



EU-MACAU RELATIONS UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

P2



LOW COST CARRIER BETS BIG IN MACAU

AirAsia intends to add new routes to Macau next year, its CEO for Hong Kong and Macau said

P7



CHINA SENTENCES TAIWAN ACTIVIST

An activist was sentenced to five years in prison for holding online political lectures and helping the families of jailed dissidents

P11



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WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN-N. KOREA Japan is stepping up patrols and urging local authorities and fishermen to be on the alert after several boats thought to be from North Korea, some carrying dead bodies, were found on its northern coast. More on p13

INDONESIA Rain-triggered landslides and floods have killed 11 villagers on Indonesia's main island of Java, an official said yesterday.

AUSTRALIA Police have arrested a man accused of planning a mass shooting for New Year's Eve in a crowded Melbourne square. Ali Ali, a 20-year-old Australian-born citizen with Somali parents, was trying to obtain an automatic rifle to attack the downtown Federation Square in Australia's second-largest city.

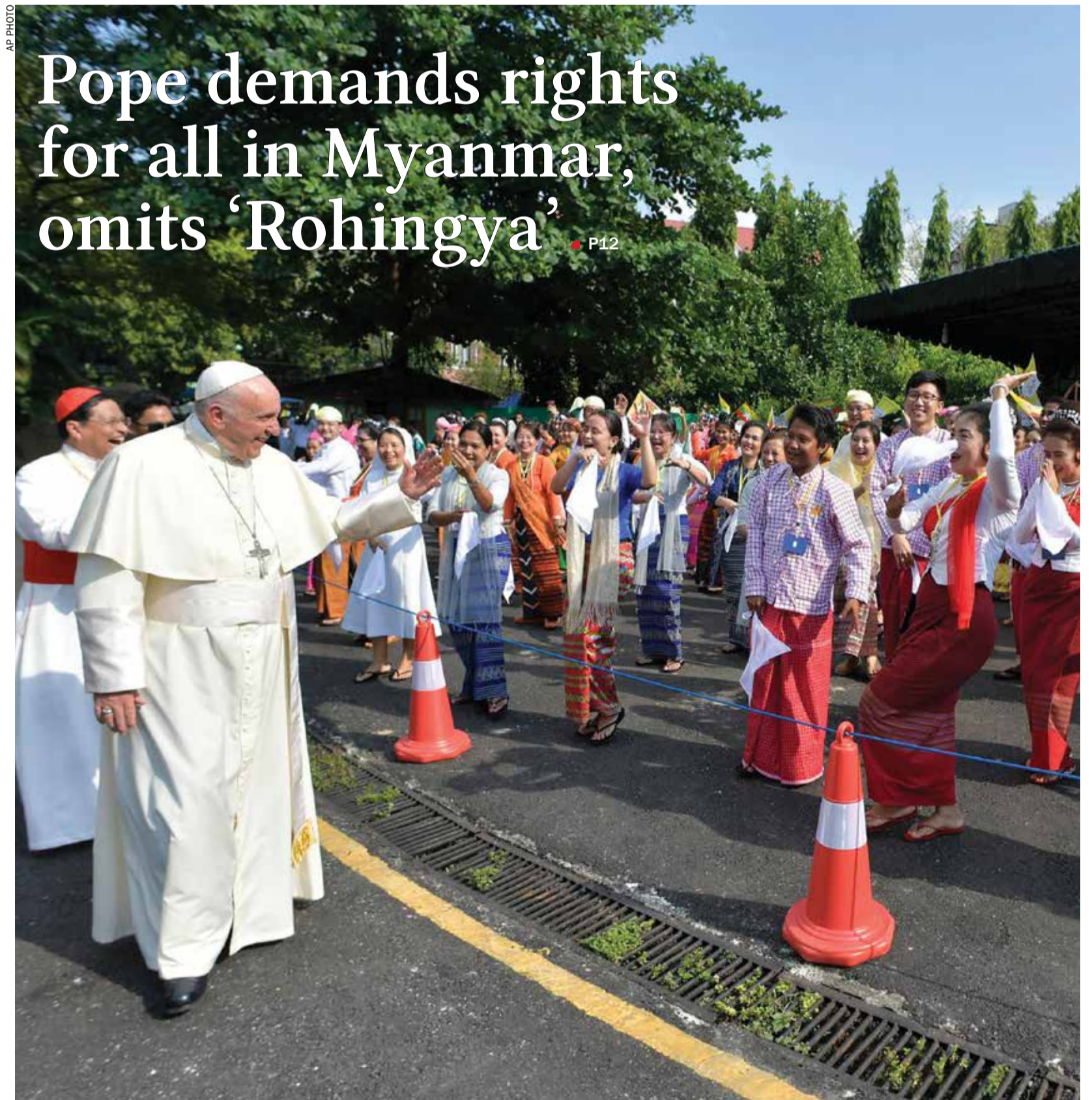


BANGLADESH's High Court has upheld a verdict by a trial court sentencing 139 border guards to death for their actions in a 2009 mutiny in which 74 people, including 57 military commanders, were killed.

EGYPT Authorities say security forces have killed at least 14 Islamic militants in Sinai and an adjacent Suez Canal province following the massacre at a village mosque in the northern part of the peninsula last week that killed 305 people.

More on backpage

New Macau to rally in support of Sulu Sou . P3



Pope demands rights for all in Myanmar, omits 'Rohingya' P12

PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN STUDIES OF MACAU

'If Macau turns only to mainland China, it will lose many opportunities'

Renato Marques

THE need for Macau to continue to relate to and negotiate directly with the outside world is a question of stability and sustainability for the future of the region, according to the president of the Institute of European Studies of Macau. José Sales Marques was speaking during a conference titled "60 Years after the Treaties of Rome: What is the Future for the European Union?" taking place at the University of Macau. The event broadly addressed the different aspects of relations between China and the European Union (EU).

Speaking at a session titled "Macau-EU Relations for a New Era," Sales Marques said, "According to Macau history, Macau was always more prosperous when it had one hand into mainland China and another in the outside world," adding, "If Macau turns only to mainland China it will lose many opportunities to engage itself in a much wider context and give

its people and economy a much [more] sustainable future."

According to the expert on Macau-EU relations, long ago (in 1993) Macau was granted a status that allows the region to establish, by its own initiative, relations with foreign countries and international organizations.

These relations, that he clearly stated to be "external relations" and not "foreigner relations," are clearly written in the Macau Basic Law, he said. They state Macau is allowed to give itself a leading role to represent China in the establishment of relations and communication channels to the Portuguese-speaking countries under Forum Macau.

Sales Marques fears that the current developments and priorities established by the Central Government that attribute several roles to the region might lead people in the wrong path due to policies and measures being extremely focused on mainland China which will have consequent effects between

RENATO MARQUES



José Sales Marques

the relations with others, in particular the European Union.

Regarding the relations between Macau and the EU, Sales Marques also mentioned that Macau is probably, "the only region of the world that has a dramatically unbalanced commercial trade balance in which the European Union has a significant surplus due to the large quantity of imports from the EU, by the region, namely of luxury goods," a fact that results directly from its economic development.

Regarding the latest developments in these relations, Sales Marques says that currently there are only two areas in which cooperation and exchange between Macau and the EU are happening, specifically in the fields of "Economic relations and Trade" and the

"Legal system," taking note of the historical background and roots of Macau's legal system being based on the Portuguese and European models.

Questioned on the current importance of the EU for Macau and possible consequences related to the Brexit, Sales Marques said, "Frankly speaking, I don't think Macau will gain too much from Brexit; Hong Kong is too important [on what matters to the relations with UK], this is the first reason," he said. "The other reason is regarding the priorities settled for Macau that are very clear and written down on the Greater Bay area," concluding, "there are three points [to focus on]: first – one

center – means [one] center for tourism and leisure, that's what we have now; one platform – is the platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries; and one base – and that's the base for cultural dialogue between Macau, China and other cultures so [the] EU is not a priority for Macau and I think we need to come to this conclusion very clearly and those who live here would understand what I'm saying."

Also addressing topics on the relations of China and the EU were Francis Snyder and Ni Lili, from Peking University and Shenzhen Graduate School, Javier Wrana, from the University Rey Juan Carlos in Spain and Kenneth Chan, from Hong Kong Baptist University.

AN INDEX TO ACCOUNT DEGREE OF 'MAINLANDERIZATION'

JAVIER WRANA, a scholar from the University Rey Juan Carlos in Spain, had the idea to create an index that could account for the degree of "mainlanderization" in Macau. The idea came as a reply to a talk by Kenneth Chan, a speaker from Hong Kong Baptist University. During his talk, Wrana proposed an index to statistically quantify the "Evolution of relative weight in global terms of the EU versus China," while Chan addressed the relations of the neighboring region with the

EU and the "non-conceptual idea" of "mainlanderization" of the SAR that could jeopardize the role of Hong Kong as a "Global City." After the presentations, Wrana launched the challenge, saying that he was available "to create an index to study precisely the evolution of what can be considered 'mainlanderization' on both the Macau and Hong Kong regions," and subsequently launched such a challenge to both the University of Macau and Hong Kong Baptist University.

Conference closes the EU Academic Program at UM

ORGANIZED by the European Union Academic Program - Macao (EUAP-M) of the University of Macau (UM), the conference "60 Years after the Treaties of Rome: What is the Future for the European Union?", held for the last two days at the Faculty

of Law of the UM, was the last big event of the EUAP-M program.

The program that now closes was introduced with the hope of contributing to a better knowledge of the EU in the context of Macau and of China and aiming to be a spring-board for the

continuation of studies about the EU, the Associate Professor from the Faculty of Law and one of the main organizers of the event, Paulo Canelas de Castro, told the Times.

"These [events] are important as the EU is one of the main actors of the currently globalized

world," Castro said, adding, "the EU is a leader in some fields, such as climate change [approaches] and in other aspects an important strategic partner of the world that [is] dominated by the global agenda [of countries like] the US, Russia and China."

To address topics on the EU is particularly important in Macau, Castro said, "due to the roots of the law and in terms of its values and juridical culture."

In terms of outcomes, Castro noted that the program will work as a "tonic for future relations; that's our hope and our goal."



Paulo Canelas de Castro

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Times

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New Macau to hold Sunday meeting in support of Sou

NEW Macau Association is planning to hold a meeting on Sunday evening at the Rotunda de Carlos da Maia in order to express solidarity with lawmaker Sulu Sou who is currently facing the possibility of suspension over an incident during a demonstration last year.

Macau's youngest lawmaker is facing the suspension after a case surfaced earlier this month dating back to a 2016 demonstration, where he is accused of walking on the road (instead of the sidewalk) without permission from authorities. He now stands accused of aggravated disobedience.

Sou, along with then-president of the association, Scott Chiang, were protesting a RMB100 million donation from the Macao Foundation to the mainland's Jinan University.

He was originally scheduled to stand trial on November 28, but the First Instance



Sulu Sou

Court decided to refer the case to the Legislative Assembly as it was unsure of whether to suspend the activist's mandate.

Now Sou is awaiting a decision from a special commission of the Legislative Assembly about whether his

lawmaker status – granting him prosecutorial immunity – should be revoked pending an outcome to the police investigation.

Organizers of Sunday's meeting were keen to stress that it is not intended to impede or delay the judicial

process against Sou, but rather show support for the lawmaker.

New Macau has denounced the investigation into Sou, claiming that it is politically motivated. They have also downplayed the seriousness of the accusation against him and argued that his role in the protest should not affect his duties as a directly elected lawmaker.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak denied that authorities were targeting Sou and said that there are 13 other cases dating from 2014 that are currently ongoing.

Sou's victory in the September Legislative Assembly election saw him become the city's youngest lawmaker and the body's most vocal democrat. Prior to that he was a leader of the outspoken New Macau Association, and a principal organizer behind the large-scale 2014 'retirement scheme' demonstration. **DB**

Local orchestra to present two concerts this week

The Macao Orchestra is slated to present two concerts this Friday and Saturday at two cultural venues, performing pieces featuring a string ensemble with a refined and meticulous technique. The concert "Music in the Tap Seac Gallery" will be held on December 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Tap Seac Gallery, and the concert "World Heritage Imagery" at the Oriental Foundation for the first time on December 2 at 4 p.m. According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the concert's program features Haydn's Divertimento in D Major and Boccherini's Six Duets for two Violins in G Major, among others.

Panda Pavilion to expand

The Macao Giant Panda Pavilion will be expanded, according to Leong Kun Fong, member of the Administration Committee of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM). The government will expand outdoor activity spaces for the pandas. The pandas' houses will also be expanded. The construction is expected to take place in the spring of 2018. Bobo, a black bear currently living at Jardim da Flora, has also been scheduled to be relocated to the Seac Pai Van Park. The government will soon commence the construction of Bobo's new house.

AD

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Zhuhai building second airport for private aircraft

THE city of Zhuhai is building a second airport for private aircraft and other aviation users. In doing so, Macau's neighboring city follows a common trend within China, particularly Guangdong, the country's richest province. A business jet service center is already operating in the Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport.

"They are serious about opening up new airports and have been giving private jets more over-flight permits to use Chinese airspace," Thomas Flohr, founder and chairman of priva-

tely owned VistaJet, an operator of business jet charter flights, told Nikkei news agency.

In China, the private jet sector is undergoing a transition from individual to corporate ownership. Sales of private jets have been slow because mainland authorities took a cautious approach to the sector, especially given Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign. According to data from Asian Sky Group, the country's jet fleet grew by a net 13 aircraft last year compared with a gain of 57 in 2013.

However, some industry in-

siders say that the slow sales of new aircraft is partly justified by a large number of secondhand jets which have also been on the market.

Thomas Flohr and other executives interviewed by Nikkei believe that the private aircraft industry will rebound but as a result of corporations rather than individuals leading the way, similar to what was seen in the United States.

Some other companies are opting for charter services, such as those offered by VistaJet. "The cost benefits are very clear,"



Private jets for sale during an event in Zhuhai

Flohr said. "It costs USD25,000 to \$30,000 per hour to run a private jet based on 300 hours of flying time per year. We offer the same flying time for \$16,000 to \$18,000 per hour."

Airport capacity remains a

problem for private jet operations in China. The existing infrastructure at commercial airports is sometimes at full capacity and slots for private jets are often in high demand, Nikkei reported.

TRADE

Imports keep upward trend

THE total value of imported merchandise for October 2017 rose by 3.6 percent year-on-year to MOP6.25 billion.

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that total merchandise trade deficit in October amounted to MOP5.44 billion.

From January to October 2017, the total value of imported merchandise went up by 4.7 percent year-on-year to MOP60.50 billion.

The merchandise trade deficit widened to MOP51.13 billion for the first 10 months of 2017.

Meanwhile, the value of exported merchandise in October amounted to MOP806 million, up by 6.1 percent year-on-year; the value of re-exports (MOP686 million) increased by 11 percent.



Value of domestic exports (MOP120 million) slid by 15.1 percent, with that of glass and glassware falling by 88.4 percent.

From January to October 2017, the total value of exported merchandise increased by 10.3 percent year-on-year to MOP9.37 billion, of which value of re-exports (MOP7.9 billion) grew by 15.1 percent, but that of domestic exports (MOP1.46 billion)

declined by 10 percent.

Merchandise exported to mainland China increased by 21.1 percent year-on-year to MOP1.78 billion in the first 10 months of 2017, of which exports to the nine provinces of the Pan Pearl River Delta (MOP1.58 billion) grew by 14.1 percent.

Merchandise imported from mainland China (MOP19.94 billion) and the Portuguese-speaking

countries (MOP521 million) decreased by 5.7 percent and 3.9 percent respectively year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2017.

Imports from the European Union (MOP15.54 billion) increased by 12.4 percent.

Analyzed by place of consignment, merchandise imported from mainland China shrank by 2.1 percent to MOP9.74 billion, of which imports from the nine provinces of the Pan Pearl River Delta (MOP9.27 billion) fell by 1.2 percent. Imports of consumer goods went up by 11.0 percent to MOP39.97 billion.

External merchandise trade totaled MOP69.87 billion in the first 10 months of 2017, up by 5.4 percent compared with MOP66.27 billion a year earlier.

EDUCATION

UM student wins championship at Japanese Speech Contest in HK

LEOONG Wong Ian, a third-year student of Japanese studies from the University of Macau (UM), recently won the championship at the 42nd Japanese Speech Contest, held in Hong Kong.

Leong's speech focused on the importance of Japanese honorific expressions. Based on her experiences, she illustrated her views on the language's complex honorific system in a unique and interesting way. Her performance received unanimous applause from the judges and members of the audience.

Under the guidance of instructor Kumiko Kimura, Leong started to receive intensive training on pronunciation and facial expression two months before the contest. Quoted in a UM press release, Leong said that she believes



that it is important to be a self-driven learner when learning a new language and that one of the best ways to learn a language is to speak it.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the Japan Society of Hong Kong. Organized by the society and held in Chiang Chen Studio Theatre of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, this year's competition attracted 14 students from Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong.

AD

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The secretary noted that “[the police] can follow the flow by sensitive people or by terrorists.” He then claimed that installing more cameras will “have a very important effect” on improving public security, traffic flow, the flow of pedestrians, and in decreasing general risk levels within the city.

All speech needs to be controlled within the law, [...] it is not absolutely free, including speech online.

WONG SIO CHAK

“We can save precious time on investigations. Before, [an investigation] would require several days, but [afterwards] it can be solved in seconds,” pointed out Wong.

The Secretary for Security also remarked that the police authority is “preparing to refer to [the] mainland’s experience” and to initiate the drafting of a law regarding security.

Regarding democratic movements, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong feels that the police authority abused its power in prosecutions against demonstrators.

“In a civilized society, people can express their opinions resorting to peaceful methods. [...] Macau people have always been peaceful. Most demonstrations were carried out in calm environments,” said Ng, who then asked if Macau had entered “a period of political prosecution and suppression?”

“[Saying that the police force] is abusing [its power to make] prosecutions is an insult to the police. [...] The police are enforcing the law according to its rules,” clarified Wong.

According to the secretary, from 2014 until now, 46 men and 12 women involved in two protests and two assemblies were prosecuted due to their actions during these events.

During the same period, there was a total of 1,882 assemblies and 147 demonstrations.

POLICY ADDRESS | SECURITY

CCTV surveillance cameras don't equal democracy suppression

Julie Zhu

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak stressed yesterday during the Policy Address presentation at the Legislative Assembly (AL) that the public should be aware that CCTV surveillance cameras will not compromise democratic movements.

In yesterday's AL, Wong expressed his admiration for mainland China's CCTV surveillance camera system.

Wong has mentioned mainland China's advanced skills in

installing surveillance cameras multiple times. When Sulu Sou pointed out Wong's specific appreciation for mainland China's surveillance system, Wong noted that London also features a well-developed surveillance system.

“Is London [undermining] democratic movements? This is wrong [assuming surveillance cameras compromise democratic movements],” declared Wong.

Wong said that installing more CCTV surveillance cameras in town is a “great tendency.” Wong expressed his opinion at the AL,

which marked the second time Wong has commented on how to make a city secure.

Lawmaker Ma Chi Seng strongly urged Wong to speed up the installation of more cameras in town.

Wong approved Ma's words, saying that “many countries are doing these things.”

“Mainland [China] is very advanced in this aspect. It can annihilate several crimes and security incidents in their beginning, or, at least [it] can reduce the level of [consequences] of security accidents,” explained

Wong, adding “even though it [the surveillance system] does not wipe out or reduce [incidents], it [...] can help the police with their investigations. This is a top priority task. So we included it in the first chapter of our policy address for next year.”

The secretary proudly revealed that he visited several places across mainland China to gain experience in installing CCTV surveillance cameras in the Macau territory.

“We are investing efforts in works of this nature. Mainland [China] is developing rapidly [in this field]. I have already visited Guangdong and Shanghai, and I am preparing to visit Zhejiang. Zhejiang is developing very [quickly...] especially concerning anti-terrorism procedures. These advantages are really worth[while] for us to refer to,” said Wong.

No freedom for all speech, says Wong Sio Chak

WONG Sio Chak has said that there is no guaranteed freedom for all speech when he was questioned by two lawmakers, Sulu Sou and Ng Kuok Cheong, regarding Macau's freedom of speech.

Ng reminded that two senior citizens were prosecuted earlier this year after sharing messages, considered rumors, about Typhoon Hato through a mobile application.

In Ng's opinion, the public, most of the time, has no way to confirm certain information.

Sou pointed out that some residents claimed to have used a VPN to access a few applications during Typhoon Hato, because these residents were worried the government had somehow interfered.

Sou asked if Macau's freedom of communication will step towards mainland China's style.

“[Regarding] the cyber security law, it did not go through public consultation at all. [...] Nobody has seen the contents of the bill,” complained Sou.

Sou asked Wong if the police authority “would violate residents' right of freedom of speech [...], now and in the future, in the name of social security.”

“My doubt is why [you] ask me? Why don't you ask the telecommunication department? If you suspect that there is a crime, you can report it. If the internet is unstable, we are not responsible for it. [...] We have always been enforcing laws according to their rules. Not all speech is free,” said Wong.

“All speech needs to be controlled within the law, [...] it is not absolutely free, including speech online. We are supervising according to the law,” said Wong.

CONTROVERSIAL BORDER CONTROL POLICY

LAWMAKER NG Kuok Cheong has some doubts regarding the region's border control policy, which has even “banned scholars, social workers, journalists [...] and a one-year-old child” from entering Macau. “I have addressed [the topic of] banning entries. Any country or region has the right and responsibility to protect their local

security. It works the same in the whole world. The United States even listed a [whole] country to be subject to travel bans,” said Wong, who then questioned “why is it not a problem for countries to aim at a whole country, but I cannot do the same when targeting individuals?” He said that he hopes the public stands behind him on this issue.

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

AirAsia kicks off Macau-Johor Bahru flight, pledges investment in Macau

Lynzy Valles

AIRASIA intends to add five or six new routes to Macau every year, fulfilling a pledge made earlier by the founder of the company, Tony Fernandes, who noted that the SAR is its number one priority in North Asia.

The low cost airliner's investment in Macau is expected to encourage travelers from Macau's neighboring regions to fly outbound from Macau International Airport.

Following its recent Macau-Jakarta route launch, the airline yesterday launched its new route to Malaysian city of Johor Bahru, the airline's seventh international destination from Macau.

The Macau-Johor Bahru route will operate daily with one flight per day both to and from Macau. Johor Bahru is the Malaysian city which borders Singapore.

The CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau, Celia Lao, hinted that the airline is expecting more routes to link Macau to other regions but declined to reveal which regions.

"We [expect] some of the new routes [to come] for 2018 but [it] is not confirmed yet," Lao told the press.



CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau Celia Lao

AirAsia is also set to launch its Macau-Phuket route on January 8, with flight tickets already available for booking.

She implied that travelers from the city's neighboring regions are also one of its target markets.

"Travelers from the Pearl River Delta Region, especially Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen, can also leverage on this new route to travel to Malaysia," she said.

"Johor Bahru is a tourist destination already but a lot of people from Macau and southern China don't know [about it]," Lao added, pledging to promote the route to locals.

Last year, the airline has flown more than 230,000 customers between Malaysia and Macau, and thus Lao is confident that it could further promote tourism in both places.

Meanwhile, the director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Helena de Senna Fernandes expressed that the increase of flights to Macau will help boost the city's tourism arrivals, also adding that Malaysia remains one of the region's most significant markets.

Senna Fernandes believes that the route will allow residents and those living in the neighboring regions to make use of the

flight to travel around Malaysia.

"Having more flights from Malaysia will definitely open up new avenues because we're talking about another area, Johor Bahru. So eventually we hope there will be other places in Malaysia connected to Macau as well. We'll do it step by step, hopefully," said Senna Fernandes.

Commenting on the new routes in 2018, she said, "I have heard some plans but [am] not sure whether these are very concrete."

Questioned whether the bureau is eyeing new routes for Macau in a bid to further increase tourism arrivals, the MGTO director explained that preferences go to the regional markets.

"Although we would definitely want to have a long haul flight to Macau, when it comes to com-

mercial operations, we have to be able to take it step by step," she added.

According to Senna Fernandes, in order to attract airlines and visitors to long haul flights, they also have to try to make Macau more of a hub and a base to fly outward from.

"There is still a lot of homework for us to do. We have to be very practical about that."

Meanwhile Senna Fernandes hinted that the bureau will continue to promote the region in Indonesia, adding that it was pleased to see AirAsia's Macau-Jakarta route introduced as Indonesia has a large population.

According to her, the market has potential in terms of incentive groups going outward, thus adding that it would be vital for Macau to attract incentive and meeting groups from Indonesia.

MGTO OPTIMISTIC ON DECEMBER TOURIST ARRIVALS

WITH THE year almost coming to an end, Fernandes seemed confident on next month's tourist arrivals, because the city is set to present several festivals during the festive season. With upcoming events including the Macao Light Festival, the International Film Festival &

Awards and the Macao International Parade, the MGTO director says the bureau is also optimistic for December's figures. "December is looking good for us. Up to October, the numbers that we have are very optimistic [positive]: around 4 percent better than last year," she said.

Unemployment rate remains stable

THE general unemployment rate for the August-October period was 1.9 percent, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service. The unemployment rate for residents was 2.6 per-

cent and the underemployment rate was 0.5 percent.

All the three indicators dropped by 0.1 percentage points from the previous period three-month, period between July and September.

The total labor force in Macau was 387,200 and the labor force participation rate stood at 70.8 percent. Total employment was 379,800 and employed residents totaled 279,900. This is a de-

crease of 1,400 and 1,300 respectively from the previous period.

Analyzed by industry, employment in the gaming sector registered an increase, while the hotel and hospitality sector and

the wholesale and retail sector showed decreases.

The number of the unemployed was 7,400; down by 300 from the previous period. Fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 14.8 percent of the total unemployed, the same proportion as in the previous period, ac-

ording to the Statistics and Census Service.

In comparison with the same August-October period in 2016, the unemployment rate stayed unchanged, while the labor force participation rate and the underemployment rate dropped by 1.5 and 0.2 percentage points respectively.

corporate bits

LOCAL SME SUPPLIERS GRADUATE FROM SANDS' ACADEMY



Sands China Ltd. recognized the second group of local SME suppliers to graduate from the Sands Procurement Academy yesterday, with a ceremony at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre.

The event was co-organized

with the Macao Chamber of Commerce and the Macau Productivity and Technology Centre (CPTTM).

Sands China inaugurated its Sands Procurement Academy in June as an ongoing commitment to Macau's local SME suppliers, the gaming

operator recalled in a press release.

The academy is an initiative to develop suppliers by sharing business knowledge and skills, helping them gain experience and capacity for working with large-scale international customers like Sands China.

It provides tailor-made practical training modules to local SMEs, with the first round of participants having graduated in October after completing the week-long program of training courses.

The second round of training attracted over 20 local SME suppliers; 19 of them have completed the six modules and have graduated.

The academy's graduating suppliers are given preferential procurement under otherwise equal circumstances.

WYNN ANNOUNCES FESTIVE DINING, SPA OFFERS



The dining establishments at Wynn Palace Cotai and Wynn Macau will be featuring festive buffets and traditional festive gourmet offerings for

Christmas and New Year, as announced by the gaming operator in a statement.

On December 24 and 25, SW Steakhouse will be of-

fering guests a four-course Christmas dinner menu, and will be ending the year by featuring a five-course New Year's Eve dinner on December 31.

Fontana Buffet at Wynn Palace will also have a holiday lunch and dinner buffet from December 8 to 31.

Meanwhile at Wynn Macau, Ristorante Il Teatro will be presenting a four-course festive dinner menu on December 24 and 25, while Cafe Esplanada will offer a dinner buffet on Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Throughout the festive season, a wide selection of treatments, offerings and spa products will be made available at The Spa at Wynn Palace and the award-winning The Spa at Wynn and The Spa at Encore.

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Volkswagen

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AP PHOTO



Airbus, Rolls-Royce, Siemens developing a hybrid plane

AIRBUS, Siemens and Rolls-Royce are teaming up to develop a hybrid passenger plane that would use a single electric turbofan along with three conventional jet engines running on aviation fuel.

The plane is an effort to develop and demonstrate technology that in the future could help limit emissions of carbon dioxide from aviation and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The three companies said yesterday they aim to build a flying version of the E-Fan X technology demonstrator plane by 2020.

The aircraft would be based on the existing BAE 146 four-engine regional jet. The hybrid version would generate electric power through a turbine

within the plane. That power would be used to turn the fan blades of the single electric turbofan engine.

If the system works, a second electric motor could be added, the companies said.

The companies said European plane maker Airbus SE would be responsible for building the aircraft's systems into a working whole, control systems and flight controls. Britain-based Rolls-Royce plc would make the generator and the turbo-shaft engine, while German engineering company Siemens AG would deliver the two-megawatt electric motor to power the engine. Rolls-Royce the aircraft engine maker is distinct from the luxury car brand owned by BMW AG.

LUXURY

Pink diamond fetches USD32m, Patek sets Asian record

A 14.93-carat pink diamond ring sold for about USD32 million at Christie's in Hong Kong, at the low end of estimates in a volatile market for gems, while a vintage Patek Philippe set a record auction price for a wristwatch in Asia.

The oval stone, set in a ring embellished with smaller diamonds, sold after a three-minute contest. It was estimated to sell for as much as \$42 million.

The sale follows a choppy auction season in Geneva, where Sotheby's failed to sell the Raj Pink, a 37-carat stone that was estimated to be worth as much as \$30 million.

The Christie's auction came just after a vintage Patek Philippe sold for about \$2.9 million at Phillips in Hong Kong. That's the highest price a wristwatch



ever fetched in an auction in Asia.

Pink diamonds are considered among the rarest and most valuable gemstones in the world. Sotheby's set the record for any gem ever sold at an auction earlier this year, with its \$71 million sale of the 59.6-carat Pink Star to Hong Kong-based

jewelry retailer Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd.

The 18-carat yellow gold Patek Philippe exceeded the high estimate of \$2.6 million.

The wristwatch, consigned by an Asian collector, dates back to 1953 and features blue enamel decor and an engine-turned

dial - a centuries-old craft that uses machines to engrave delicate patterns on watch components. It's also known by the French term, guilloche.

Vintage-watch demand has been booming, illustrated by Phillips's record \$17.8 million sale last month of a Rolex that belonged to Paul Newman. The smaller New York- and London-based firm is aiming to corner the market in vintage timepieces and began holding Hong Kong auctions two years ago.

"We've noticed more and more Asian collectors are looking for vintage timepieces," Thomas Perazzi, Phillips' head of watches in Asia, said in an interview prior to the sale. "Before, they were looking more for important contemporary wristwatches. This growth is very important."

AECOM

Job Title: Cat.III Site Supervisor

Job Description: Carry out site supervision of Ground Investigation (GI), provide comments on the preliminary log, and ensure that all site work of GI and geotechnical assessment are complied with the GI specification, including:

- Supervise drillhole locations, method, requirement, and particular sequence of GI;
- Supervise laboratory testing of GI;
- Supervise the installation and operation of plant and equipment during the GI site works; and
- Review the site record sheets, laboratory testing results and GI reports.

Job Requirements:

- At least 8 years of experience in Geotechnical Engineering, plus not less than 4 years of experience in site supervision of GI and geotechnical engineering works;
- Proven experience in ground investigation;
- Qualified with an associate's degree in Engineering or above; and
- Capable of communicating in Mandarin and English.

Job Title: Project Manager

Job Description: Lead large-scale multi-discipline infrastructure and environmental projects, and manage environmental monitoring and auditing for ash disposal sites. Detailed work scope includes:

- Supervise and coordinate a team of professional engineers to carry out feasibility study of various large-scale multi-discipline infrastructure and environmental projects;
- Coordinate and provide technical support on environmental monitoring and auditing for ash disposal sites;
- Coordinates resources, provide clear direction and timelines for deliverables;
- Manage the relationship with client and all stakeholders.

Job Requirements:

- Master Degree in Environmental Engineering or above;
- At least 10 years of experience in Environmental Engineering, plus not less than 5 years of experience in environmental monitoring of incinerator ash disposal site;
- Proven experience in leading large-scale multi-discipline infrastructure and environmental projects;
- Solid technical background, with understanding and hands-on experience in ISO9001 and ISO14001; and
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.



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Zhou Xinci (right), a migrant from Heilongjiang, talks about her fears of being evicted as her son sits at left, in the outskirts of Beijing

Beijing evicts Chinese migrants in droves, prompting outcry

Emily Wang & Yi-Ling Liu, Beijing

ZHOU Xinci left her hometown in China's struggling rust belt four years ago for Beijing with little more than the clothes on her back and a dream to one day save enough money to buy a home.

That dream is now fast unraveling as Zhou, 35, watches as her neighbors — other low-income Chinese migrants like her — are being hurriedly evicted from their homes on the outskirts of the capital by the government.

Authorities in Beijing have launched sweeping evictions of workers who have migrated from elsewhere in the country, triggering a public outcry over the treatment of people the city depends on to build skyscrapers, care for children and take on other lowly paid work.

Zhou, whose husband is a factory worker in Beijing, knows their family will soon be next and wonders how they will stay in the city and keep their 9-year-old son safe and in school.

"They are chasing people away from apartments and smashing things. How wouldn't a child be scared? My son is scared and can't sleep at night, of course I'm scared too," she said.

Her family now pays 400 yuan (USD60) a month to rent a single room big enough for their bed, a wardrobe, television set and refrigerator. But with soaring rents and rising discrimination against migrant workers, she says it will be impossible to find another room.

"They say Beijing people will feel heartache if they lose a dog,"

Zhou said. "We are living people. How could they treat us like this?"

Workers interviewed by the AP say whole families have been evicted, often with little notice, leaving them scrambling to transport their belongings in the freezing weather. Many have had to pile their furniture, bags, bedding, clothes and other items into overloaded pickup trucks and vans, discarding kitchenware and other belongings that wouldn't fit.

They are chasing people away and smashing things. How wouldn't a child be scared?

ZHOU XINCI

"They called us at 5 a.m. and by 8 a.m. they had arrived with demolition equipment," said Bi Yan'ao, a 54-year-old migrant worker who has lived in Beijing for 13 years, describing what it was like to have to move out of his apartment in Daxing in just a few hours last week, clutching his belongings.

"In just one hour, they flattened a 100-meter-long stretch of land. How scary is that."

After that, Bi went to work with his relative at a shop selling cos-

metics, but then they were told this week they had a couple of days to move out. On Monday evening, Bi stood in the store surveying the piles of boxes of merchandise around him, at a loss for what to do. He teared up.

"I want to cry," he said. "I don't have anything left now."

Last week, the city launched a 40-day campaign to clear out tenants from buildings deemed unsafe after a massive fire killed 19 people at apartments rented mainly by low-income Chinese migrant workers.

The eviction drive has been met with widespread anger and criticism online, with people saying it has laid bare the stark inequality in China that prevents poorer migrants who provide essential services in cities from enjoying the same status as the cities' residents. Under China's much-criticized household registration, or "hukou," system, Chinese migrant workers who can't obtain "hukou" in the cities they work in are often denied access to subsidized health care, education and social services.

Most tenants living in such homes on the outskirts of the city are factory workers, construction laborers, delivery people, drivers, cleaners, or hairdressers who come from poorer parts of China. Others run their own small wholesale businesses and shops selling cheap goods. Some have lived for years in the city with their children.

Along the same street that Bi was on, the owner of a luggage store described a similar experience, saying officials came and told her family to leave within

days before the area was to be sealed off and demolished.

"People have feelings, we cannot accept this, to be asked to leave suddenly," said the store owner, who gave only her surname, Yang. "We've lived in Beijing for a long time and it's not about how much contribution we've made. In the end, we've ended up with not even a place to live, I feel sad. So deeply sad."

A group of intellectuals signing an open letter to the central government urging the city to stop the evictions and provide temporary housing for the migrants.

One of the signatories, independent political commentator Zhang Lifan, said anger over the evictions showed that rapid economic growth has resulted in a massive accumulation of wealth and also rising inequality and a sense of unfairness.

Zhang said many Chinese were quick to extend a hand to displaced migrants because they too had once been in their shoes,

having worked their way up the socio-economic ladder to secure a decent middle-class life.

"When they saw that the migrants had been evicted, they realized that similar tragedies could have happened to them," Zhang said.

In the wake of the evictions, individuals and organizations have offered to help displaced migrants with free accommodation.

Wang Qi, an employee of a real-estate company in Langfang, a nearby city in Hebei province, said it would provide apartments as temporary homes for the migrant workers free of charge for up to three months. A posting online describing the offer said priority would be given to the sick, elderly and pregnant.

"Our boss himself was once a migrant worker in Beijing," Wang said. "But now that he has become wealthier, he wants to help out."

The Beijing Work Safety Administration has denied that the campaign is aimed at driving out low-income migrants, saying it covers unsafe housing across the city.

The Nov. 18 fire in Daxing district that killed 19 people, including eight children, was a "very painful" lesson for the government, and the cleanup campaign was aimed at not allowing such a tragedy to be repeated, a statement on the administration's website said.

It acknowledged that the evictions have caused "temporary difficulties" to people who have had to leave at short notice and it pledged to fix such problems.

The Beijing city government said last year it plans to cap the city's population at 23 million by 2020 and cut by 15 percent the number of people in six main districts.

China Labor Bulletin spokesman Geoffrey Crothall says the evictions are part of an ongoing effort by the government to redevelop land and capitalize on rising land prices. With the evictions, the government is effectively driving out the backbone of the city's labor force, Crothall said.

"Beijing needs migrant workers to do all the low-cost efficient service jobs that middle-class Beijingers depend upon," said Crothall. "But if you push them out of the city altogether, then there is going to be no one to do those jobs." AP



Migrant workers pack their belongings onto a truck as they leave Beijing

Gillian Wong, Beijing

LEE MING-CHE

Court sentences Taiwan activist to five years for subversion

CHINA sentenced a Taiwanese activist to five years in prison yesterday for holding online political lectures and helping the families of jailed dissidents in a conviction demonstrating how Beijing's harshest crackdown on human rights in decades has extended beyond the Chinese mainland.

The trial of Lee Ming-che was also China's first known criminal prosecution of a nonprofit worker since Beijing passed a law last year tightening controls over foreign non-governmental organizations.

The Yueyang City Intermediate People's Court in central China handed down the sentence against Lee after finding him guilty of subversion of state power. Lee had confessed during his trial in September, which his wife dismissed as "a political show."

Lee's co-defendant, Peng Yuhua, who is from mainland China, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Peng had also pleaded guilty, saying he had founded an organization called Palm Flower Co. to pressure China to accept a multiparty political system and that Lee was his deputy in charge of education.

Lee's wife Lee Ching-yu attended the sentencing. "A price must be paid in the pursuit of an ideal," she said in a statement issued through her supporters. "Striving for human rights for the underprivileged is a necessary dedication to promoting the progress of human civilization."

Supporters say that since the trial ended Lee Ching-yu has been prevented from leaving her hotel room or meeting with anyone. Calls to her mobile pho-



Taiwanese activist Lee Ming-che sits during a court session at the Intermediate People's Court of Yueyang, Hunan province, yesterday

ne rang unanswered.

"Lee Ming-che took the risk despite knowing the dangers," she said, adding that she was proud of him.

Subversion of state power is a vaguely defined charge often used by authorities to muzzle dissent and imprison critics. Both men said they would not appeal.

Taiwan, a self-governing island Beijing regards as part of Chinese territory, swiftly condemned the sentence.

"The spread of democratic ideas is innocent!" Alex Huang, the spokesman of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, said in a

statement. Huang urged Beijing to release Lee as soon as possible and allow him to return to Taiwan.

"We cannot accept that Lee Ming-che has been convicted of 'state subversion' for sharing ideas of freedom and democracy out of concern for the development of mainland China's civil society and democracy," the statement said.

Taiwan's Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council said in a statement it would not accept the verdict against Lee and said the government would continue working to secure his release from China.

Lee Ming-che, 42, cleared immigration in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory of Macau on March 19 and never showed up for a planned meeting later that day with a friend in the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai.

A price must be paid in the pursuit of an ideal.

LEE'S WIFE

He had previously conducted online lectures on Taiwan's democratization and managed a fund for families of political prisoners in China.

China's wide-ranging crackdown on civil society has featured a string of televised "confessions" — believed to have been coerced — from human rights activists accused of plotting to overthrow the political system.

The new law passed in April 2016 says foreign NGOs must not endanger China's national security and ethnic unity, and places nonprofit groups under close police supervision. It is seen as an attempt to clamp down on perceived threats to the ruling Communist Party's control.

Relations between Taiwan and China have been near an all-time low since the election of Tsai, whose party has advocated Taiwan's formal independence. China cut off contacts with Taiwan's government in June of last year, five months after Tsai was elected.

Amnesty International said Lee Ming-che was a victim of a politically motivated prosecution and that the evidence against him was not credible.

"He is the latest to suffer under the Chinese authorities' relentless attack against human rights and democracy activists," Roseann Rife, the group's East Asia research director, said in a statement. **AP**

General Zhang being investigated for corruption commits suicide

A former top Chinese general under investigation for major corruption has killed himself, official media reported yesterday, denouncing his death as a "despicable" act to escape punishment.

Zhang Yang had been placed under investigation in late August on suspicion of bribery, having a large amount of property that he could not account for and other acts of that "seriously violated" laws and regulations.

The Xinhua News Agency and state broadcaster CCTV said Zhang hanged himself on Thursday at his home, to which he had been confined during the investigation.

No other details were given.

Zhang had formerly headed the Political Work Department under the dual government and ruling Communist Party's Central Military Commissions that oversee the People's Liberation Army.

The reports said investigators closed in on Zhang using testimony given by two other former top generals, Xu Caihou and Guo Bo-xiong, who had earlier become high-profile targets of President Xi Jinping's sweeping anti-corruption campaign.

Xu and Guo had also been Central Military Commission members. Xu died of cancer in

2015 before facing court martial, while Guo was sentenced to life in prison last year.

Since coming to power in late 2012, Xi has launched a wide-ranging crackdown on corruption that has felled scores of mid-to-high-ranking officials.

That has while strengthened Xi's iron grip on the party and military, while eliminating political threats and helping make him the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation.

The campaign has been criticized outside China as trampling on the legal system since it is spearheaded by the ruling party's internal disciplinary body rather

than state prosecutors.

Its targets are often publicly vilified even before facing trial, and no exception was made for Zhang, who had just turned 65, the standard retirement age for high-ranking officers.

"This formerly powerful, high-ranking general used this despicable manner to end his life," the official PLA Daily newspaper said on its microblog.

"Zhang Yang used suicide to evade the punishment of the party regulations and state law, an act of great odiousness."

Corruption has long been considered rife within the PLA, with some top generals reported to have accumulated



Zhang Yang (left) the then-head of China's People's Liberation Army

stunning fortunes in both cash and gifts, including golden statues of Mao Zedong and cases of expensive liquor stacked to the ceiling in underground caches.

Along with the selling of ranks and positions, such practices are believed to have severely damaged morale, disci-

pline and combat preparedness in the world's largest standing military.

The 2.3 million-member PLA is the world's largest standing military while China has seen its defense budget grow rapidly to make it the world's second biggest behind the U.S. **AP**



Pope Francis meets Aung San Suu Kyi at the International Convention Centre of Naypyitaw in Myanmar, yesterday

MYANMAR

Pope demands rights for all, omits 'Rohingya'

Nicole Winfield, Naypyitaw

POPE Francis insisted yesterday that Myanmar's future depends on respecting the rights of each ethnic group, an indirect show of support for Rohingya Muslims who have been subject to decades of discrimination and a recent military crackdown described by the U.N. as a textbook campaign of "ethnic cleansing."

Francis didn't cite the crackdown or even utter the contested word "Rohingya" in his speech to Myanmar's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other authorities and diplomats in the capital. But he lamented how Myanmar's people have suffered "and continue to suffer from civil conflict and hostilities," and insisted that everyone who calls Myanmar home deserves to have their basic human rights and dignity guaranteed.

Rohingya Muslims have faced state-supported discrimination in the predominantly Buddhist country for decades, deprived of citizenship and unable to access basic services such as

adequate education and health care. In August, the army began what it called "clearance operations" in Rakhine state following an attack on police posts by Rohingya insurgents. The violence, looting and burning of villages has forced more than 620,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.

In his most anticipated speech of his weeklong trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh, Francis expressed support for Suu Kyi's efforts to bring about reconciliation among different groups after decades of military dictatorship. And he insisted that religious differences in the majority Buddhist country must never be a cause for division or distrust.

"The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect for the rule of law, and respect for a democratic order that enables each individual and every group - none excluded - to offer its legitimate contribution to the common good," he said.

Francis' avoidance of the term "Rohingya" and his encouragement for Suu Kyi's government disappointed Rohingya activists and human rights groups, who have criticized Suu Kyi for what they consider a weak response to the military crackdown. Suu Kyi's supporters - including the Catholic Church - say she is limited in what she can say against the military and needs more time to bring about reconciliation.

The term "Rohingya" is shunned by many in Myanmar because the ethnic group is not a recognized minority in the country. The question of whether Francis would use the term in a show of solidarity dominated the run-up to his trip.

"We thought that the pope was going to mention the suffering of Rohingya people, but now he cannot even use the name Rohingya and it's totally unacceptable," said Kyaw Naing, a 53-year-old Rohingya man who lives in a confined camp outside of Sittwe, in Rakhine state. "We are very sad that our identity cannot even be revealed."

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said he hoped the pope would use the term during Mass today.

"The pope missed an opportunity to reinforce his previous messages that affirmed the rights of the Rohingya to self-identify and used the name that they had chosen for themselves," he said. "The Rohingya have been stripped of so many things, but their name should never be one of them."

Francis expressed support for Suu Kyi's efforts to bring about reconciliation

Suu Kyi, for her part, referred to the "situation in the Rakhine" in her speech to Francis in the huge conference center in Naypyitaw, Myanmar's new capital. But she used the conflict as an opportunity to thank those who have supported the government as it seeks to "address long-standing issues - social, economic and political - that have eroded trust and understanding, harmony and cooperation" in Rakhine.

She said the government's aim is to carry forward the

peace process and strengthen Myanmar's diversity "by protecting rights, fostering tolerance, ensuring security for all."

Francis arrived in Naypyitaw after meeting with leaders of Myanmar's different religious groups in Yangon at the archbishop's residence, and separately with a prominent but controversial Buddhist leader who has criticized the Rohingya.

The pope stressed a message of "unity in diversity" in his 40-minute meeting with Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders and told them they should work together to rebuild the country, Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said.

Francis' meeting with Buddhist monk Sitagu Sayadaw was undertaken "in an effort to encourage peace and fraternal coexistence as the only way ahead," Burke said.

Sitagu also met with Francis's predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, but has been criticized for using ethnic slurs against Muslims, particularly the Rohingya. He received an award presented by Suu Kyi earlier this year.

Francis dove into the Rohingya refugee crisis hours after arriving on Monday by meeting with the military chief responsible for the crackdown, Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, and three members of the bureau of special operations. The general's office said in a statement on Facebook that he is willing to have "interfaith peace, unity and justice." The general added that there was no religious or ethnic persecution or discrimination in Myanmar, and that the government allowed freedom of worship.

Rohingya Muslims were stripped of citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and have little access to medical care, food or education.

Myanmar's Catholic Church has publicly urged Francis to avoid saying "Rohingya," and they have urged him to toe a delicate line in condemning the violence, given the potential for blowback against the tiny Catholic community.

Francis previously has prayed for "our Rohingya brothers and sisters," lamented their suffering and called for them to enjoy full rights. As a result, much of the debate before his trip focused on whether he would again express solidarity with the Rohingya. Any decision to avoid the term and shy away from the conflict could be viewed as a capitulation to the military and a stain on his legacy of standing up for the most oppressed and marginalized of society, no matter how impolitic. **AP**

JAPAN

Authorities on alert as boats thought to be from North Korea found

Mari Yamaguchi & Elaine Kurtenbach, Tokyo

JAPAN is stepping up patrols and urging local authorities and fishermen to be on the alert after several boats thought to be from North Korea, some carrying dead bodies, were found on its northern coast.

"The coast guard and police have to cooperate to step up sea patrols around Japan," the chief government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, said yesterday when asked about reports that a boat carrying eight dead bodies was found on the coast of Akita prefecture, which faces North Korea across the Sea of Japan.

"The government intends to improve this to ensure we can guard against suspicious boats or people arriving in Japan," Suga said.

He said local authorities, fishermen and residents should



An unidentified boat is pictured in Oga, Akita prefecture, northern Japan after being washed ashore

report if they spot any questionable boats or people.

Last week, police rescued eight people thought to be North Korean fishermen who ended up stranded along with their squid catch.

A week earlier, the coast

guard rescued three North Korean men from a capsized fishing boat off Japan's northern coast. They were transferred hours later to another North Korean vessel that was to return them home. The coast guard later found three

bodies of missing crew members from that boat, then four more bodies in another capsized boat believed to be North Korean. They were thought to have drowned.

Six bodies were found inside a storage room near the bow of the boat [...] another two near the stern

It is unclear if the people aboard the several dozen North Korean boats that drift near Japanese shores each year are intending to defect or simply unable to make their way back aboard their unseaworthy wooden boats.

The boat recovered Monday

was spotted on Saturday, but seas were too rough at the time for rescuers to approach it. It was unflagged and was reported to be "nationality unclear."

However, a coast guard official reached by phone in Akita said one of the bodies was holding a 1,000 won North Korean note, suggesting the boat was from there.

Six bodies were found inside a storage room near the bow of the boat, below deck, and another two near the stern. All were men and partially decomposed, the official said. She spoke on condition of anonymity, following coast guard policy.

The crude vessel with its very low gunwale had lost its propeller and rudder, and was similar to other poorly equipped boats often seen operating from North Korea.

Autopsies of the dead men were underway. AP

AD



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Ivanka Trump's India visit raises questions about her brand

Muneeza Naqvi, Hyderabad

IVANKA Trump is making a significant solo outing by headlining a business conference in India, but her trip highlights questions about whether her message of empowering poor women matches her actions.

Trump landed yesterday in the southern city of Hyderabad and is scheduled to make the opening address at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit later in the day.

"Thank you for the warm welcome," Trump tweeted. "I'm excited to be in Hyderabad, India for #GES2017."

The city has cleared away beggars and filled potholes ahead of the visit by Trump, the daughter of President Donald Trump and a senior presidential adviser.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join her at

the opening and will later host her for dinner at the luxurious Falaknuma Palace Hotel.

"Women entrepreneurs help drive innovation and job creation, as well as address the world's greatest and most critical challenges," Modi tweeted.

Many in India are excited about Trump appearing at the conference, which is being co-hosted by the United States and India.

"It's cool that she's coming," said Amani Bhugati, a medical student. "She's glamorous, beautiful and powerful. It's like a combination of Hollywood and politics."

Others marveled at the improvements made around Hyderabad. "All new," said Gopal, a taxi driver who gave only his first name.

But he also pointed to the potholes that remain on many smaller streets. "She's not co-

ming here, so they didn't fix it," he said.

More than 1,200 people are expected to attend the three-day conference, although not everyone is thrilled about Trump's presence.

"It's now being called Ivanka Trump's summit. It totally overshadows all our work," said Sangeeta Agarawal, the chief executive of U.S. startup Helpsy Health. "We feel that's it become more about her."

And the conference's focus on female entrepreneurs raises questions about some of the commercial decisions made by Trump and her famous namesake brand.

Critics have faulted her for failing to use her leadership role to call out labor and human rights abuses, particularly in China, where the bulk of her U.S. merchandise ships from. And they point out that she has failed to take a public

stand on alleged abuses in her brand's own supply chain.

Trump stepped back from day-to-day management of her brand before taking on an official role as White House adviser, but still retains an ownership interest.

Abigail Klem, president of the Ivanka Trump brand, has called supply chain integrity "a top priority," but the brand has not joined the growing number of companies that publicly identify their manufacturers.

A September investigation by The Associated Press showed that Trump's supply chain has become more opaque than ever since she took on her White House role, making it impossible to know who her company is doing business with around the world. The brand has said supply chains are the responsibility of its licensees.

Earlier this month, 23 rights groups signed a letter urging Trump, her brand and two licensees to publish the names and addresses of suppliers.

They also urged Trump and her brand to publicly demand that the Chinese government not prosecute three activists detained this past summer while investigating the brand's supply chain, and allow independent monitoring of factories.

In India, the cleanup of Hyderabad, a southern technology hub, began a month ahead of the conference, when the city began rounding up several hundred homeless people and beggars.

Officials said the drive against begging was launched because two international events were taking place in the city — the entrepreneurship summit and the World Telugu Conference in December. Begging is a criminal offense in India and can be punished by as much as 10 years in prison, although the law is rarely enforced.

Beggars tend to crowd around cars at traffic signals, knocking on windows and asking for food and money. They include children as young as 5, who weave through dangerous traffic and often perform small acrobatic acts.

At least one traffic overpass on the road that leads to the city from the airport has been painted in the colors of the rainbow. At night, laser beams dance across the overpass, turning a routine traffic stoplight into a psychedelic experience.

The annual entrepreneurship conference has a theme this year of "Women first, prosperity for all," and involves networking, mentoring and workshops.

Trump is expected to host at least two panel discussions, where she will be joined by Indian Defense Minister Nirmla Sitharaman, before leaving today. She is not planning to address the media during the trip. **AP**

NEW Jersey's Senate president wants a state redevelopment agency to reject a USD5.6 million payment to help billionaire investor Carl Icahn tear down an Atlantic City casino that President Donald Trump built in the 1980s.

New Jersey's Casino Reinvestment Development Authority gave preliminary approval last week to a plan to let Icahn use money from investment tax credits he had paid to the state agency. Democratic Senate President Steve Sweeney on Monday called on the agency to re-

USA

Lawmaker: Stop payment to Icahn to raze former Trump casino

ject the payment to Icahn, saying he has "an antagonistic record of treating employees."

The money would go toward the \$13.2 million cost of demolishing the shuttered Trump Plaza casino, making way for an as-yet undetermined project.

"Carl Icahn is no friend to

Atlantic City and he has a record of harsh treatment of working people," Sweeney said. "I have serious questions about allowing him to take \$5.6 million in funds intended to promote economic development for the city and its residents and instead use the money for his own property. He has a track record as a pro-

fiteer who denies fair pay and benefits to workers." Icahn did not immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday.

Icahn closed the Trump Taj Mahal last year and Sweeney has gone after him publicly, authoring a bill that would have punished Icahn for shutting the casino down. It passed

the Democratic-controlled state Legislature, but was vetoed by Republican Gov. Chris Christie, who called it an example of the Legislature's worst instincts in getting government involved in private business disputes.

Trump Plaza was closed in September 2014 under previous ownership that

succeeded Donald Trump but preceded Icahn.

Icahn sold the Taj Mahal to Hard Rock International in March, which plans to reopen it next summer. He told The Associated Press at the time he decided to seek a buyer for the shuttered casino because of Sweeney's bill that would have punished Icahn for closing the Taj by stripping him of a casino license for the property for five years.

The casino reinvestment agency hasn't scheduled a date to make a final decision on Icahn's request. **AP**

IRELAND

Reports: Deputy PM quits to avert snap election

IRELAND'S deputy prime minister has agreed to resign to avert a parliamentary vote that would have collapsed the government and triggered a snap election at a crunch time for Brexit negotiations, Irish media reported yesterday.

Irish lawmakers had been due to vote later on a no-confidence motion targeting deputy premier Frances Fitzgerald, filed by opposition party Fianna Fail.

Fianna Fail wanted Fitzgerald ousted over her involvement in a long-running police scandal. Opposition leaders accuse a previous government, in which Fitzgerald was justice minister, of failing to defend a whistleblower exposing corruption in Ireland's police force.

They say newly disclosed emails show Fitzgerald knew about attempts by senior officers to discredit



Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister Frances Fitzgerald

the whistleblower earlier than she had previously acknowledged.

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar's Fine Gael party have backed Fitzgerald. But Irish broadcaster RTE and other outlets said yesterday he has accepted her resignation, heading off a vote that the minority government would likely have lost.

UK hails new royal couple as country awaits wedding details

THE engagement of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle dominated newspaper front pages and morning news shows in Britain yesterday, as royal-watchers awaited details of the couple's spring wedding.

The grandson of Queen Elizabeth II and the American actress have announced they will marry in 2018. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby says they have chosen a church wedding.

Markle's divorced status would once have barred her from marrying the prince in church. Harry's father Prince Charles, who is heir to the British throne, married his second wife Camilla in a low-key civil ceremony in 2005 because both bride and groom were divorced.

Newspapers hailed news of the engagement as a breath of fresh air and symbol of a modernizing monarchy.

The Daily Telegraph said in an editorial: "A divorced, mixed-race Hollywood actress who attended a Roman Catholic school is to marry the son of the next king. Such a sentence could simply not



have been written a generation ago."

The Daily Mail, which devoted its first 17 pages to the engagement, said the couple would give the royal family "the injection of vigor and exuberance it so desperately needs."

In the couple's first joint interview, 33-year-old Harry said Markle immediately fitted in with his family. He said when she visited Buckingham Palace to meet the queen, "the corgis took to her straight away."

The ex-soldier prince and the 36-year-old star of TV show "Suits" revealed that Harry proposed over a roast chicken dinner at his

London home, after months in which they tried to keep their long-distance relationship out of the public eye.

Clearly happy in each other's company, the beaming couple recounted how they met on a blind date set up by a mutual friend, and immediately clicked.

"The fact that I fell in love with Meghan so incredibly quickly was sort of confirmation to me that everything, all the stars were aligned, everything was just perfect," Harry said.

"It was this beautiful woman just sort of literally tripped and fell into my life, I fell into her life." AP

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what's ON



A SCULPTURE - YANG XIAO HUA REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

AFFECTION FOR LOTUS - EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAO TSUNG-I
TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 17:30; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy
Admission: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

MACAU ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAU ARCHIVES COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: December 3, 2017
VENUE: Macau Archives, No.91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

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

HARRY POTTER-THEMED TOWN CELEBRATION DRAWS DROVES OF MUGGLES



Wizards and muggles have turned out in droves for a Harry Potter-themed celebration in a small community, so much so the town is now looking to turn it into an annual event.

Spring Street in Newton was transformed last weekend into Diagon Alley, the magical market from the J.K. Rowling book series.

More than two dozen restaurants and stores in Newton's main business district featured elements of the franchise, including a restaurant that served Butterbeer and a store that gave patrons magic wands.

Many attendees dressed up in Harry Potter attire. Some donned scarves with colors from the various Hogwarts houses and Harry's signature round eyeglasses.

Mayor Wayne Levante told the New Jersey Herald that the overwhelming crowd was much larger than organizers initially envisioned.

"It's just awesome to see this many people here in Newton," Levante said. "There's obviously a demand for this. ... A rising tide raises all boats, so we're going to make sure that we do this bigger and better next year because this is lightning in a bottle."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
15:00	NOS League: Paços Ferreira x Sporting (Repeated)
16:40	Zig Zag
17:55	Miscellaneous
19:00	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	TDM Interview (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	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

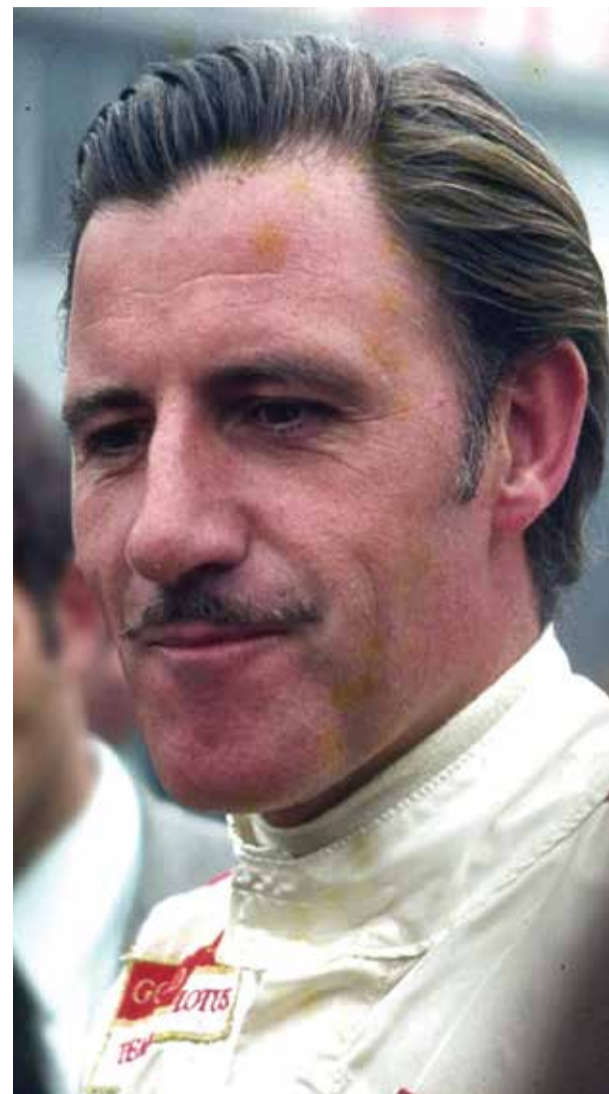
Director: Christopher Landon

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



1975 GRAHAM HILL KILLED IN AIR CRASH

One of Britain's greatest motor racing drivers has been killed in a plane crash in south-east England.

Graham Hill, 46, who retired from the sport in July 1975, was killed instantly along with the four other occupants in his Piper Aztec - all members of the Embassy Hill team.

Hill was piloting the plane when he clipped a row of trees on Arkley golf course in Hertfordshire, just before 2200 GMT.

The two-times world champion was flying Embassy Hill manager Ray Brimble, fellow driver Tony Brise, and two mechanics from France to attend a party in London.

Arley Golf Club steward Ted Dickins said visibility had been very poor at the time of the accident.

"It was terrible - the ambulances couldn't even see the bunkers as they were driving down," he said.

Friend and Elstree Aero Club chairman Spencer Flack said the champion driver was taking a risk by trying to land in bad conditions but told reporters he was an experienced flier.

"He was a skilful pilot who tried to get in and failed.

"In those conditions it's just a matter of feet and seconds between life and death," he said.

Government accident investigation officials are sifting through the wreckage to try to establish the cause of the crash.

Hill is the only driver to have won the Triple Crown of the Indianapolis 500, the 24 hours of Le Mans and the Formula One World Championship.

He won the world title with BRM in 1962 and again in 1968, with Lotus.

Hill retired from Formula 1 mid-season so he could concentrate on coaching Brise, a promising new driver in his own fledgling team Embassy Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Three thousand people attended Graham Hill's funeral in St Alban's, Hertfordshire, on 5 December.

An inquest found he was flying only 60 ft (18.3m) above the ground when the plane hit the tree - but did not realise because of the poor visibility.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned for all six occupants of the plane.

Hill's son, Damon, followed his father into Formula One racing and won the world championship in 1996.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If there's one thing you really hate, it's being told to slow down or stop.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You're hard-working and diligent - some would say stubborn - but there's much more to life than simply making sure you take care of your responsibilities.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Tonight is something of a reward, so try to forget about anything other than just enjoying their company - and making sure they enjoy yours.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If you don't know how to deal with today's financial issue that's been bugging you, try not to make any changes just yet.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Stop dwelling on your past - or at least the painful parts of it! You've done your share of that in the past, and how has it worked out for you?

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You may decide that it's time to get serious about your health or run into someone who's so alluring that you start thinking about how to make them interested in you.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You've got plenty of friends from all walks of life, collected from school, work and your neighborhood - not to mention random strangers who were lucky enough to bump into you at the right time.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You've got so much to do - and so little time to do it! Of course, if anyone can manage to take care of it all, it's you, because you're used to handling this kind of stress on a semi-regular basis.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
If you've got plans to blow town (or just head out for good times), then you need to be especially on your toes right now.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Since you don't have enough data to work with yet, your best bet is to find the one person you're sure can help, thanks to their trustworthiness and their experience with similar financial matters.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
It's really not like you to air your feelings in public, whether they're positive or negative.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You may want to suggest they avoid bring it up with anyone else since it's likely sensitive and you're not sure about the recent gossip levels.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy and Easy+ Sudoku puzzles. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled. The Easy puzzle has 28 numbers, and the Easy+ puzzle has 31 numbers.

Medium and Hard Sudoku puzzles. Each puzzle is a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled. The Medium puzzle has 28 numbers, and the Hard puzzle has 28 numbers.

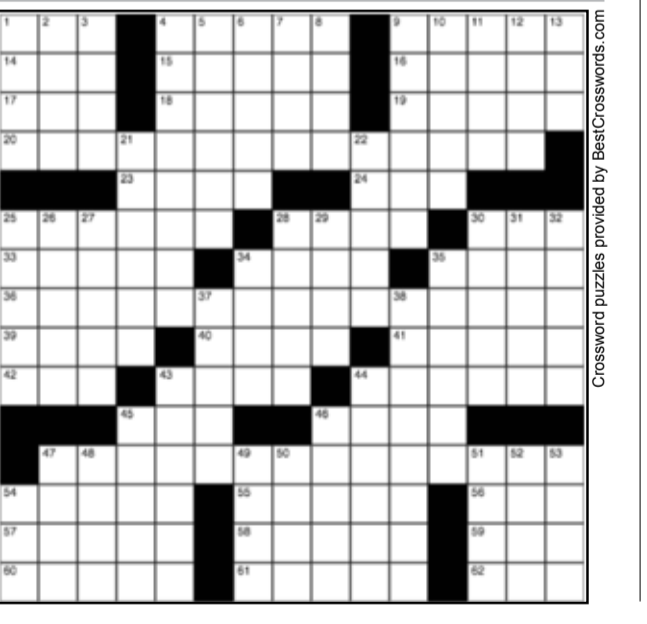
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- LAX posting; 4- Free to attack; 9- ___ my case; 14- Heston's org.; 15- Notre Dame's Fighting ___; 16- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 17- President pro ___; 18- Actress Shire; 19- Corpulent; 20- Agent; 23- "___ Tu": 1974 hit; 24- Central; 25- Places of contest; 28- Senate position; 30- Gal of song; 33- Wine grape; 34- Ruin; 35- Other, in Oaxaca; 36- In spite of; 39- Steinbeck: East of ___; 40- One of the Cartwrights; 41- So spooky as to be frightening; 42- ___ Lingus (Irish carrier); 43- Like grass in the morning; 44- Former Egyptian leader; 45- Bro's sibling; 46- ___ d'oeuvre; 47- Na'Ve or gullible; 54- Blank look; 55- Swarm; 56- Some MIT grads; 57- Prongs; 58- Autobahn autos; 59- Pasture; 60- It's a good thing; 61- Curved letters; 62- Capote, to friends;

DOWN: 1- ___'acte (intermission); 2- Branch location; 3- Clammy; 4- Clerisy; 5- Rubs out; 6- Roofing items; 7- Z ___ zebra; 8- Yonder thing; 9- Outfielder's yell; 10- Violently intense; 11- Mtn. stat; 12- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 13- ___ kwon do; 21- Fame; 22- Appliance brand; 25- Sleep disorder; 26- ___ Janeiro; 27- Door sign; 28- Fresh; 29- CPR pros; 30- Agitates; 31- Golfer Palmer, to his army; 32- Pilsner; 34- Arab sailing vessel; 35- Black Sea port; 37- The ones here; 38- Proximity; 43- Most desperate; 44- Dried strip of egg dough; 45- Binge; 46- Takes on; 47- How sweet ___; 48- ___ best friend; 49- Sneaker or loafer; 50- Soaks (up); 51- Waist band; 52- Lecherous look; 53- Biblical twin; 54- RR stop;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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FOOTBALL

Russia wants St. Petersburg to host Euro 2020 opening game

THE Russian Football Union has asked UEFA to pick St. Petersburg as host for the opening match of the 2020 European Championship.

UEFA said on yesterday its executive committee will choose a host on Dec. 7 for the showpiece opener of a tournament being co-hosted by 13 countries.

UEFA's decision will come two days after the International Olympic Committee will weigh banning Russia from the Pyeongchang Games because of state-backed doping at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

The Krestovsky Stadium in St. Petersburg hosted the opening game and final of the Confederations Cup this year. It will host seven games at the World Cup, including a semifinal and the third-place game.

The 68,000-capacity ve-



A view of the stadium under construction on Krestovsky Island, St. Petersburg

ne is competing for the Euro 2020 honor with Johan Cruyff Arena, Amsterdam; Eurostadium, Brussels; Hampden Park, Glasgow; and the Olympic Stadium, Rome.

Still, Brussels is not even

sure to stay on the hosting rotation.

UEFA must also decide next week to retain or drop the Belgian capital from the tournament because of stalled stadium construction.

Cardiff's Principality Stadium and Stockholm's Friends Arena are potential replacements after being overlooked in the original selection.

UEFA said it will also draw lots next week to pick pairs of host cities for each of six groups in the 24-team tournament. UEFA has previously said it would have up to six options in the lottery.

The other Euro 2020 group-stage hosts are: Olympic Stadium, Baku; San Mames Stadium, Bilbao; National Arena, Bucharest; Ferenc Puskas Stadium, Budapest; Parken Stadium, Copenhagen; Aviva Arena, Dublin; Allianz Arena, Munich.

The 13th venue, Wembley Stadium in London, will host the semifinals and final. **AP**

Juan Antonio Pizzi hired as Saudi Arabia's 3rd coach in 2017

WORLD Cup-bound Saudi Arabia has hired Juan Antonio Pizzi as coach less than a week after firing Edgardo Bauza.

Pizzi, Saudi Arabia's third coach in 2017, is expected to represent the country on Friday in Moscow at the draw for next year's World Cup.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency says federation officials and Pizzi signed the deal in Tokyo. Pizzi guided Chile to the 2016 Copa America title but quit after the Chilean team failed to qualify for the World Cup.

Bauza was fired by Saudi Arabia after only five friendlies in charge, following losses to Portugal and Bulgaria. He had been appointed in September to replace Bert van Marwijk, who was fired despite guiding the team to its first World Cup since 2006.

Bauza has been fired twice this year by teams in the World Cup lineup. He lost the Argentina job in April, after eight months in charge, when the two-time World Cup champions risked missing out on qualification.

AD

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Ben Nuckols, Washington

IN court, all four major U.S. sports leagues are fighting New Jersey's challenge to the federal ban on sports gambling, which the Supreme Court will hear next week.

Outside of court, leaders of three of the four leagues have made public comments that suggest they wouldn't mind losing the case. Only the NFL has been steadfast in its opposition to gambling, a stance that critics see as hypocritical, especially as the Raiders plan a move to a billion-dollar stadium just off the Las Vegas Strip.

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear a case that could lead to the federal ban on sports betting being struck down, the leagues are hedging their bets — preparing for a future of expanded gambling and hoping to have a say in how legalization takes effect.

The NBA and Major League Baseball see gambling as something that could enhance fan interest and open up new revenue opportunities. However, the leagues insist that appropriate regulations should be put in place to prevent corruption—something that a court ruling in New Jersey's favor wouldn't do, at least not right away.

Much has changed since 2012, when the leagues and the NCAA sued New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie to stop him from legalizing sports betting at the casinos and racetracks in his state. At the time, MLB and the NBA were led by old-school commissioners who bore the scars of gambling scandals in their leagues, including Pete Rose in baseball and referee Tim Donaghy in basketball. Baseball's Bud Selig said in a deposition that gambling was “evil, creates doubt and destroys your sport.”

Selig and the NBA's David Stern have since been replaced, respectively, by Rob Manfred and Adam Silver, both of whom have taken a fresh look at gambling.

Silver argued three years ago in a New York Times op-ed that sports gambling should be legalized. Manfred said earlier this year that gambling “can be a form of fan engagement, it can fuel the popularity of a sport” — and he raised the prospect of people betting during games on whether the next pitch will be a strike. He's also said MLB wants a seat at the table if Congress considers legalization.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has said gambling isn't a major concern because so little money is wagered on hockey compared to other sports. The NHL this season became the first major U.S. league to place a franchise in Las Vegas, where sports gambling is legal, and the NFL will follow in 2019. For the past several years, the NFL has also played games in London, where people can bet on sports online. Commissioner Roger

US sports leagues are hedging their bets on legal gambling



Laborers union members cheering during a meeting of the Las Vegas Stadium Authority board. As the Supreme Court prepares to hear a challenge to the federal ban on sports betting, U.S. sports leagues are hedging their bets.

Goodell has conceded that his position on the issue has “evolved.”

■ The NBA and Major League Baseball see gambling as something that could enhance fan interest and open up new revenue opportunities

“I think there are multiple signs of the sports leagues, including the NFL, taking a fresh look at this issue. You don't place a team in Nevada, in Las Vegas, without an understanding that the issue is changing. Frankly, you don't play games in Wembley Stadium, where most of the people in the stands are betting on their phones during the game, without an understanding that things are changing,” Geoff Freeman, CEO of the American Gaming Association, told The

Associated Press. “For those that want to see sports betting, the trajectory is in their favor.”

The leagues have also embraced fantasy sports, which Goodell has argued is not gambling because players win based on the performance of individual athletes, not the outcome of games. Rep. Frank Pallone, a New Jersey Democrat and a longtime proponent of legalized sports betting, doesn't buy that distinction.

“The NFL teams have invested in daily fantasy sports even though the NFL itself hasn't. It's just so inconsistent,” Pallone said. “How do you make the case and say that's not gambling?”

New Jersey is challenging the constitutionality of the federal ban on sports betting that Congress approved in 1992. The ban only allowed sports betting in the four states that had previously authorized it, and only Nevada's law at the time allowed bets on individual games. In Delaware, casinos offer parlay bets on NFL games.

“I go through Delaware and they allow it, and I come to my own state and they're not allowed to do it. It's just ridiculous,” Pallone told AP. “I think there's a good chance that the court is going to say you can't

say to one state they can have sports betting and another state that they can't, and then dictate what state has what.”

Opponents maintain that state-sponsored gambling preys on vulnerable people and creates a variety of social ills. A coalition of anti-gambling and religious groups argued in a brief that legalized gambling would open the door for casino companies to further “target and exploit the financially desperate, exacerbate crime, cultivate addiction, and force even those citizens who rarely or never gamble to foot the bill for the enormous social costs and state budget problems they leave behind.”

While legal sports books could entice more people to place bets, the practice is already widespread. The AGA estimates that Americans bet \$150 billion on sports annually, and only 3 percent of those bets are made legally.

The technology that allows more people to place bets has also enabled data collection that makes game-fixing more difficult because suspicious betting patterns can be seen in real time. With most pro players making millions, it's unlikely they would risk careers and jail by throwing games.

Game-fixing is much easier to stop and prosecute in countries with legal betting than in places without it, said Andreas Krannich, an executive at Sportradar, a London-based gambling security firm.

“In a well-regulated market, the risk of manipulation is less,” Krannich said, because bookmakers “participate in the detection and the follow-up of criminal cases.”

The leagues are concerned that the Supreme Court could allow sports gambling to become legal without those protections in place. NBA spokesman Mike Bass said the league “prefers a comprehensive federal approach to legalized sports betting, as opposed to a hodgepodge of state-by-state laws.”

If the court rules against the leagues, it would be up to the states to regulate gambling themselves until Congress steps in.

“The integrity of the games — and I know from my discussions — is the No. 1 priority of the leagues,” Freeman said. “We share that desire for integrity. I think increasingly, people recognize that the surest way to guarantee integrity is in a regulated market.” AP

opinion

World Views

Adam Minter, Bloomberg

How CHINA CAN END ITS SLEW OF KINDERGARTEN SCANDALS

Nothing infuriates China's online masses more than the belief that the powerless have been victimized by the powerful. The fury was particularly intense late last week, when allegations against a Beijing-area kindergarten blew up online. According to Chinese state media, kids as young as three years old were "reportedly sexually molested, pierced by needles and given unidentified pills." The news came at a particularly raw time: Just two weeks earlier, China's internet had convulsed in anger over video footage of teachers at a Shanghai-area kindergarten beating small children and force-feeding them wasabi.

In both cases, local governments responded promptly, firing and even detaining teachers and administrators. In Beijing, the government hastily announced that every kindergarten in the city would soon be staffed by an "educational inspector." But these steps will do little to solve the underlying problems that have led to more than 60 cases of physical abuse at early-childhood care facilities since 2010, or to satiate growing public anger. To address those issues, China must quickly improve conditions for teachers entrusted with the care of China's youngest and most vulnerable citizens.

The latter isn't a job the Chinese state historically reserved for itself. As a largely agrarian society, China had little need for formal early-childhood education so long as large extended families in close proximity could watch over kids. In urban areas, "kindergartens" - the blanket term for facilities hosting children aged three to six - only emerged in the 20th century, largely for the affluent.

The situation changed markedly in the 1980s, as China's economy modernized and millions of migrant laborers moved into cities. Extended families were no longer available to take care of children while parents worked. Meanwhile, China's highly competitive primary and secondary school system compelled many parents to seek out schooling options earlier and earlier. Demand for early education continues to accelerate: Between 2010 and 2013, China built 48,200 kindergartens, a 32 percent increase.

While the Chinese government has supported that growth both financially and with policy, demand far outstrips its efforts. In 2013, China's Ministry of Education set the full-time kindergarten staff-to-student ratio at one-to-five. Today the ratio is closer to one-to-18, as China's 44 million kindergarteners overwhelm the country's 2.5 million kindergarten teachers.

That gap is likely to grow: China projects a shortfall of 3 million early-childhood teachers by 2021. And in the absence of qualified instructors, China's kindergartens are notorious for hiring whoever they can find. In 2016, 22.4 percent of China's kindergarten teachers had a high school diploma or less.

Three key factors account for the teacher shortage. First, pay is low, especially compared to salaries at well-funded primary schools where teachers can earn double what their kindergarten counterparts do. (This problem isn't unique to China.)

Second, training is scarce, expensive and - combined with future salary expectations that range far lower than other professions - not worth the time or financial investment. Third, the social status of early childhood educators in China is abysmal, in part thanks to the aforementioned low pay and educational requirements. Those who embrace the profession can expect to be viewed as being unable to land anything better.

Public kindergartens, which tend to have high admission standards, higher tuitions, more qualified teachers and better outcomes, cater to the more affluent. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the two recent kindergarten abuse scandals emerged in private kindergartens associated with RYB Education Inc. and Ctrip.com International Ltd.

Fixing this situation starts with raising those low salaries, especially in private kindergartens.

Longer-term, China's Ministry of Education should seek ways to affiliate the country's growing numbers of private kindergartens with public primary schools, which boast better resources and standards. A fix won't be quick, but there's no better investment that could be made in China's future.

[Abridged]

THE JAY-Z LEADS GRAMMY NOMS WITH 8 AS BUZZ RAP, R&B TAKE CENTER STAGE

Jay-Z is the leader of the 2018 Grammy Award nominations in a year where the top four categories are heavily dominated by rap and R&B artists, giving the often overlooked genres a strong chance of winning big.

The Recording Academy announced that Jay-Z is nominated for eight honors, including album, song, and record of the year. Bruno Mars is also nominated for the big three, while Kendrick La-

mar - who earned seven nominations - and Childish Gambino are also up for major awards.

Jay-Z's personal and revealing album, "4:44," is nominated for album of the year alongside Mars' 90s-inspired R&B adventure "24K Magic," Lamar's hard-hitting rap masterpiece "DAMN.," Gambino's funk-soul project "Awaken My Love!" and Lorde's critically acclaimed pop album, "Melodrama."

Bali volcano spits ash 4 km in the sky, airport closed



A volcano with a deadly history continued to erupt yesterday on Bali, one of the world's most popular resort islands, spitting ash 4,000 meters high and stranding tens of thousands of tourists for a second day. Lava was welling in its crater, but it remained unclear how bad the eruption might get or how long it could last.

Authorities have raised the alert for Mount Agung to the highest level and told 100,000 people to leave an area extending 10 kilometers from its crater as it belches grey and white plumes into the sky. Its last major eruption in 1963 killed about 1,100 people.

Officials extended the closure of Bali's international airport for another 24 hours due to concerns that jet engines could choke on the thick volcanic ash, which was moving across the island.

Tourists waiting for planes stared at information screens reading "canceled" for every flight. Airport spokesman Ari Ahsanurrohm said more than 440 flights were canceled yesterday, affecting nearly 60,000 passengers, about the same as Monday. Without aircraft, getting in or out of Bali requires traveling hours by land and boat to an airport on another island.

"I don't know, we can't change it," said stranded German traveler Gina Camp, who planned to go back outside and enjoy another day on the island, which attracts about 5 million visitors a year to its famed resorts and world-class surf spots. "It's nature and we have to wait until it's over."

Experts said a larger, explosive eruption is possible or Agung could stay at its current level of activity for weeks.

"If it got much worse, it would be really hard to think of. You've got a huge population center, nearly a million people in Denpasar and surroundings, and it's very difficult to envision moving those people further away," said Richard Arculus, a volcano expert at Australian National University, adding that an eruption in 1843 was even more explosive than the one in 1963.

"There are many examples in history where you have this kind of seismic buildup - steam ejections of a little bit of ash, growing eruptions of ash to a full-scale stratosphere-reaching column of ash, which can presage a major volcanic event," he said.

A NASA satellite detected a thermal anomaly at the crater, said senior Indonesian volcanologist Gede Swantika. That means a

pathway from the storage chamber in the volcano's crust has opened, giving magma easier access to the surface.

Indonesian officials first raised the highest alert two months ago when a rash of seismic activity was detected at the mountain. More than 100,000 people living near the volcano fled their homes, many abandoning their livestock or selling them for a fraction of the normal price. The seismic activity decreased by the end of October, causing authorities to lower the alert level.

Tremors increased again last week and officials upped the alert and ordered another large-scale evacuation, with nearly 40,000 people now staying in 225 shelters, according to the Disaster Mitigation Agency in Karangasem. But tens of thousands of villagers have remained in their homes because they feel safe or don't want to abandon their farms and livestock.

"Ash has covered my house on the floor, walls, banana trees outside, everywhere" said Wayan Lanus, who fled his village in Buana Giri with his wife and daughter.

Flows of volcanic mud have been spotted on Agung's slopes, and Arculus warned more are possible since it's the rainy season on Bali. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Good
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Good
Ambient	50-70 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



KENYA President Uhuru Kenyatta was sworn in for a second term yesterday in what some hoped would be the end of months of election turmoil, which Kenyatta said stretched the country "almost to the breaking point." But violence continued, with at least one person killed as police fired rifles and tear gas to break up a large opposition gathering.

IRELAND's deputy prime minister resigned yesterday to avert a parliamentary vote that would have collapsed the government and triggered a snap election at a crunch time for Brexit negotiations. [More on p15](#)



BRAZIL For the second time this year, a small hot-air balloon - also known as a "lantern" - has set fire to the velodrome built for last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Local media showed firefighters standing on the roof of the building putting out the fire.

COLOMBIA An Israeli man built a Latin American network of hostels that provided drugs and prostitutes for backpackers, a Colombian official said Monday after the suspect was deported.

OPEC Energy ministers from both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates dodged questions yesterday about whether OPEC will extend the cartel's oil production cuts, saying the decision will come at a planned meeting in Vienna later this week.

NIGERIA Africa's most populous city is aiming to become a cultural hub for the continent, as the boisterous city of Lagos hosted the AFRICAN Culture and Design festival. Exhibits included a mix of traditional and modern art, with the goal of expanding awareness of Africa's creative talents.