of Lamego studying in a Portuguese Gastronomy and Wine course.

"The results were quite good. What we want is to make this short example as a routine pro-

gram of mutual and permanent relationship and very deep relation between the two schools."

As the Chinese market is growing rapidly in Portugal, tourism schools are also promptly reacting to the increasing number of tourists coming from the far east.

Earlier, tourism schools in Portugal launched a "Welcome Chinese" program to "help the hotel and shopping industries, and restaurants to be prepared to receive the Chinese market."

The "Chinese market is also growing a lot in Portugal [...] because we have a new direct flight that allows people to go directly to Lisbon [...]. We have more and more Chinese people coming to Portugal. This is why we need our offers to be prepared and why we created this program exactly to accelerate and capacitate our hotels [...] to know how to receive Chinese market [people]. We know the Chinese market feels comfortable in Portugal, precisely because they know that in our country there is someone prepared to receive them [and care] about their special needs, such as language. [...] We guarantee an increase over the number of hotels that are prepared [...] but we want to make it regular for every hotel and every restaurant," said Godinho.

In July, the first direct flight between China and Portugal was launched.

"The results have been quite good, [...] overcoming our expectations. [...] We think this was just the beginning of this direct flight, because the market is demonstrating that there is a volume that justifies even more flights," said Godinho.

When talking more about direct flights between China and Portugal, Godinho announced that the involved parties are indeed considering "not only the increasing of the number of flights per week from Beijing [to Lisbon] but also from other areas from China [to Portugal]."

In regard to the cooperation between IFT and Portuguese tourism schools, Godinho disclosed that an exchange program will "be in place in 2018".

"Macau's role is determinant for us, mainly because it is a gateway for us, where [...] there was such a good relationship between the two countries here. It also serves as a way for us to show to the Asian market how Portugal is. If you come to Macau, [you can see that] we are also committed to increasing the cultural events of Portugal here," said Godinho.

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HEALTH

# Paulo Malo: Suspension did not target dental clinic, but affects it

**T**HE founder and president of the Malo Clinic Group, Paulo Malo, says that he has no responsibility over the management of TaivexMalo Day Hospital, which was suspended for six months (between November 23 and May 21, 2018) by the Health Bureau (SSM). The medical facility is being accused of providing unauthorized medically assisted procreation and cancer treatment services.

Interviewed yesterday by the Times, Paulo Malo confirmed that he currently has a share of around 10 percent in the day hospital, which is owned and managed by a pharmaceutical company from Tianjin. As he explained, the suspension also affects the dental clinic Malo owns and operates independently inside the TaivexMalo Day Hospital, located at The Venetian Macao. "Malo Clinic provides only the dental services and rents a space [from] TaivexMalo Day Hospital. It is unfair to say that Malo Clinic was shut down because we weren't closed," Malo said, acknowledging that the situation causes "damage to our [Malo Clinic] image" and financial losses.

Although the dental services are autonomous, they operate under the same license as TaivexMalo, which means that the dental clinic is affected. "We have a common door and that door is closed, so we can't have access to our facilities. Besides, we work under the same license. We wanted a separate license and requested it, but we don't have it yet. Unfortunately we are using the PHC [Pacific Health Care, the legal entity that was initially behind Malo Clinic] license. Given that the license was suspended for six months, that means we can't work, because the front door can't be opened, we can't access our space and our license is linked to theirs," the dental surgeon explains.

"In the beginning, all that [the entire facility] was Malo Clinic. Around three years ago we sold our share in PHC. We were major shareholders of PHC and then there were minority shareholders. The minority shareholders sold to other partners and we sold almost all our shares - I believe we have around 10 percent [of the company] - and obviously passed the management [to the new owner]. It stopped being named Malo Clinic and started being named TaivexMalo," Paulo Malo explained. "They have 90 percent of shares and 100 percent of management. We don't take part in



Paulo Malo

the management and we don't know what's happening there," he adds, claiming that the company's management changed and he was not even informed. The number of people currently employed by the TaivexMalo Day Hospital is also unknown to him.

According to the famous dental surgeon and health guru, when the sale to the Tianjin group - which now controls 90 percent of PHC - was completed, Malo Clinic ceased to have any management role in the company. "I also wanted the name [Malo] to be removed. But following negotiations [they insisted] the name was kept because it gives credibility. We agreed it would be TaivexMalo during some time, after which we had the intention of dropping it. If we don't have a say in the management, we can't have our name there, otherwise we are taking risks and that is what happened," Paulo Malo said. "This is what I feared. When you give your name for another person to use and there is no control over how it is used... If the person is honest there's no problem, but if there is a mess up you face the consequences. And that is what happened." The Malo Group president said that his plan was

to sell the remaining 10 percent of the company and remove the name. "They postponed the sale of the 10 percent because they know our name would be removed and that would make them lose credibility."

Besides the suspension of the operation of the TaivexMalo Day Hospital, the clinic was fined with MOP76,000. In addition, a fine of MOP103,000 was also applied to four doctors and one nurse. The license of one of the doctors was suspended for a period of 90 days.

In a statement issued on Friday, the SSM stated that they received several complaints in 2016 and 2017 that alluded to the illegal practice of cancer treatment services and medically assisted procreation techniques at the TaivexMalo Day Hospital. The complaints also alluded to the "trafficking and smuggling of drugs for cancer treatment."

During the site inspections conducted by SSM at the medical facility, evidence such as clinical files and medical prescriptions were found. It was also found that a site in mainland China advertised the provision of medically assisted procreation services in the TaivexMalo Day Hospital.

used for cancer treatment was found at the medical facility. During the inspections, the doctors involved, the health professionals and the person in charge of this medical facility were questioned.

The SSM also found that facilities such as the medical labs did not meet safety and hygiene requirements. Paulo Malo reacts to the accusations denying any responsibility in the management: "The government says that the company PHC, which owns the hospital TaivexMalo, has done some irregularities. I honestly don't know the details. [...] I didn't have any notion [of those irregularities]. I go to China every month and I will go to Beijing to have a meeting with Tianjin pharmaceuticals. I'm going to ask them what is happening. [...] I'm going to be tough with them and tell them that this can't happen. It did happen because they want 100 percent management."

**They have 90 percent of shares and 100 percent of management.**

PAULO MALO

"It is completely wrong from the part of Tianjin pharmaceuticals to do those medical procedures. It shows lack of respect to us and it is illegal, we can't collude with that. It is incredible," Malo added.

The dental surgeon told the Times that there are around 20 people working for the Malo dental clinic affected by the suspension. He adds that the company is "in the finishing line" of the process of opening a new clinic in Macau and obtaining a new license. Paulo Malo intends to talk with the local authorities soon. "We want to explain that we have nothing to do [with the day hospital] and work independently. We want to see if the government speeds up the license project that we requested months ago. The new clinic is under construction works and waiting for the new license." **PB**

CASE REFERRED TO THE MP

**ACCORDING TO** the SSM, "there were no victims resulting from the irregularities found at TaivexMalo." However, the bureau does not exclude the possibility of a criminal sanction since the case was referred to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). "If all the requirements are met, the establishment, the facility can restart its operation. If the existing conditions are not improved within the period indicated above, the license may be canceled," SSM claims. In May, SSM published instructions

for medically assisted reproduction treatments to regulate the provision of techniques such as artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization and transfer of embryos, gametes or zygotes. According to those instructions, these techniques can only be applied with prior authorization from the bureau. The SSM director, Lei Chin Ion confirmed that the Kiang Wu Hospital recently requested the right to provide medically assisted procreation and the process is currently being assessed.



## AL | POLICY ADDRESS

# Leong promises deeper economic ties with Guangdong



**SECRETARY** for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said during the Legislative Assembly (AL) Policy Address on Friday that he wants greater ties with the mainland's Guangdong Province to allow locals to work or live there. To this end, he is promising to open dialogue with mainland officials in 2018.

The comments were made on Friday, the second day of his 2018 Policy Address, during which he faced questions from lawmakers on the state and future of the economy.

One matter raised by lawmakers concerned the role of the Macau SAR in the Greater Bay Area initiative, and how this will require closer ties with neighboring Guangdong Province.

Secretary Leong said that the

government will launch a website next year that will record population and investment changes in the cities that will comprise the Greater Bay Area.

But he also wants to open dialogue with Guangdong officials to discuss how Macau locals could live and work in the region, and how local SMEs could expand their business there.

"We must look at the big picture here," said Leong as cited by public broadcaster TDM. "We must fully understand what our regional partners need and what we're good at and could provide."

"We have to attract foreign investors not only with tax benefits, but also in medical and education and of course we have to come up ways to allow our Macau residents to start their busi-

nesses, work or live in the mainland. This is something we have to work on," he explained.

Other topics raised by lawmakers during Friday's session included the much-delayed trade union law and the collective bargaining law, as well as government initiatives to prioritize the promotion of Macau locals at the six gaming operators.

One of the stated goals in the city's Five-Year Development Plan was to have 85 percent of casino upper and middle management positions staffed by local residents. According to TDM, lawmaker Ella Lei wants to see that proportion increased to 90 percent.

"I backed the idea of having [85] percent locals working in the mid-to-high-level positions in casinos," she said, "but I truly think you all can take a more active stance to boost this figure up to 90 percent in the future."

Meanwhile, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang called on the government to increase the Social Security Fund, drawing on improved revenues in the gaming sector this year.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

## IFT survey examines gender bias in the workplace

**T**HE Tourism Research Center at the Macau Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) held an industry briefing on November 24 and released the latest findings on one of the Center's major research projects, the Macau Human Resource Monitor (MHRM) Survey, according to the education institution.

The MHRM Survey measures job satisfaction levels and other key human resource indicators of the territory's general labor force, with a focus on those working

in the hospitality, gaming and tourism industries.

The survey also looks at several other variables, such as; fairness (as perceived by workers) of compensation and benefits, the level of job stress and workers' intent to stay, social wellbeing and work-life balance.

The most recent findings show that Macau workers generally feel less satisfied with their jobs, are poorly compensated, have a lower willingness to stay in their jobs and experien-

ce more stress, as the results show compared to previous years. The overall job satisfaction score for all workers is 3.38 on a 5-point scale, where 5 is the highest.

The Tourism Research Center has announced the results of two in-depth studies, one on the attitudes of Macau workers to women in managerial roles, and another on the extent of gender bias in organizations.

Using the same 5-point scale, the studies show that Macau workers sco-

red an average of 4.79 on their attitude toward female managers. The Center notes that although this score is considered high, it falls short of that seen in other studies, "particularly from western countries."

A special focus report on gender bias, carried out by an assistant professor at IFT, Louis Vong, examined whether having male or female superiors in the workplace could affect employees' performance, stress and sense of job satisfaction.



## Macau Airport holds emergency exercise

**M**ACAU International Airport conducted a full-scale emergency exercise on Friday to simulate an aircraft accident in which the wings and engines of a plane hypothetically crashed into the runway upon landing.

According to Macau's Civil Aviation Authority, the exercise was "concluded in a smooth manner and achieved its goal."

The exercise started at 3 a.m. and lasted until 5 a.m. All participating entities - involving around 300 people - acted in accordance with the airport emergency plan, as well as their own contingency plans.

In the simulated accident, leaking fuel from the crash led to a big fire within the airport's perimeter. The captain of the plane immediately declared the emergency and requested the evacuation of the 72 passengers on board, as well as two flight crewmembers and seven cabin crew.

When the Administration of Airports, Ltd. (ADA) was informed of the accident, they immediately activated the airport

emergency operations center to take charge of the accident.

The Fire Services and the rescue team arrived on the scene to provide search and rescue services, the injured were sent to hospital for medical treatment in a timely manner, and a family reception area and a counseling center were respectively set up in the passenger terminal to provide enquiry and counseling services to the uninjured and the family members of the injured and the deceased.

About 43 people were injured or killed in the hypothetical scenario, according to simulation organizers.

With the aim of further enhancing the cooperation among the medical staff in dealing with serious injuries, the Health Bureau took the opportunity to test the coordination of pre-hospital rescue services. They took the simulation as a chance to train themselves for the handling of admitting passengers with different injuries to the appropriate locations for treatment.

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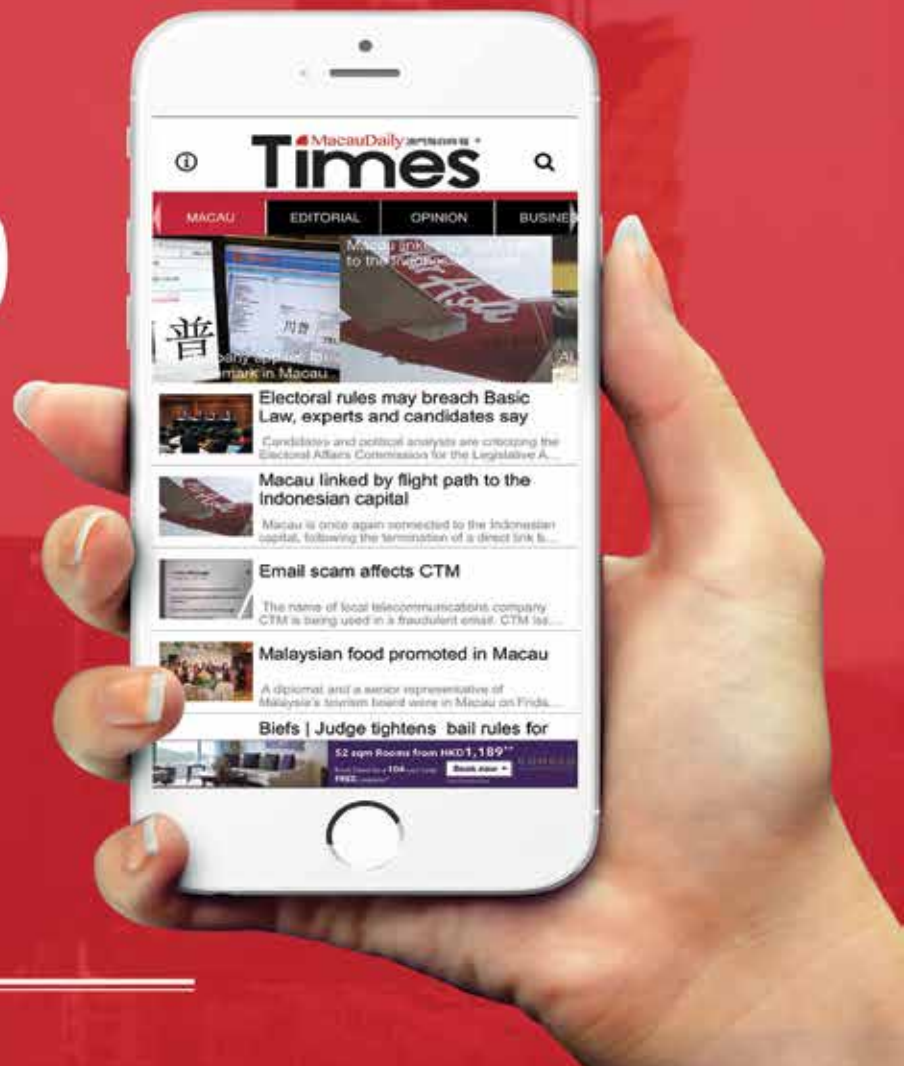
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#### C Unit, Vai Fat, Taipa

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Fabulous newly renovated one bedroom furnished apartment. Modern fitted kitchen with western style oven & cooktop. Great location in Taipa across the road from CuppaCoffee. Available from 5th December 2017



#### Apartment C, Nam Long, Taipa

(Ref: 17110660)

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(Ref: 17090657)

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### FOR SALE



#### Va Nam, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085531)

680 sq.ft. HKD 4.42M

Rate: HKD 6,500

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



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#### Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)

(Ref: 16095500)

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Rate: HKD 7,378

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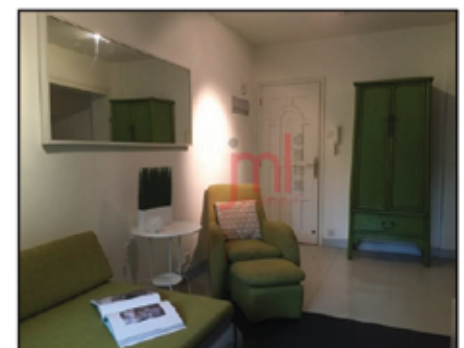
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(Ref: 17085533)

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Rate: HKD 6,661

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MIGRANT WORKERS

# Study shows many domestic helpers suffering from depression

Lynzy Valles

A study conducted by a Macau-based scientist shows that the number of Filipino and Indonesian domestic helpers in Macau who suffer from depression stands at 20 percent and 12 percent respectively.

According to the preliminary results of the study titled "Population Research Initiative for Domestic Employees - PRIDE Study," these domestic workers are in a vulnerable position to suffer from mental illness due to their work-related exposures and current living conditions.

Conducted by the University of Macau's Global and Community Mental Health Research Group and led by Brian Hall, a scholar and an associate professor at the University of Macau, the study surveyed 1,349 Filipino and 369 Indonesian domestic workers.

Hall presented the study yesterday at Caritas Macau to migrant workers and representatives from related government departments.

The study also showed that the median salary for Filipino and Indonesian domestic helpers are MOP3,700 and MOP4,000 respectively, showing that there are also still workers earning a meager MOP1,500 per month.

Since depression refers to a wide range of mental health problems, Hall explained that his team first did a qualitative study to define the needs in the community.

"A large population of domestic workers, about 80 percent [expressed] that mental health conditions and stress are one of their main problems: the key issue that needed to be intervened on here in Macau," Hall told the press.

However, the issue is that the city does not have providers that



Brian Hall (center), Yosa Wariyanti (left of Hall) and other migrant workers who attended the event

are able deliver evidence based psychotherapy interventions in Filipino or Indonesian language.

"There's an absence of providers in this context [...] we don't really have the treatment available," he said.

Hall revealed that he is partnering with the World Health Organization to bring evidence-based therapy interventions to Macau that could be scaled to the entire population using automated mental health intervention.

Questioned whether such interventions can be conducted soon, Hall hoped, "within the next year, we should have a culturally adapted version of the mental health intervention."

Raising awareness on the burden of mental disorder still remains a key issue.

The prevalence of mental disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and issues related to physical health that are not being addressed remains at 40 percent.

Along with the percentage of domestic helpers who are not provided with health insurance, Hall

believed that it represents a clear picture that the health of domestic worker population is poor.

The "Population Research Initiative for Domestic Employees - PRIDE Study," is the first data of its kind and the scholar hopes that

the data could be used to persuade the government to consider a more holistic and comprehensive approach regarding the matter.

Meanwhile the law states "employers are bound to transfer the liability to pay compensation under the terms of this Ordinance to insurers authorized to transact employees' compensation insurance in the territory of Macau."

The study showed that 38 percent of Indonesian domestic workers are unaware whether they are provided with insurance, while 15 percent do not have any, figures roughly similar with the interviewed Filipino domestic workers.

Only 8 percent are provided with medical insurance.

Yosa Wariyanti, president of the Indonesian Migrant Workers' Union told the Times that domestic helpers are not demanding their employers to provide them with medical insurance due to fear of termination.

Wariyanti also agreed that mi-

grant workers in Macau suffer from depression and anxiety due to constant fear of termination, household problems, and the difficulty adjusting to the local lifestyle.

"What was presented was based on the reality that happens amongst the Filipino and Indonesian migrant workers. The question is what happens after the research," she said.

The migrant group president hoped that the study would become an eye-opener to the government in a bid to also give significance to their health issues.

General Secretary of Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, said that the Welanser Center has now employed more staff to provide direct services.

However, Pun expressed that in addition to running the center that provides activities and a problem solving network to the migrant workers they are also considering expanding its health services to these migrant workers, along with a mutual support program.

"With my understanding, people do need some more support because we have a big number of migrant workers. Some of them do need some kind of psychological support," said Pun.

"Counseling is a basic [assistance] for them to live and work well in Macau."

## Pun to propose inclusion of domestic workers in minimum wage bill

GENERAL Secretary of Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, yesterday told the press that the minimum wage bill, which excludes domestic workers and disabled employees, should be reconsidered.

Pun believes that the bill, currently under a 45-day public consultation, should include domestic workers who are taking care of the elderly.

"For those taking care of these people, if a domestic worker is not doing this type of job, who is doing so?" Pun questioned.

"The elderly will come to our centers and our homes for the aged. That means the government still needs to give additional resources to support them," he suggested.

Pun noted that if the society cannot increase their salaries immediately, a "caring fund" should be established for families who have senior citizens with

long-term sickness.

The fund would provide financial vouchers or financial support from the government that could be used to add to the salary of the domestic employees.

"Through this assessment, at least these [workers] will not be excluded. This is a way to do so. [...] Shouldn't they receive a minimum wage? They deserve it. They cannot sleep long hours [because they] work and stay with the [elderly]," Pun said.

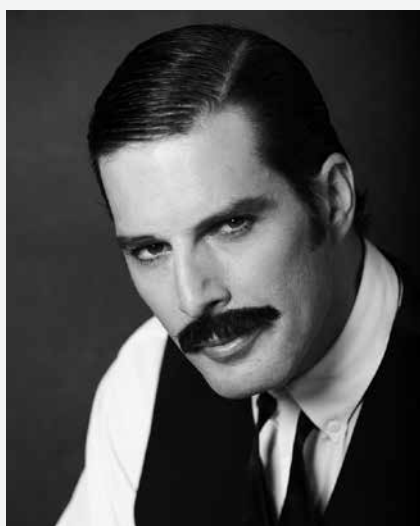
Pun also suggested that domestic workers should be allowed to work for two families, with both families providing a quota for one domestic worker.

The secretary was referring to workers who are employed yet are not obliged to work for eight hours, thus receiving a meager wage.

Pun is set to submit a proposal before the 45-day public consultation ends.

### corporate bits

#### 'LEGENDS IN CONCERT' COMING TO THE PARISIAN IN FEBRUARY



Celebrity tribute show, "Legends in Concert" is coming to Sands China's The Parisian Macao for three nights between February 2 and 4, according to a statement from the company.

Repeatedly voted the number one tribute show in Las Vegas, the award-winning production features tribute artists with live vocals, an ensemble cast of singers and dancers with signature choreography, and a live band to bring the musical experien-

ce to life.

The all-star cast's performances will include tributes to Michael Jackson, Elvis Presley, Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston and Freddie Mercury. Each of the performers closely resembles the star they portray and uses their natural voice to pay homage to their iconic counterpart. Legends in Concert live tribute shows are known for their elaborate theatrical sets, magnificent costumes and full array of incredible special effects.

Tickets are now on sale at Cotai Ticketing outlets.

#### CONRAD MACAO STARTS CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS WITH NEW FESTIVE BEARS



Conrad Macao Cotai Central is presenting a series of Christmas-themed surprises for its guests this season, including a Christmas tree - comprising 1,200 pieces of gold sequin fabric, 168 acrylic

stars and 32 steel leaves that sits in the hotel lobby - as well as a menu of "takeaway roasts", festive treats and afternoon teas.

The resort is also releasing its 2018 collection of signa-

ture Conrad bears and duck, inspired by the renowned Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

From now until January 2, various takeaway packages are available at Grand Orbit; included on the menu are roasted turkey, whole chicken, pineapple and honey-glazed ham and Australian beef striploin. Another takeaway package, fit for a gathering of 12 to 16 people includes a Margherita pizza, ham and pineapple pizza, chili seafood pizza, and a host of salads and sides.

The resort's hallmark afternoon tea service, held in The Lounge, is also on offer this year, and guests can purchase treatment sessions at the luxurious Bodhi Spa for a "winter pampering".

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Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

GAMING

# Las Vegas looks outside the casinos to draw in millennials

CASINOS in Las Vegas are upping the ante in their pursuit of coveted millennial visitors with new attractions designed to wow them, provide them Instagram-worthy moments and maybe even get them to gamble a little.

In 2018, a zip line across the street from Caesars Palace and an e-sports arena at the Luxor will join the city's entertainment repertoire geared toward those generally up to age 34. They are becoming majority spenders in today's economy but aren't necessarily interested in traditional casino gambling, such as blackjack and craps.

Fresh out of bankruptcy, Caesars Entertainment plans to build a 1,050-foot-long zip line above its outdoor promenade anchored by the Linq hotel-casino and the world's tallest observation wheel. The attraction — the third of its kind in Sin City, but first on the Las Vegas Strip — will feature 10 lines that will allow thrill seekers to ride seated or Superman-style.

"It's an efficient use of space, but it's exciting," Linq Promenade general manager Shaun Swanger said. "Our core audience is millennials. During the day, you see a lot broader range and a lot more families, but as the sun goes down, it gets a little bit younger, and as midnight approaches, it's one big party."

The ride will begin at the top of a 114-foot-tall launch tower that Caesars will build at the west end of the promenade. Photos and video of the rides, bound for social media, will be available.

Las Vegas casinos have invested in numerous non-gambling amenities to attract the elusive millennials, from rooms with bunk beds for cost-conscious young travelers to a Wi-Fi-equipped co-working space and a lounge that features pool and air hockey tables.

They also have embraced the outdoors by building a park and public promenades, counter to their long-held strategy



of trying to keep people inside casinos, losing track of time as they buy more chips.

It has become increasingly common to bring zip lines — traditionally an outdoor adventure activity — into urban settings, said Andrew Lepp, an associate professor in the recreation, park and tourism management program at Kent State University. In Las Vegas, however, the thrill may last beyond the seconds-long ride.

"You get that adrenaline rush, and then you might be more likely to hit the blackjack table," he said. "Both are forms of calculated risk taking."

Casino operators for years have been luring young visitors with nightclubs and day clubs that regularly feature world-class DJs, some of whom have long-term contracts once reserved for stars the likes of Celine Dion.

These days, interest in the out-

doors is such that Wynn Resorts Ltd. plans to begin the transformation next year of its 18-hole, par-70 golf course into a development that will feature a 38-acre lagoon.

Elsewhere on the Strip, MGM Resorts International is transforming a former nightclub into an arena for competitive gaming. The facility at the Luxor is expected to have a competition stage, LED video wall, daily gaming stations and a streaming

and television-quality production studio.

MGM created a committee several years ago dedicated to reimagining the gambling experience with millennials in mind. What will become the second e-sports arena in the gambling oasis can hold 1,000 people at a time. It will have areas for people 21 and older and other spots for a crowd 16 and up.

**You get that adrenaline rush, and then you might be more likely to hit the blackjack table.**

ANDREW LEPP

And for young visitors who want to spend time on the casino floor but find the average slot machine unappealing, operators have adopted skill-based machines. Unlike traditional slots that depend solely on luck, a player's skill can influence whether he or she wins on the new-age machines.

MGM Grand patrons can try a version of the popular Frogger arcade game, while Caesars property Planet Hollywood unveiled new games on its casino floor last month, including versions of the smartphone games "Catapult King" and "Into the Dead."

The machines hit U.S. casinos for the first time a year ago in New Jersey, but casinos are still tweaking how to market them. **AP**

INNOVATION

# UBS seeks to expand workforce in artificial intelligence

Ksenia Galouchko

UBS Group AG is expanding its workforce in one of the few areas in banking where demand for talent is growing. "We're currently recruiting more people for artificial intelligence," Veronica Lange, head of innovation at Switzerland's biggest bank, said in an interview in Moscow. "These are data scientists, architects, business analysts."

AI refers to technology capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence. Big global banks like UBS are using it to scour vast databases for insight on customers and markets that could help lenders stay competitive as more and more technology firms delve into financial services.

UBS rolled out a robo-adviser last year that uses algorithms to help customers build and manage portfolios

with little or no human interaction. Credit Suisse Group AG introduced a similar digital advisory platform in Hong Kong and Singapore in July.

Fraud prevention, optimization and risk management are also areas where the technology could be applied, Lange said. She declined to say how many people the bank wants to hire.

"We've built up a pipeline of projects over the past few years," she said. "We believe

it's really fundamental, because the future is in the cognitive bank."

About nine financial service companies out of 10 are working with AI technologies, according to a survey this year by Deloitte LLP and the industry group EFMA. After questioning about 3,000 executives in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, it identified scarcity of technical talent as one of their biggest challenges, especially in the final phase

of projects when the need for highly trained specialists often increases.

While most organizations need to make external hires to fill the AI skill gap, the majority are having trouble finding the right talent, EFMA and Deloitte said in a report on the survey.

The demand for AI experts runs counter to the trend where automation and digitalization is allowing lenders to make do with fewer employees. UBS Chief

Executive Officer Sergio Ermotti has said the next decade may bring a 30 percent reduction in the bank's workforce, partly through attrition.

Artificial intelligence "is a nascent technology in banking, and we are yet to grow the number of practitioners in the industry," Lange said, when asked whether UBS was having a hard time finding qualified candidates. She declined to elaborate. **Bloomberg**





A woman carries a child as they arrive at the RYB kindergarten in Beijing

## Police detain woman suspected of abusing children

Gillian Wong, Beijing

**A**UTHORITIES in China detained a woman suspected of abusing children at a Beijing kindergarten run by a U.S.-listed company in a case that has caused nationwide anger.

Police in Beijing's Chaoyang district said in a statement Saturday that an investigation into a kindergarten run by Beijing-based RYB Education has led to the criminal detention of a 22-year-old female teacher on suspicion of abusing children.

The statement, posted on the district police account on the

Sina Weibo microblog platform, identified the woman only by her surname, Liu, and did not provide further details.

RYB Education said it was "extremely shocked and distressed" about the crimes the teacher is suspected of committing.

"We express sincere apologies to the children involved in this case, their families and the broader society," the statement posted on the company's website said. "It's a serious dereliction of duty in our management work, therefore we must bear the responsibility and carry out thorough investigation as well

as make rectifications."

The statement did not provide details of Liu's alleged abuses.

RYB said it had fired Liu, removed the head of the Xintiandi kindergarten and is cooperating with further investigations. It said the company is hiring doctors and psychologists to aid and comfort the children who had been affected and inspecting its other branches around the country.

The scandal in Beijing erupted after the influential newsmagazine Caixin and other Chinese media quoted some parents as saying their children were forced

to strip as punishment and were found with unexplained apparent needle marks on their bodies. The reported claims could not be independently verified.

Chaoyang police said separately that a 31-year-old Beijing woman has been detained after admitting to allegedly spreading false information about the involvement of a military regiment in sexually abusing the children. The statement said the woman, also surnamed Liu, expressed "deep regret" for her actions.

RYB and its franchisees operate 1,300 day care centers and

nearly 500 kindergartens in 300 Chinese cities, according to its website.

The company went public on the New York Stock Exchange in September, joining other Chinese providers capitalizing on rising demand from the country's emerging middle class for educational services.

**Some parents claim their children were forced to strip as punishment and were found with unexplained apparent needle marks on their bodies**

The allegations, coming just weeks after reports of abuse at a Shanghai day care center, raised concerns about potential lapses in supervision in the booming private preschool industry. The State Council, China's Cabinet, on Friday ordered nationwide inspections of kindergartens to review teacher conduct, citing "recent incidents in many locations."

Earlier this month, surveillance video emerged of abuse at a Shanghai day care center run by China's largest online travel company, Ctrip. The video, uploaded by angry parents on Chinese social media, showed teachers slapping a crying girl, pushing a toddler to the ground and force-feeding students a substance later confirmed to be wasabi.

In April, RYB Education suspended the headmaster and two teachers at another branch in Beijing after a video of a teacher kicking children was widely shared online. **AP**

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**A**N explosion in a port city south of Shanghai yesterday killed two people and injured at least 30 others, knocked down buildings and left streets littered with damaged cars and debris, the government and news reports said.

The early morning explosion struck a riverfront neighborhood in Ningbo, one of China's busiest ports, the official Xinhua News Agency and other outlets reported.

Firefighters traced the blast to a hole in the ground where a toilet had been but the cause still was under investigation, state

## Explosion in port city kills 2, injures 30

television said on its website. It gave no indication whether the explosion site was inside a building.

Two people were killed and two more seriously injured, the district office announced on its social media account. It gave no details.

At least 30 others were taken to hospitals, according to Huanqiu.com, a website operated by the Global Times newspaper.

China suffers frequent deadly fires and industrial accidents, often blamed on negligence.

Official safety crack-

downs have improved conditions in some areas, but many companies still cut corners. In 2015, an explosion traced to improperly stored chemicals killed at least 173 people in Tianjin, a port east of Beijing.

Yesterday's blast knocked down residential buildings, but they were vacant and in the process of being demolished, Huanqiu.com said. It said there might have been people in the area collecting scrap for recycling.

Bystanders said the explosion might have been

caused by a gas pipeline that was damaged during demolition work, but the Ningbo gas company said it had no lines in the area, the China Youth Daily newspaper reported on its website.

Photos on News.163.com showed an injured woman being carried away on a man's back and what appeared to be the body of a man lying in the debris of a wrecked building.

Video clips on multiple websites showed a white cloud of smoke rising above the explosion site and rolling across near-



浙江宁波 江北区突发爆炸 有人伤亡

by buildings.

A photo on news.ifeng.com showed a room in an industrial building with a floor-to-ceiling hole

blown through an exterior wall. Other photos showed apartments with windows blown out and glass littering the floors. **AP**



BLOOMBERG



Bruce Rockowitz

HONG KONG

# Finance elite's gym of choice is said to near sale

Jonathan Browning, Vinicy Chan

**F**OUNTAINVEST Partners is in advanced talks to buy control of Pure Group in a deal valuing the billionaire-backed Hong Kong gym chain at more than USD400 million, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The Chinese private equity firm is holding late-stage negotiations with Pure Group owners including buyout firm Leonard Green & Partners and businessman Bruce Rockowitz, according to the people. Other potential buyers including Primavera Capital still remain around the process, the people said, asking not to be identified as the information is private.

Pure Group fitness centers cater to Hong Kong's legions of well-heeled bankers and lawyers. They occupy prime real estate in spots like IFC Mall, a stone's throw from the local headquarters of UBS Group AG and the stock exchange. Earlier this year, it opened a 930-square-meter yoga facility in the upscale Pacific Place mall, just downstairs from the offices of Carlyle Group LP, in a spot where a Burberry Group Plc outlet used to stand.

Founded in 2002, the group operates Pure Yoga and Pure Fitness centers in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei and New York. It also operates the rooftop RED Bar + Restaurant, which offers views of Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour, and sells its own brands of activewear and organic food. The company has more than 70,000 clients and employs 1,400 staff, its website shows.

Rockowitz, the chief executive officer of Global Brands Group Holding Ltd. and husband to Chinese pop singer Coco Lee, owns around half of Pure Group, people familiar with the matter said in October. He is expected to divest a significant portion of his holding in any sale. Fung Group,

the private holding company of Hong Kong billionaire brothers Victor and William Fung, was also seeking to offload its stake of about 10 percent, the people said at the time.

The number of sports clubs in China is expected to increase 16 percent to around 10,960 locations by 2020, up from about 9,440 at the end of last year, according to forecasts from consultancy Euromonitor International.

## The number of sports clubs in China is expected to increase 16pct to around 10,960 locations by 2020

No final agreements have been reached, and negotiations could still fall apart, the people said.

Representatives for FountainVest and Fung Group declined to comment, while a spokeswoman for Pure Group said she couldn't immediately comment. Rockowitz and Primavera founder Fred Hu didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Leonard Green didn't answer a call to its office and an email seeking comment outside regular U.S. business hours.

FountainVest, led by former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. banker Frank Tang, has made a priority of deals for consumer and lifestyle companies. Last year, the fund invested in the Chinese joint venture of Hollywood superagency William Morris Endeavor. It has also owned a stake in IMAX China Holding Inc., which sells large-screen cinema technology in the world's second-largest economy. **Bloomberg**

ADVERTORIAL

# SANDS CHINA NEWS

## Sands China Supports Responsible Gaming 2017

Various company initiatives during annual MSAR community campaign

Sands China Ltd. is participating in Responsible Gaming 2017 with several initiatives supporting the annual event organised by the MSAR Social Welfare Bureau, the MSAR Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), and the University of Macau.

Taking place from October through December, Sands China's Responsible Gaming 2017 activities aim to further increase team members' awareness of problem gambling and to foster responsible gaming behaviour.

In the back-of-house areas of Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao, the company has set up notice boards promoting the Responsible Gaming 2017 initiatives of the MSAR government and local community organisations. Video screens in the properties' back-of-house areas are also showing Sands China's "Let's Support Responsible Gaming" promo clip. The company-produced short video was the second runner-up in the 2017 Responsible Gaming Video Competition, co-organized by DICJ, the MSAR Social Welfare Bureau and the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of University of Macau.

The Gaming Employees' Home and the Sheng Kung Hui Social Services Coordination Office held roadshows Oct. 9-27 at several properties back-of-house areas, helping team members learn more about their responsible gaming related services, including Sheng Kung Hui's 24-hour hotline and online gambling counselling services.

Sands China also offered a responsible gaming quiz for team members Oct. 9-27. Questions spanned topics like probability, self-exclusion, and responsible gambling behaviour. A total of nearly 6,000 team members took the quiz, which was available on site at Sands China properties, and in a more interactive and accessible bilingual format on WeChat.

The company has also set up several Responsible Gaming Ambassador Walls, acknowledging the company's Responsible Gaming Ambassadors, who complete an eight-hour training course to increase their responsible gaming knowledge and skill sets. The training is led by Professor Bo J. Bernhard, executive director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) International Gaming Institute. A total of 80 additional team members became new ambassadors in November 2017, bringing the total number of ambassadors to 430. Ambassadors completing the programme receive certificates issued by UNLV.

And as in years past, Sands China is continuing its long-standing annual practice of donating to three local responsible gaming centres. On Oct. 20, cheque presentations totalling MOP 450,000 were made to the Young Men's Christian Association of Macau, the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, and the Macau Industrial Evangelistic Fellowship to aid their responsible gaming efforts.

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



In support of Responsible Gaming 2017, Sands China has organised a series of activities, lasting from early October through December, to further increase team members' awareness of problem gambling and foster responsible gaming behaviour. Activities include a responsible gaming quiz and games for team members.



Notice boards at back-of-house areas of Sands China properties promote the MSAR government's Responsible Gaming 2017 initiatives.



# Pope's South Asia trip brings hope to tiny Catholic groups

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

**P**OPE Francis today begins a six-day trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh. While attention will focus on how Francis addresses the Rohingya Muslim crisis, the trip also holds huge significance for the tiny Catholic communities in each country.

Those Catholics face obstacles that include discrimination, an inability to land leadership roles and threats of violence. Many Christians hope the pope's visit will highlight the plight of the poor and of minority religious groups, including their own.

## MYANMAR CATHOLICS

There are 660,000 Catholics in Myanmar, just over 1 percent of the population of 53 million. In total, Christians make up just over 6 percent of the population. Catholicism was brought to the country more than 500 years ago, and for generations Catholics have played a vital role in developing far-flung rural areas that authorities have found hard to reach. But when the socialist government took power in 1965, most Catholic-based missionary schools, boarding houses and properties were seized by the military at gunpoint. Catholics were later able to slowly rebuild their missions.

## BATTLING DISCRIMINATION

Myanmar Catholic leaders say that as members of one of the smallest religious groups in a country dominated by Buddhism, they face discrimination, even if it isn't typically overt threats or torture.



A rickshaw puller transports a passenger past the entrance to the Holy Rosary Church in Dhaka

"There are always challenges to stand up as Catholic and to have strong faith here," said Rev. Mariano Soe Naing, a spokesman for Myanmar's Bishops' Conference.

Christianity is viewed by many as a colonial belief after the country was ruled by the British for a century until its independence in 1948. Likewise, the separation of church and state is considered a foreign imposition.

For the past 18 years, Myanmar has been listed by the U.S. as a "country of particular concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act for having engaged in, or tolerated, severe violations of religious freedom.

But unlike Rohingya Muslims, Christians haven't faced widespread violence and persecution. Christian leaders say they're afforded "peaceful coexistence" and an understanding the government won't interfere.

## ROLE IN MYANMAR

The Catholic Church runs about 300 boarding houses across Myanmar, hosting children from villages who can't afford to go to school. It's done without any significant support from the government in a country that remains among the poorest in the world.

But Catholics don't play a broader leadership role in society.

"To be honest, if you are a Christian in this country, you will never get promoted," Rev. Mariano said. "There are no Catholics in the government administration or in any significant leadership positions."

## RAISING AWARENESS

The profile of Catholics was boosted when Archbishop Charles Maung Bo became Myanmar's first Roman Catholic Cardinal in 2015. And they are getting another boost by having a pope visit

the country for the first time. Catholic leaders hope the community will benefit in the long run.

"Because of the pope's visit, Catholics will be more visible to many people and they will be aware of the existence of the Catholic community in Myanmar," Mariano said.

## BANGLADESH CATHOLICS

There are just 375,000 Catholics in Bangladesh, a tiny fraction of the population of 158 million. In total, Christians account for less than 1 percent of all people in the Muslim majority country. The Portuguese first brought Christianity during the 16th century and missionary efforts began in the early 1800s.

## BACKDROP OF VIOLENCE

The pope's visit takes place against a backdrop of religious tensions after radical Muslims attacked or threatened to attack Christian priests and their followers in Bangladesh. Last year before Christmas, many churches said they got phone calls or letters threatening dire consequences because of their attempts to spread Christianity.

A major attack in July 2016 on a restaurant in the diplomatic zone of the capital, Dhaka, left 20 people dead, including 17 foreigners. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that attack and several others, although the government claims the group doesn't exist in Bangladesh. Authorities say the domestic group Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh was behind the Dhaka attack.

The government launched a massive crackdown on suspected militants after the Dhaka attack.

More than 60 people, including some suspected radical leaders, were killed in raids. Many others were arrested.

## CATHOLICS EXCITED

Francis will be the second pope, after Pope John Paul II, to visit Bangladesh since it gained independence from Pakistan following a war in 1971. The Vatican quickly acknowledged Bangladesh as an independent nation after the war, helping set the tone for cordial relations since.

Living in the Hatileite village north of Dhaka are some 1,500 Catholics. They are part of a tribal community in which many embraced the religion after the first tribesman converted in 1927. Villager Louis Suprobhat Jangcham, 50, said he's enthusiastic about the visit.

"I attended a gathering when Pope John Paul came to Dhaka in 1986. It was very exciting," he said. "The people from our village will attend this time too. This is a great moment for me."

## MESSAGE OF HOPE

Christian leaders in Bangladesh say they hope the pope's visit will highlight a range of issues from religious solidarity to a warming planet.

Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario, the archbishop of Dhaka, said the visit will be an opportunity to emphasize the causes of the poor who need blessing and comfort.

"This visit is for spiritual causes, for highlighting peace and harmony. But the Holy Father will also touch upon other very important issues that concern Bangladesh," he said. "The Rohingya crisis and climate change will come up prominently."

The pope posted a video message ahead of his visit.

"We are living at a time when religious believers and people of goodwill are called to foster mutual understanding and respect," the pope said. "And to support each other as members of our one human family." AP

## INDIA

# Families of terror victims angry at militant's release

Manish Mehta, Rafiq Maqbool

**A**S the Indian city of Mumbai commemorated the 2008 terror attacks that left 168 people dead, relatives of the victims said Sunday that they're angry Pakistan has released a militant linked to the massacre.

Swati Ajay Gavande, the widow of a slain police officer, said Hafiz Saeed should never have been released from house arrest. She said his release makes her sad for all the grieving families.

Her husband, Ajay Gavande, was among those shot and killed after 10

gunmen fanned out across Mumbai and attacked hotels, a major train station and a Jewish center on Nov. 26, 2008.

People across Mumbai gathered Sunday to mark the ninth anniversary of the attacks by laying wreaths and lighting candles.

Shyam Bihari, who was working at a railway station stall when the attacks began and was shot in the shoulder, said Saeed was responsible for the deaths.

"I feel really sad, but I can't do anything," he said. "I prayed they would put him behind bars for his lifetime, so that no more in-

nocent people would die."

Indian and U.S. authorities were also outraged at Friday's release of Saeed. He ran an organization widely believed to be a front for the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, which India believes was behind the attack.

In a statement Saturday, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the U.S. "strongly condemns" Saeed's release and urged that he be re-arrested and prosecuted.

"Saeed's release, after Pakistan's failure to prosecute or charge him, sends a deeply troubling message

about Pakistan's commitment to combatting international terrorism and belies Pakistani claims that it will not provide sanctuary for terrorists on its soil," Sanders said.

She said further inaction by Pakistan would have "repercussions" for bilateral relations and for Pakistan's global reputation.

Maninderjeet Singh Bitta, chairman of the All-India Anti-Terrorist Front, said the release by Pakistan was adding salt to India's wounds. He said he would ask India's government to raise the matter with the United Nations.



Shushila Ughade (right) who lost her husband in the 2008 terror attacks, cries at the memorial on the ninth anniversary in Mumbai





INDONESIA

# Bali volcano dusts resorts in ash; Lombok airport closes

Firdia Lisnawati, Karangasem

A volcano on the Indonesian island of Bali has rumbled to life with eruptions that dusted nearby resorts and villages with ash and forced the closure of the small international airport on neighboring Lombok island as towering gray plumes drifted east.

Mount Agung erupted on Saturday evening and three times early yesterday, lighting its cone with an orange glow and sending ash 4,000 meters into the atmosphere. It is still gushing and the ash clouds have forced the closure of Lombok island's airport until at least 6 a.m. today, an official at the airport said.

Most scheduled domestic and international flights were continuing yesterday at Bali's busy airport after a rash of cancellations on Saturday evening.

Disaster officials said ash up to half a centimeter thick settled on villages around the volcano and soldiers and police had distributed masks.

Authorities warned anyone still in the exclusion zone around the volcano, which extends 7.5 kilometers from the crater in places, to leave.

Made Sugiri, an employee at Mahagiri Panoramic Resort, located around 10 kilometers from the crater, said a thin layer of volcanic ash reached the area.

"We are out of the danger zone, but like other resorts in the region, of course the eruptions

cause a decrease in the number of visitors," he said.

"I think these latest eruptions are more dangerous, given the thick clouds it's releasing," he said. "Certainly we worry, but we have to wait and see. Hopefully there is no significant eruption."

Government volcanologist Gede Suantika said a red-yellow light visible in ash above the mountain was the reflection of lava in the crater. Suantika said Agung could spew ash for at least a month but did not expect a major eruption.

Bali is Indonesia's top tourist destination, with its gentle Hindu culture, surf beaches and lush green interior attracting about 5 million visitors a year. Nearby Lombok is relatively undeve-

loped as a tourist destination, receiving fewer than 100,000 international visitors a year.

Australian airline Jetstar, which canceled nine flights to and from Bali on Saturday evening, said most of its flights would operate normally Sunday after its senior pilots assessed it was safe to fly. However, it warned that the movement of ash cloud is highly unpredictable and that flights could still be canceled at short notice. Virgin, KLM and AirAsia Malaysia also canceled several flights on Saturday and AirAsia canceled more than 30 flights on Sunday.

Several thousand people were affected by Saturday's flight cancellations.

"We weren't notified by Jetstar in advance of us getting here [to

Bali's airport]," said Australian tourist George Bennick. "So we are very disappointed about that."

Agung also had a minor eruption on Tuesday, but authorities have not raised its alert status from the second-highest level, which would widen the exclusion area and prompt a large evacuation of people.

About 25,000 people have been unable to return to their homes since September, when Agung showed signs of activity for the first time in more than half a century.

The volcano's last major eruption, in 1963, killed about 1,100 people.

Indonesia sits on the "Pacific Ring of Fire" and has more than 120 active volcanoes.

Mount Agung's alert status was raised to the highest level in September following a dramatic increase in tremors from the volcano, which doubled the exclusion zone around the crater and prompted more than 140,000 people to leave the area. The alert was lowered on Oct. 29 after a decrease in activity. **AP**

# Japan protests San Francisco's 'sex slave' statue decision

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN expressed strong regret Friday over San Francisco's decision to give city property status to a statue commemorating Asian women who worked in military brothels for Japanese troops during World War II, with Osaka declaring it will terminate its 60-year sister-city ties.

The signing of legislation making the memorial public property "destroyed trust," Osaka Mayor Hirofumi Yoshimura said.

"We will scrap our sister-city relationship with San Francisco." He said Osaka will no longer contribute public money to privately organized cultural exchanges between the two cities.

The statue was erected by California's Korean, Chinese and Filipino communities.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said San Francisco's decision challenges Japan's position and was "extremely regrettable." He said similar statues that have been built in various coun-

tries interfere with a 2015 agreement between Japan and South Korea to resolve the historical dispute.

Historians say tens of thousands of women around Asia were sent to work in Japanese military brothels, often through coercion and deception. Japan apologized in 1993 but the issue has remained an open rift with its neighbors, particularly South Korea which has strong memories of Japan's brutal colonization from 1910 to 1945.

After a gradual pullback

from the apology, Japan's government now denies that the women, called "comfort women" in Japanese, were forced into sexual slavery, citing a lack of official documentary proof, and says the statue wrongfully blames Japan.

In the 2015 deal, Japan and South Korea agreed that Tokyo would pay 1 billion yen (USD9 million) to support the surviving South Korean victims, and both sides pledged to avoid actions that would antagonize the other.

Suga also criticized the



"Comfort woman" Yongsoo Lee, 89, stands by a statue of Haksoon Kim while looking at the "Comfort Women" monument after it was unveiled in San Francisco

South Korean parliament's passage on Friday of legislation designating Aug. 14 as a day to commemorate the suffering of the Korean "comfort women," saying it violated the spirit of the 2015 agreement and that Japan has lodged a protest. The date is when

a victim, the late Kim Haksoon, became the first to publicly speak out about her ordeal in 1991. She was followed by hundreds of others.

The agreement calls for efforts by both sides to build a "future-oriented" relationship. **AP**



## SAUDI ARABIA

## Crown prince leads Islamic military alliance meeting



Saudi Arabia's assertive crown prince yesterday opened the first high-level meeting of a kingdom-led alliance of Muslim nations against terrorism, vowing that extremists will no longer "tarnish our beautiful religion." Mohammed bin Salman's words come as the Islamic State group, which sparked the creation of the alliance, has been driven out of Iraq and lost its self-described capital in Syria.

## SPAIN

## 22 hurt when night club floor collapses

Spanish authorities say that 22 people were hurt on the island of Tenerife when the floor of a night club collapsed and sent the revelers plunging into the basement. Emergency services for the Canary Islands say that the people fell "about one story" into the basement early Sunday after a hole of approximately four square meters opened in the floor.

## ZIMBABWE

## Mugabe was relieved after quitting, mediator says

Zimbabwe's former President Robert Mugabe knew it was "the end of the road" days before he quit, and appeared relieved when he signed his resignation letter after 37 years in power, a Catholic priest who mediated talks leading to his ouster said yesterday. Fidelis Mukonori, who has known Mugabe for decades, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Mugabe, under immense pressure in his final days as president, wanted a gradual and "smooth" transition of power to Emmerson Mnangagwa, the vice president he had recently fired and who is now Zimbabwe's new leader.

## TERRORISM

## Egypt reeling from attack on mosque in Sinai that killed 305

Maggie Michael, Hamza Hendawi

EGYPT was reeling yesterday from the horrific militant attack on a mosque in northern Sinai that killed 305 people two days earlier — the deadliest assault by Islamic extremists in its modern history and a grim milestone in a long-running fight against the insurgency led by an Islamic State affiliate.

Survivors and Egypt's top prosecutor have given accounts of the massacre that unfolded as more than two dozen assailants, carrying a black IS banner, unleashed gunfire and explosions during Friday prayers at the Al-Rawdah Mosque in a sleepy village by the same name near the small town of Bir al-Abd.

The attackers arrived in five SUVs, took positions across from the mosque's door and windows, and just as the imam was about to deliver his sermon from the pulpit, they opened fire and tossed grenades at the estimated 500 people inside.

The worshippers screamed and cried out in pain. A stampede broke out in the rush toward a door leading to the washrooms. Others tried desperately to force their way out of the windows. Those who survived spoke of children screaming as they saw parents and siblings mowed down by gunfire or shredded by the blasts.

When the violence finally stopped, 305 people, including 27 children, had been killed and 128 wounded.

One of the witnesses, Ebid Salem Mansour, recalled how the attackers shouted Allahu Akbar, or God is great, as they fired on the worshippers.

So composed were the militants that they methodically checked their victims for any sign of life after the initial round of blazing gunfire. Those still moving or breathing received a bullet to the head or the chest, the witnesses said. When the ambulances arrived they shot at them, repelling them as they got back into their vehicles and fled.

Friday's attack targeted a mosque frequented by Sufis, members of a mystic movement within Islam. Islamic militants, including IS, consider Sufis heretics because of their less literal interpretations of the faith.

Egypt's chief prosecutor, Nabil Sadeq, said the attackers, some masked, numbered between 25 and 30. Those with bare faces sported heavy beards and long hair, his statement added. Clad in military-style camouflage pants and black T-shirts, one of them carried a black banner with the declaration of the



A burned truck is seen outside Al-Rawdah Mosque in Bir al-Abd northern Sinai

Muslim faith — there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet.

Despite the banner, IS still has not claimed responsibility for the attack.

Survivors of the bloodshed spoke to The Associated Press on Saturday in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, where some of the wounded are hospitalized.

"We knew that the mosque was under attack," said Mansour, a 38-year-old worker in a nearby salt factory who had settled in Bir al-Abd three years ago to escape the bloodshed and fighting elsewhere in northern Sinai. He suffered two gunshot wounds to his legs on Friday.

"Everyone lay down on the floor and kept their heads down. If you raised your head you get shot," he said. "The shooting was random and hysterical at the beginning and then became more deliberate. Whoever they weren't sure was dead or still breathing was shot dead."

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi vowed that the attack "will not go unpunished" and that Egypt would persevere with its war on terrorism. He did not specify what new steps might be taken. On Saturday, he ordered that a mausoleum be built in memory of the victims of Friday's attack and cancelled a visit to the Gulf Sultanate of Oman that was scheduled for next week.

Egypt's military and security forces have already been waging a tough and costly campaign against militants in the towns, villages and desert mountains of northern Sinai, and Egypt has been in a state of emergency since April. Across the country, thousands have been arrested in a crackdown on suspected Islamists as well as against other dissenters and critics, raising concerns about human rights violations.

Seeking to spread the violence, militants over the past year have carried out deadly bombings on churches in the capital of Cairo and other cities, killing dozens of Christians. Egypt's IS affiliate has also claimed responsibility for the 2016 downing of a Russian passenger jet that killed 224 people over Sinai. That attack decimated the country's already ailing tourism industry.

Friday's assault was the first major militant attack on a Muslim congregation, and it eclipsed past attacks, even dating back to a previous Islamic militant insurgency in the 1990s. The death of so many civilians in one day recalls the killing of at least 600 in August 2013, when Egyptian security forces broke up two sit-in protests in Cairo by supporters of Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist president ousted by the military the previous month.

The local IS affiliate has targeted Sufis in the past. Last year, the militants beheaded a leading local Sufi figure, the blind sheikh Suleiman Abu Heraz, and posted photos of the killing online. In the January edition of an IS online magazine, the Sinai affiliate vowed to target Sufis, accusing them of idolatry and heretical "innovation" in religion and warning that the group will "not permit (their) presence" in Sinai or Egypt.

Millions of Egyptians belong to Sufi orders, which hold sessions of ritual chanting and dancing to draw the faithful closer to God. Sufis also hold shrines containing the tombs of holy men in particular reverence.

Islamic militants stepped up their campaign of violence in northern Sinai after the military ousted the elected but divisive Morsi. Authorities followed up with a fierce crackdown on his Muslim Brotherhood group, jailing thousands.

The result has been a long, grinding conflict centered on el-Arish and nearby villages and towns in north Sinai. The militants have been unable to control territory, but the military and security forces have also been unable to bring security, as the extremists continuously carry out surprise attacks, mostly targeting outposts and convoys. AP



# Da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi' sale creates headache for court

Hugo Miller, Stephanie Baker

**T**HE record price a Leonardo da Vinci canvas fetched at an auction Nov. 15 in New York may have a downside for its seller, Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev.

An unidentified buyer agreed to pay USD450.3 million, including fees, for Da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" at a Christie's auction in New York, obliterating the previous record set by a Pablo Picasso work in 2015. And it far outstripped the \$127.5 million Rybolovlev paid Swiss art dealer Yves Bouvier for the canvas in 2013.

Yet the cash could complicate Rybolovlev's legal quest to prove he was overcharged by about \$1 billion on a collection of 40-plus paintings he bought from Bouvier.

Rybolovlev in 2015 filed a complaint in Monaco, where he lives, accusing Bouvier of fraudulently misrepresenting the prices he paid to secure works by Picasso, Claude Monet and others, and then massively overcharging the Russian over a decade for the paintings. Bouvier, who developed a network



Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev

of tax-free port storage facilities in Geneva, Luxembourg and Singapore, denies any wrongdoing and says he was merely charging market prices to a good repeat customer determined to build one of the world's top art collections.

"For Bouvier, this is very good news, as he can relax more and claim 'I advised Rybolovlev well and didn't overcharge him, look at this current result,'" said Thomas

Stauffer, a partner at Zurich-based art advisory firm Gerber Stauffer. "And this gives the lawyers for Rybolovlev something of a headache."

"This proves the masterpieces sold to the Rybolovlev group were priceless," Ron Soffer, Bouvier's Paris-based lawyer, said by telephone.

Yet other sales haven't been as successful. Rybolovlev sold five

paintings he'd bought from Bouvier at a Christie's auction in March for a loss of some \$150 million, leaving art experts puzzled as to why he'd sell so many at once.

"The record-breaking sale of Da Vinci's 'Salvator Mundi' has helped restore some of the value of the collection," said Sergey Chernitsyn, an adviser to Rybolovlev. "This is a welcome development for Rybolovlev family trusts as we undertake legal proceedings to address the shocking alleged fraud committed by Yves Bouvier who deceived the family, all while pretending to be a friend and advisor."

Rybolovlev's case against Bouvier won't be affected by the price the Da Vinci fetched, Chernitsyn said.

"We are not arguing the price of the paintings bought with the assistance of Bouvier," Chernitsyn said. "We are arguing in the court the methods he has used to get the fraudulent profit hidden from his client."

The final price included a buyer's premium, which is a fee paid by the winner to the auction house. Christie's wouldn't disclose what

the seller's fees were, if any. Chernitsyn declined to comment on that issue.

Complicating Rybolovlev's claim are two separate complaints recently brought against the Russian. Swiss prosecutors are examining a criminal complaint filed by Bouvier against Rybolovlev in September, alleging that he and his lawyer had "unusual contacts" with Monaco officials before Bouvier's arrest in January 2015 that "involved a clear breach of official secrecy and active bribery." That complaint is based in part on friendly text messages between his lawyer, Tetiana Bersheda, and Monaco officials, discovered by a Monaco judge.

The judge was investigating a separate complaint by Tania Rappo, a Bulgarian resident of Monaco who had introduced Bouvier to Rybolovlev, that Bersheda had illegally taped Rappo's conversations. Rybolovlev was charged as an accomplice in that invasion-of-privacy case.

Chernitsyn referred to an Oct. 19 statement when Rybolovlev said he had done nothing illegal. "All my actions in this matter have had only one purpose - to uncover a massive fraud in the art market," Rybolovlev said in that statement.

Bersheda has also denied any wrongdoing and previously said, "there has been no crime committed other than possibly the biggest art fraud in history." **Bloomberg**

AD

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## what's ON



## FESTIVE VIBES AT ALBERGUE SCM

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)  
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: December 6, 2017

VENUE: Hall D1, Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

## A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (Except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP480, MOP680, MOP880, MOP1080

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

Kong Seng Ticketing: (853) 2855 5555

## Offbeat

## MAN BANNED FROM NOBEL LITERATURE BANQUET AMID SEX CLAIMS

The director of a Stockholm cultural center has been banned by the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Literature Prize, from attending a Nobel banquet after several women made sexual misconduct allegations against the man.

Earlier this week, Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter published allegations from 18 women claiming to have been assaulted or raped by the man, who has not been named. He has denied wrongdoing to the paper.

The alleged assaults occurred between 1996 to 2017, according to the newspaper, one of Sweden's largest.

The allegations prompted the Academy to strike the man's name from the guest list for the Dec. 10 Nobel Prize banquet, which follows the award ceremony earlier the same day.

British novelist Kazuo Ishiguro got this year's literature prize.

The center where the man works has been financially supported by the Swedish Academy, and Academy members often attend events at the center including literary readings, academic lectures, dance and music.

In a statement issued late Thursday, the Academy said its annual funding of 126,000 kronor (USD15,150) to the center had been stopped immediately. The money had been paid to the institution since 2010 and the Academy stressed it had not been paid to him personally.

The institution said it would also look into its earlier ties with the man, including whether "he has had any influence — direct or indirect — on the Academy's awarding of prizes, scholarships and other kinds of funding, as well as investigate whether or not he has influenced the Academy's work in general."

Since allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein started in October, multiple men in entertainment, media and politics in the U.S. and beyond have faced allegations ranging from inappropriate behavior to forced sexual misconduct to rape.

In recent weeks, Sweden has seen thousands of sexual misconduct allegations surfacing.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:40	Miscellaneous
17:35	Zig Zag
18:10	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
18:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine 2017/2018
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

27 Nov - 29 Nov



## JUSTICE LEAGUE

ROOM 1

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

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Ben Affleck, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



## MANHUNT

ROOM 2

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

Director: John Woo

Starring: Zhang Hanyu, Masaharu Fukuyama, Qi Wei, Ha Jiwon

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 106min



## HAPPY DEATH DAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Charles Aitken

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

## this day in history



## 1967: DE GAULLE SAYS 'NON' TO BRITAIN - AGAIN

The French President, Charles de Gaulle, has for a second time said he will veto Britain's application to join the Common Market.

He warned France's five partners in the European Economic Community (EEC) that if they tried to impose British membership on France it would result in the break-up of the community.

All five - Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and Germany - have said they would support negotiations towards British membership. Only France remains opposed.

At a news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, attended by more than 1,000 diplomats, civil servants and ministers as well as journalists, General de Gaulle accused Britain of a "deep-seated hostility" towards European construction.

He said London showed a "lack of interest" in the Common Market and would require a "radical transformation" before joining the EEC.

"The present Common Market is incompatible with the economy, as it now stands, of Britain," he said.

He went on to list a number of aspects of Britain's economy, from working practices to agriculture, which he said made Britain incompatible with Europe.

Hopes that he might offer clear terms for associate membership were also dashed. He said France would back commercial exchanges with Britain - "be it called association or by any other name" - but that was all.

His remarks were greeted with dismay in Europe, where it is feared an open crisis within the EEC is now inevitable.

General de Gaulle's position has hardly changed since he first vetoed Britain's application to join in 1963.

He leaves the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, with no realistic hope of taking Britain into Europe in the near future.

All three political parties are committed to joining the EEC, and the news of General de Gaulle's continuing intransigence on the issue was met with gloom in Westminster.

The only group which was pleased with the General's comments were anti-European campaigners. They called on the prime minister to withdraw Britain's application immediately.

Only then, they said, could a "humiliating" inquiry into the UK's economic affairs be avoided when Common Market foreign ministers meet to consider Britain's application formally next month.

Mr Wilson himself said he would not countenance what he called "peevish reactions" which might jeopardize Britain's relations with France or the other five EEC countries.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Harold Wilson waited two days before replying to General de Gaulle's statement.

He made a 16-point rebuttal of the French leader's statement and ruled out any offers of associate membership.

He also said Britain would press ahead with its application for full membership of the Common Market.

After General de Gaulle fell from power in 1969, Britain applied a third time, and was accepted.

On 1 January 1973 the UK became a fully-fledged member of the EEC.

The European Union, as it is now known, has grown to 27 member states after 10 new states from eastern and southern Europe joined in May 2004, and Bulgaria and Romania joined in January 2007.

The EU is now the world's largest trading bloc by population, with about 455 million citizens.

Among its achievements, the community has been responsible for establishing the Single Market in 1993 and launching a common currency, the Euro, in 2002.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Living in dreams isn't your style. They're only dreams if you choose not to act on them - and that almost never applies to you. Right now, you're ready for a change - a big, active, self-motivated change.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've done everything right, even in the eyes of the superiors who may have been looking to find fault. You've been tested and found to be at the top of your game - and on top of everyone else's, too!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're all too familiar with irritation, frustration, and aggravation - especially due to things that are beyond your control. Of course, you can always make the best of just about any situation.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Now that someone who was pretty much nothing but trouble has officially moved on and out of your life, you may be a bit worried that the other shoe is just about to drop.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have a lot to offer - more than you may realize - when it comes to relationships. You insist on someone who's pretty far from the usual, in any department.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You are not exactly known for recklessness, so you're totally correct to feel a little worried about what might come of today's situation, especially because things have been so erratic lately.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Whether you're interested in them for friendship or romance, you're fascinated enough to invest some time and energy to see what happens. Relationships come naturally to you, so get to work.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You are an undisputed expert when it comes to secrets. Still, when a particularly delicious mystery comes your way today - the kind you're sure can make the people you care for happy.

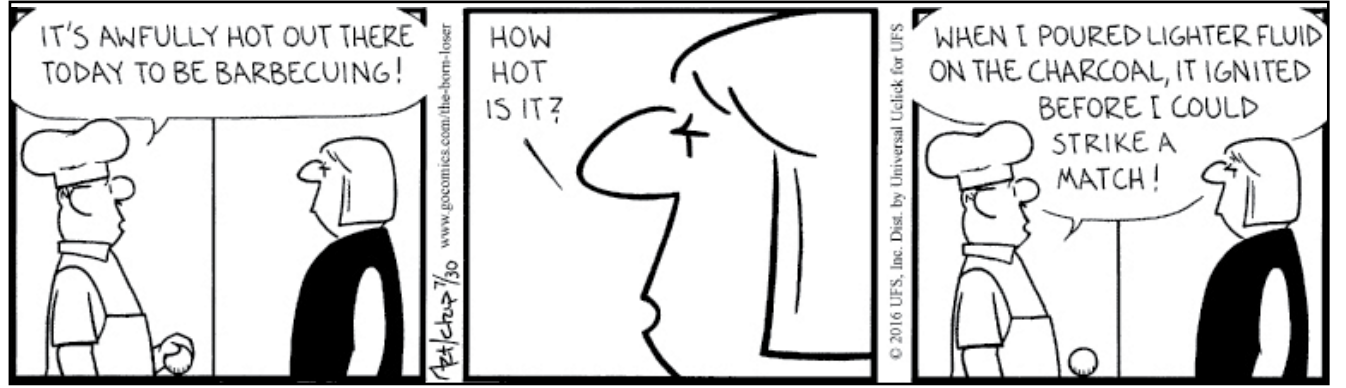
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're awfully proud of yourself today when you say or do something that shocks and amazes the throngs around you, so much so that you aren't embarrassed. The more, the merrier!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may wake up with the feeling that you're going to be lucky - though not in the monetary sense - and you might also have the urge to spend some cash to grease the karmic wheels.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Whatever you're feeling is pretty obvious to those around you, so don't bother trying to hide it - that just makes them wonder what you're up to. Of course, your behavior may also be a bit off.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you can imagine it, you can make it so - or at least that's what you've always been told. You're about to prove something similar to those among your friends who've never really believed in the concept of luck.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Includes 'Friday's solution' for the crossword and 'Friday's solution' for the sudoku.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls, Fire department, PJ (Open line), PJ (Picket), PSP, Customs, S. J. Hospital, Kiang Wu Hospital, Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), IACM, Tourism, and Airport.



Advertisement for JML property (卓雅物業) featuring a QR code and text: 'Scan QR Code to Download the JML app - Find the right property for you - See property location and details - Find your JML contact and request viewing'.



CRICKET

# Aussies move within 56 runs of victory in 1st Ashes test

**DAVID** Warner and Cameron Bancroft compounded an already exasperating day for England by sharing an unbeaten 114-run opening stand to move Australia within 56 runs of victory with a full day to play in the Ashes series opener.

Warner (60 not out) set about the run chase cautiously in the last session Sunday but picked up his scoring rate late to raise his 25th test 50 with a boundary. Bancroft, making his test debut, posted his first half century off 111 balls and remained 51 not out at stumps on day four.

England struggled after a contentious stumping decision against Moeen Ali in the middle session on day four and was bundled out for 195 after a late collapse of 4-10, including the last three wickets for one run in 10 deliveries.

Mitchell Starc picked up two wickets in the over that shou-



Australia's David Warner plays a shot against England during their Ashes cricket test in Brisbane, Australia

ld have been the last before tea, ensuring the extra time that allowed Pat Cummins to take the last wicket and leave Australia with four sessions to chase 170.

Pacemen Starc and Josh Ha-

zlewood and offspinner Nathan Lyon finished the innings with three wickets apiece, and Joe Root top-scored for England with 51.

"Obviously if we can knock off these runs tomorrow it

puts us in a very strong position heading to Adelaide and England has to chase us from now on," said Starc, who attributed his captain Steve Smith's unbeaten 141 in the first innings as the match turner for Australia. "The way we were 4-70, to sort of scratch a way to a lead, then come out and bowl the way we did - it's been great for our change room."

England resumed the penultimate day at 33-2, a slender seven-run lead, and added 29 without too much trouble before Lyon took a pair of wickets to remove Mark Stoneman (27) and Dawid Malan (4), both caught by Smith in the slips.

Root batted doggedly, recovering after a being hit hard in the helmet on Saturday night, but lost his wicket nine minutes before lunch.

The England captain had just reach his 33rd test half century from 103 balls, but

was trapped lbw by Hazlewood with the very next delivery.

Ali had moved quickly to 40 from 64 balls when he stretched down the pitch to defend a delivery from Lyon and wicketkeeper Tim Paine whipped off the bails, instantly making an appeal to the umpire at square leg.

The line call was referred to TV umpire Chris Gaffaney, who watched a succession of video replays from various angles before ruling Ali out because no part of his back foot was behind the painted crease.

That ended the 42-run sixth-wicket stand between Ali and Jonny Bairstow and exposed the lower order with England sliding to 155-6.

The decision divided critics, with some saying it was too close to call and the batsman should have been given the benefit of the doubt, but others saying it was accurate even if slightly harsh.

Australia hasn't lost a test match at the Gabba since 1988 and is growing in confidence to continue that streak. England holds the Ashes after winning 3-2 at home in 2015, but was swept 5-0 on its last tour to Australia in 2013-14.

MDT/AP

AD

**AD**

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FOOTBALL

# Heynckes not managing Bayern Munich after the season

**J**UPP Heynckes has ruled out extending his fourth stint in charge of Bayern Munich beyond this season.

Club president Uli Hoeness said on Friday it was "possible" the coach could stay, but Heynckes squashed that on Saturday.

"I don't know what prompted Uli to say that," Heynckes told Sky Sport TV. "We have a very clear agreement that the work goes on until June 30, 2018. What other people say, whether players or officials, that I should keep going - I don't want to comment on it every week because it's a clear agreement and that's how it'll stay. Nothing will shake that."

Heynckes returned to the club this season after Carlo Ancelotti was sacked.

He endured his first loss in 10 games when Bayern fell at Borussia Moenchengladbach 2-1 in the Bundesliga.

"We invested far too little, played too slow and never really got into a rhythm," Heynckes said. "Gladbach relied on counterattacks and played a clever tactical game."

Bayern's lead was cut to three points by second-placed Leipzig, which won at home over Werder Bremen 2-0. Heynckes' team is five points ahead of Schalke. **AP**

GRAND PRIX

# McLaren F1 junior Norris expresses intention to return to Macau

**A**FTER finishing second in the Macau Grand Prix's F3 race, 18-year-old British racing driver Lando Norris expressed his wish to return for the 2018 GP.

The European Formula 3 champion, already has his foot in the door to the Formula 1 grade - he is the reserve driver for McLaren and is poised to move into Formula 2 or Super Formula next year. However, he told Autosport that he wants to return to compete in the Guia Circuit.

"Next year is a long way away and it will have different drivers in it next year, so it is hard to say if I will come back. But it is something I want to do," said Norris.

Norris also expressed his disappointment in placing second, knowing that he had

the perfect opportunity to win the GP. He started the main race ahead of his fellow Brit Dan Ticktum - who ultimately won the F3 race.

"I came to Macau to win, and in some ways I didn't prepare for it as much as I should have done and maybe I could have done - because I was focusing on other things," Norris said.

"There is no reason I shouldn't have won. I think we just didn't put it all together as well as we should have done or could have done. But finishing second I think is not too bad," he continued.

Norris also noted that some teams adapted to the tires better, an area in which his team struggled.

"So maybe next year, if I do come back and we are on the same tires, we can work more to having better tire life at the end of the race."



Lando Norris

The public saw Ticktum win during Sunday's race despite starting in the eighth position from the starting

grid. The eventful race saw leaders Sérgio Sette Câmara and Carlin's Ferdinand Habsburg crash meters be-

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opinion

**World Views**

Sarah Halzack, Bloomberg

**BLACK FRIDAY IS NOT DEAD; IT MAY BE GETTING STRONGER**

Now that we've all eaten plenty of turkey and fallen asleep on the couch watching football, it's time for yet another Thanksgiving weekend tradition: declaring Black Friday dead.

This has been a common theme in analysis and media reports about retail's annual deal extravaganza for years now.

As online shopping grows, there's less incentive to wait outside in the cold - in a line that might be hundreds of people deep - to get a good price on a giant television. You no longer need to shop on Black Friday to get a promotional price, as retailers now blare the discount siren throughout November and December.

And recent years have brought a steady stream of stories about dying malls and store bankruptcies piling up into a "retail apocalypse." If the whole industry is in free fall, the logic goes, then surely the Black Friday tradition is going down with it.

But if I were a retailer, I would tune out the funeral dirges being played for Black Friday and listen instead to what I assume your sales numbers are telling you: The occasion is still critically important. And in at least one way, it might be getting even more important.

Let's start with the big picture: According to a survey by the National Retail Federation, roughly 115 million Americans planned to shop on Black Friday this year. And about 32 million plan to shop on Thanksgiving Day, when big-name players such as Best Buy Co. Inc. and Macy's Inc. are set to open their doors for their Black Friday sales.

Sorry, but if tens of millions of people plan to do something, then it's hard for me to pronounce said activity dead. And shoppers indeed have good reason to pull out their wallets.

It's true you can nab some kind of discount throughout much of the holiday run-up. But research from Adobe Digital Insights finds that the best prices of the season for online shoppers across a variety of categories are likely to be found on the Black Friday weekend.

As long as retailers keep encouraging Black Friday shopping with such pricing patterns, legions of shoppers will keep braving the crowds or filling up their digital shopping carts during this event.

That brings me to what I think is a particularly important aspect of Black Friday's transformation. In the online channel, as you might expect, Black Friday and Cyber Monday are easily the biggest spending days of the season.

But what's noteworthy is that these days are also projected to be the fastest-growing of the season.

As Tamara Gaffney, a senior director at Adobe Digital Insights, points out, it is remarkable that sales on these days are expected to see such strong growth from an already massive base.

In other words, in the online channel, spending is only getting more concentrated on these major deals events.

So, in a way, the stakes are just getting higher for retailers to get these sales right. That means making sure their websites don't slow or crash under the pressure of heavier traffic. And it means making sure they're not out of stock in key items and that supply chains are ready to quickly fulfill a crush of orders.

All of this makes it hard for me to join in the chorus of people that completely write off Black Friday. The bonanza is surely different than it was back in its '90s and early 2000s glory days, when you regularly saw scenes on the local news that brought to mind the wildebeest stampede in "The Lion King."

The event is less store-centric now, and the deals are spread over longer stretches of time. But it is still a monster sales occasion and a key opportunity to build brand affinity and loyalty with shoppers. In this highly competitive retailing environment, that's something big chains can ill afford to squander.

[Abridged]

**THE BUZZ** IRAN DECRIES 'ADVENTUROUS' SAUDI CROWN PRINCE'S 'MISTAKES'

Iran's official IRNA news agency is reporting that the country's Foreign Ministry has taken aim at Saudi Arabia's "adventurous" Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman, urging him to recall the fate of the region's autocratic rulers.

The Friday report quotes Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Ghasemi as saying "The mistakes by the adventurous Saudi crown prince, the latest of which is the scandalous intervention in Lebanese domestic affairs,

have caused trouble even for their traditional allies."

The report added that Ghasemi said Saudi crown prince's earlier remarks calling Iran's supreme leader the "new Hitler" were "immature, misjudged and worthless."

Tensions spiked between two countries after a missile fired by Yemen's Shiite rebels, believed by Saudi Arabia to have been supplied by Iran, was intercepted outside Riyadh on Nov 4.

**Nepal votes in first provincial polls**

Binaj Gurubacharya

**R**ESIDENTS of mountain villages and foothill towns voted yesterday in Nepal's first provincial polls, with the hope of bringing government closer to the Himalayan nation's rural and remote areas.

Nepal's chief election commissioner, Ayodhi Prasad Yadav, said turnout was more than 65 percent among the 3.2 million voters who were choosing lawmakers in seven newly formed federal states as well as the national assembly.

The lawmakers who are elected on Sunday, and Dec. 7 in the remaining parts of the country, will be able to name their states, draft provincial laws and choose local leaders.

"The central government is finally moving to our region. We will be closer to the government now with the state assemblies," said schoolteacher Swasthani Thapa, who was among the voters lining outside the polling station at Chautara, 80 kilometers east of Kathmandu, even before it opened at 7 a.m.

Chautara was one of the areas hardest hit by a devastating 2015 earthquake. People in Nepal's mountain regions complained they did not get enough help from the central government because their voices were not heard. Two years later, destroyed and damaged houses are still



AP PHOTO

scattered around Chautara and surrounding areas.

"This is a historic day for us," said businessman Surya Lal Shrestha. "The setting up of states will give final shape to the democracy process, which should finally bring stability and development for our country."

In nearby Balefi village, election official Rijendra Subedi said people walked up to four hours to reach the polling station from their remote mountain villages.

"Farmer left their fields and laborers took the day off to come vote with their families," Subedi said.

Nepal's slow path to democracy began in 2006, when protesters forced the king to give up his rule. Two years later, Nepal officially abolished the centuries-old monarchy and decided that a federal system would best deliver services to all corners of the nation, which remains one of

the poorest in the world.

But bickering among political parties delayed until 2015 the implementation of the new constitution, which declared Nepal a republic.

Security was stepped up for the elections, with thousands of police and army soldiers deployed. According to the Home Ministry, more than 400 people were detained in days leading up to the vote.

Soon after the constitution was implemented in 2015, protests by ethnic groups in southern Nepal turned violent and left some 50 people dead.

The ethnic Madhesi group protested for months, saying they did not get enough territory in the province assigned to them. They said they deserved more land because they represented a bigger population. Their protest blocked the border with India for months, cutting off fuel and other supplies in Nepal. AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



AP Photo/Luca Bruno

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas leads the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. Bottas won the season-ending race from pole position yesterday, beating his teammate Lewis Hamilton as F1's season finale petered out into a procession.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**EGYPT** was reeling yesterday from the horrific militant attack on a mosque in northern Sinai that killed 305 people two days earlier - the deadliest assault by Islamic extremists in its modern history and a grim milestone in a long-running fight against the insurgency led by an Islamic State affiliate. More on p14



**GERMANY** An apparently intoxicated man drove a car into pedestrians in northern Germany yesterday, injuring six people. Police said on Twitter that they are investigating "in all directions" and were still examining whether it was an accident or the man deliberately drove into the group.

**CROATIA's** most wanted fugitive, Ivica Todoric - known locally as "the Boss" - surrendered to London police this month amid accusations that he mismanaged his food and retail multinational and embezzled millions.



**BRITAIN-IRELAND** Ireland's European Commissioner yesterday pressured British Prime Minister Theresa May (pictured) to change course on Brexit talks to solve the issue of the post-Brexit border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland so stalled negotiations can move forward.

**MEXICO** A human rights official in the Mexican state of Jalisco was found alive Saturday, a day after his apparent kidnapping generated worries about the safety of rights workers in the country.