



A CULINARY GATHERING

The International Gastronomy Forum kicks off on Wednesday, bringing to town members of the UNESCO Creative Cities

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CRASH 10 PERCENT LESS

Local bus companies have been required to reduce the number of bus accidents by 10pct, Transport Bureau director Lam Hin Sam said

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OIL TANKER SINKS OFF CHINA, NO SURVIVORS

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WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has called the military's investigation into the deaths of Rohingya Muslims found in a mass grave a "positive indication." More on p12

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte has rejected calls from his allies to extend his six-year term and to cancel elections next year, while supporting moves to shift to a federal system of government. More on p13



INDONESIA Muslim hard-liners marched in Indonesia's capital on Friday to protest Facebook's blocking of accounts belonging to their group. About 200 protesters marched after Friday prayers from a mosque to the Facebook Indonesia office, which was guarded by hundreds of police.

NEPAL has opened an optical fiber link across the Himalayan mountains to China, ending years of dependency on India for internet access.



JORDAN-GERMANY Germany's defense minister says her country is delivering millions of dollars' worth of equipment to Jordan's military to improve the kingdom's border surveillance.

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Inmates ran drug operation from jail

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Fringe Festival launches search for urban treasures

P2 MDT REPORT



Laura Nyögéri (third from right) pictured yesterday with children during an activity included in the Fringe Festival

Fringe Festival launches search for urban treasures

Lynzy Valles

THE 17th Macao City Fringe Festival kicked off on Friday, bringing in different art performances from Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and other regions.

Organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau with the theme "Treasures Hunting", the ten-day event comprises more than 20 activities designed to take the public on a downtown stroll to uncover urban treasures that have almost been forgotten.

On Saturday and Sunday, a

number of colorful and interactive performances took place at Anim'Arte Nam Van. These included Macau Artfusion's dual photo exhibition and live museum, which was titled Miró Lab, as well as workshops on body painting, movement, creative expression and photography.

Miró Lab explores the art of Spanish surrealist master Joan Miró and states that art should be accessible to all.

"We did a project in a way where we could share his art with everyone," project creator and

curator Laura Nyögéri told the Times.

"We want people to feel that art can be part of ourselves. [...] All of us can develop ways to do it. We just have to have the chance," she said.

Several local children participated in yesterday's body painting workshop, where the children were given the task of "transforming themselves into paintings."

"It's been amazing to train children from Macau. Freedom is one of the key words [of the exhibition, along with] imagi-

nation and being spontaneous. That's what we actually see in the kids," Nyögéri said.

During the workshop, the children created art with colors and shapes based on their individuality and imagination.

"When they do interpretation, they create stories behind it and that's it. We want to motivate creativity and impulse imagination in Macau children," the artist added.

Although the workshop had only two sessions during the ten-day festival, the curator said they have already received some invitations to exhibitions elsewhere in the region and overseas.

Nyögéri expressed her desire to host future children's workshops in schools and other regions.

Meanwhile, the "Portrait of Macao's Flavors" also launched an exhibition on Friday at Anim'Arte Nam Van, following live art activities that started earlier this month.

Under site-specific theatre Soda-City Experimental Workshop, participants created a live art portrait of Macau based on the findings of a three-day exploration of Macau's streets and lanes, following certain smells or flavors and recording stories about them.

The production utilized mainly field collections, live art and collage, using collected pictures, videos, sounds and items to create an on-site exhibition.

London duo Igor and Moreno will perform tomorrow and Wednesday, presenting a show titled "Idiot - Syncrasy" that takes common elements of two ethnic dances and combines them to express a yearning for pure human nature.

Hong Kong dance group Unlock Dancing Plaza, a recurring winner of the Hong Kong Dance Awards, will also work with Japanese Namstrops to present three different programs of improvised dance that showcase physical strength and body movements, they will be titled, "bolero", "Hurdle #3" and "A Short, Thick Rainbow."

We want people to feel that art can be part of ourselves.

LAURA NYÖGÉRI

Another program titled "On the Move" by Macau-based Portuguese artists will present custom bicycle tours incorporating different combinations of sounds, images and maps.

The Fringe Festival's extended activities include a sharing session on "Art Festivals in the Cities 2.0" to be held on Thursday at the Old Court Building, which invites curators of performing arts events to share their experiences on local festivals and the cultural environment in their hometowns.

The Experience Sharing Session of Arts Administrators "Arts Administrators in Mainland China: Stay Deficient or Go Resourceful?" and "Interactive Talk: Know more about Theatre for Babies", presented by Polyglot Theatre from Australia, will be held on January 19 and 21, respectively.

THE organizers of the 7th edition of The Script Road - Macau Literary Festival have confirmed that Peter Hessler and Leslie T Chang from the US, Rosa Montero from Spain, and Han Dong and A Yi from China will be attending the festival. The literary festival is scheduled to take place in Macau during March.

Portuguese-speaking authors Julian Fuks (Brazil) - winner of the latest José Saramago Award - and Ana Margarida de Carvalho (Portugal) - twice a winner of the Portuguese Writers Association Award - will also

Macau Literary Festival unveils confirmed participants ahead of the program

be on the list of names visiting the region for the event, as well as the Asia news editor of the Financial Times, Victor Mallet.

The highlight of this year's event goes to Hessler and Chang, a couple who lived in China for over a decade, where they have been correspondents for The New Yorker and The Wall Street Journal respectively; they have also been contributing co-written pieces to the National Geographic.

While living in Fuling, a small city in China affected by the Three Gorges Dam, Chang has achieved a career highlight with her book "Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China," which traces the lives of two young women from the countryside, who work in a factory city in South China. The book has been translated into 10 languages and contributed to Chang being awarded the PEN USA Literary



Peter Hessler

Award, the Asian American Literary Award, and the Tiziano Terzani Inter-



Leslie T Chang

national Literary Prize.

According to the organizers, the complete guest

list and program of the Festival will be released early next month.

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CRIME

Inmates running drug trafficking business from prison cell

TWO detainees at the Macau Prison (EPM) were found in possession of a mobile phone through which they were giving orders to a third party. The two were caught by the police and are now in preventive custody while they await trial.

The information was released at a press conference held by the Judiciary Police (PJ) late last week, where they also announced the arrest of the group's third member during an anti-crime operation.

In response to the situation, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak has issued a statement instructing the Correctional Services Bureau (DSC) and the PJ to investigate the origin of the mobile phone and how it had illegally entered the prison.

The Secretary for Security also ordered a review of the prison's inspection and security measures to prevent prisoners smuggling prohibited items. In the same statement, Wong also "called for measures to be



Room inside the EPM where prisoners talk with visitors

taken to fill gaps in working procedures as well as in the operations of the monitoring and control of prisoners in order to combat all illegal activities in a serious and effective manner by reinforcing the security control of cell areas." The statement added that any DSC personnel found to be involved in the case will be prosecuted according to the law.

"If it involves any infraction or illegality, accountable to the staff, the Bureau will reprimand them severely according to the Law, not tolerating the existence of any black sheep," it read.

Although internal investigations have not yet yielded results, Wong has also called on all DSC staff to be aware of the multiple factors influencing the

EPM's internal and external security and stability, in order to effectively ensure that staff carry out their duties correctly and manage the cells properly.

In another press statement, the DSC said it will proceed to follow the Secretary's orders to review its security measures, and has incorporated new technology – such as signal jamming – into existing systems.

Tam says Tse's illness is not affecting IC

The Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, wished the new president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Cecilia Tse, "a speedy recovery" in an official statement. In the same statement, Tam acknowledged that Tse's absence from work for the last two weeks has been due to a medical condition, noting that she has already received treatment and is now recovering. Tam said that the IC has not been affected and that its activities are proceeding as usual. These include the 17th Fringe Festival that kicked off last Friday, as well as preparations for an upcoming public consultation concerning the preservation and management of Macau's historical center.

Exhibition features paintings made of tissue paper

Local artist Denis Murrell is holding an exhibition titled "Twenty Hours – An Exhibition of Abstract Painting by Denis Murrell and his Students" at the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) Café. IFT said in a statement that the exhibition features 22 abstract paintings made of absorbent tissue paper by the artist and his students, showcasing the unique and creative techniques taught during the course. The exhibition will run until March 2.

AD



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New Uniform for DSEC enumerators

Enumerators of the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) have started wearing new uniforms, as of January 8. The new uniform, designed to be worn all year round, has a dark blue collared vest with a DSEC logo printed on the left chest, with the Chinese and Portuguese names for DSEC printed on the back. DSEC states that the new uniform will help the public to easily identify DSEC's enumerators and allow them to view the work of the DSEC team. In addition to the uniform, all enumerators on duty are required to carry a valid identification badge and a backpack or satchel bearing the DSEC logo. In a statement issued yesterday, DSEC called on the public to support data collection for statistical analyses to facilitate the provision of timely and accurate official statistics to the community.

PRD produces over 200 yachts annually

The latest data from the Guangdong Yacht Industry Association shows that the annual production of yachts in the Pearl River Delta exceeded 200 units, according to a report by Wen Wei Po. Annual sales were over RMB1 billion. Zhuhai's Pingsha yacht industrial zone has already become the biggest and most productive industrial yacht zone in China. In 2017, the number of Chinese yacht related companies reached nearly 1,000; this figure represents a large leap as there were approximately 100 in 2009. According to Wu Tian, president of the association, China's yacht industry is upholding a yearly increase of 30 percent.

MGTO to host international gastronomy forum this week

The Macau Government Tourism Office will hold the International Gastronomy Forum between January 17 and 19, bringing to town members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as well as officials and experts in related fields. The event is one of Macau's first initiatives since its designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy late last year.

Participants will witness the launch ceremony of the "2018 Macau Year of Gastronomy" on January 17. The forum will consist of a series of predominantly promotional and educational initiatives, and across the year initiatives will be conducted locally and internationally to establish Macau as a city of gastronomy.

The opening ceremony and forum panel sessions will be held on January 18. Activities for other Creative Cities have also been scheduled for January 17 and 19.

Themed "The Potential of Gastronomy", the forum's program includes a presenta-



tion titled "The Vision Ahead" and given by UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and "Cities of Gastronomy" presented by the coordinator of UCCN Cities of Gastronomy Group, Dag Hartman. One of the panel sessions


will present a case study and discussion between the higher education and research institutions of the Creative Cities of Gastronomy; namely, institutions from Östersund (Sweden), Jeonju (Korea), Beijing and Macau.

A "Celebrity Chefs Session" will also bring together famous chefs – some with Michelin stars – from Macau, as well as those recommended by other Creative Cities of Gastronomy, to share their success stories and cultural inspirations. Over another food and beverage session, industry leaders will brainstorm opportunities ahead for Macau's integrated resort industry.

The forum aims to be an annual event providing a valuable platform for the exploration of collaboration between Macau and other Creative Cities of Gastronomy, as well as working professionals and academics in the field. The forum was first held in 2016, when Macau was preparing to apply for UCCN membership.


The Creative Cities Network is currently formed by 180 members, including 26 Cities of Gastronomy. Macau became the third Chinese city to join the UCCN in the field of gastronomy on October 31 last year, after Chengdu and Shunde.

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Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)
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Rate: HKD 4,990

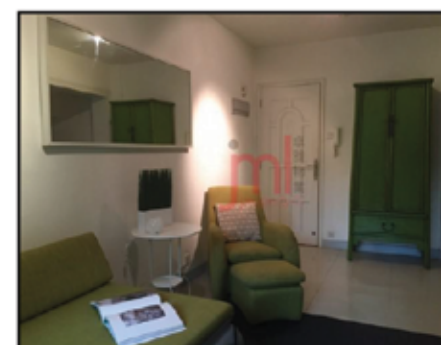
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Bus companies required to reduce accidents by 10 percent

LOCAL bus companies have been instructed to reduce the number of bus accidents by 10 percent, Transport Bureau (DSAT) director Lam Hin Sam said after a meeting and press conference last Friday.

The meeting was called in response to a serious bus accident last week in Macau's central district. The driver reportedly stepped on the accelerator instead of the brakes, killing one woman and injuring at least four others.

Lam reaffirmed that the industry's "first priority" is safety, followed by bus schedules and services.

"In 2016, 1,709 accidents involved buses and in 2017, the number was 1,495, corresponding to a reduction," Lam said. "In 2016, there were 848 car accidents concluded to be the responsibility of bus companies. In 2017, that number was 778, down about eight percent."

In 2017, Transmac, TCM, and New Era recorded decreases in the number of accidents by 12.5 percent, 9.5 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively.

According to Lam, the overall average reduction exceeded 10 percent, which was one of the requirements of DSAT for 2017.

Lam said DSAT also suspended around 30 part-time bus drivers for safety reasons because "the resting time of non-permanent drivers cannot be ensured, and the associated risks are higher than full-time drivers'."



Lam Hin Sam (center)

"Currently, Macau has a total of approximately 1,200 full-time bus drivers," he continued. "Around 30 non-permanent bus drivers are being targeted by the suspension: nine from Transmac, four from TCM, and 17 from New Era. On a daily basis, about 10,000 bus trips cover the territory, with only close to 100 [impacted by] this suspension."

The DSAT director clarified that the suspended drivers comprise "those who have a job [besides bus driver], those who drive a bus following a day of rest [concerning their first job], and those who only work one or two days but several hours each time."

This group does not include part-time drivers who operate buses every day for fewer than eight hours.

According to Lam, 60 bus routes resumed operations on Friday once some of the suspended drivers had returned to their posts.

DSAT does not exclude the possibility of the other drivers resuming work after their com-

panies properly assess their experience, training and rest schedules.

DSAT added that it has instructed the affected companies to operate services as usual by reassigning buses in order to minimize the impact on pas-

sengers. It also called on the bus companies to ensure that the remaining full-time drivers are not overworked and that labor laws are respected, so as to give drivers sufficient rest and avoid situations of extreme fatigue while driving.

DSAT also announced that it is conducting a comprehensive review of training and management with the three bus companies, in order to find a solution for the suspended drivers' schedules.

Macau's bus fleet transports around 580,000 passengers daily, a number that has been growing – along with the distance travelled by the buses – due to the expansion of the territory and the need for workers to travel to more remote areas.

Two days before last week's accident, Lam and the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, were called to the Legislative Assembly to answer lawmakers' questions on the public bus sector, namely regarding the expected increase of fares. Lam also raised issues such as the lack of local bus drivers – the bus companies are not permitted to hire non-local drivers – and government protections for those drivers. **JZ**

Part-time bus driver is casino employee

DSAAT director Lam Hin Sam said the bureau is not attempting to dodge responsibility for last week's deadly accident.

The deputy general manager of the bus company New Era, Kwok Tong Cheong, revealed that the driver involved in Wednesday's accident is a casino employee who obtained his license in April 2017 and began working for New Era in September that same year.

In 2018, the driver had worked only five days for

approximately four hours each time.

Kwok admitted that there are gaps in New Era's safety management and said the company had sacked 20 bus drivers last year for failing safety requirements.

He went on to say that New Era recruits all its drivers based on the same criteria.

New Era's general manager, Daniel Fang Li Qun, said the company will eliminate potential flaws in its safety management and has called for all staff to prioritize safety.

Consumer Council: Tourist complaints concentrated on jewelry

THE Consumer Council announced in a weekend statement that it had handled 5,067 cases in 2017; approximately one-third of which were customer complaints, 23 were suggestions and the remainder were inquiries.

With regard to complaints, the top five areas of dissatisfaction involved public transportation (147 cases), telecommunication services (137 cases), telecommunication equipment (121 cases), food and beverage (103 cases) and personal care products and services (94 cases).

Some 63 of the public transportation cases were

related to taxi infractions, while 44 cases involved air passenger services. The main issues were business practices and disputes over prices.

Tourists accounted for about 1,000 cases handled by the Consumer Council last year – about 20 percent of the total – of which 574 were complaints and 421 were inquiries.

The number of jewelry-related cases increased by 57 percent, mostly lodged by tourists regarding the value of "K-gold" and the disputes over some shops' alleged failure to explain the precious metal's fineness.

The Council issued the relevant information on the consumer goods sector to mainland shoppers, in order to increase their confidence when shopping in Macau. Shops have been reminded to explain the nature of gold products to consumers and are required by law to state the gold fineness on the invoice or the receipt.

The number of cases related to telecommunication services complaints dropped slightly compared to the previous year, while those concerning telecommunication equipment decreased by 40 percent.

HEALTH

SSM appeals after medical malpractice ruling from Administrative Court

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has filed an appeal a ruling from the Administrative Court (TA) over three medical disputes, the SSM informed in a statement.

The cases, which occurred between 2010 and 2013, involved both physicians and the nursing staff of the public hospital (CHCSJ). One of the cases concerns complications during the birth of a new-born that led to cerebral palsy.

The parents have been calling for direct responsibility over the case to be attributed to the medical staff of the

hospital and they are asking for compensation of over MOP4.4 million.

On January 10, the TA ruled on the case, directing the hospital staff to pay about MOP2.2 million to the parents as compensation.

In two other separate processes involving the same event, the same accused were also asked to pay a total of MOP12.8 million in compensation for suffering caused by their conduct. Two of three members of the medical staff of the CHCSJ were court ordered to pay compensation of around MOP5.5 million.

According to the same statement, the SSM says that it has been "increasing the investment in resources through international accreditation and professional training, promoting a plan for continuous quality improvement, optimizing the service environment and making every effort to increase the level of hospital management in order to provide appropriate medical services to residents."

The SSM said that as the cases are still under judicial review, it will not issue any further comments

Sou, Vong agree AL proposal is response to court appeal

Daniel Beitler

VONG Hin Fai, one of the lawmakers behind a resolution that would bar “political acts” from being scrutinized by judicial authorities, said over the weekend that the proposal would not seek to encroach on the city’s judicial independence.

The statement was quickly countered by lawmaker Sulu Sou, who accused the Legislative Assembly (AL) of trying to violate well-established legal principles and said the body cannot rule on disputes to which it is a party.

Last week, Sou filed an appeal to the Court of Second Instance for the annulment of his December 4 suspension from the AL on the basis that the actions of the Assembly “violated the rules of procedure and fundamental rights of the appellant.”

Sou’s defense accused the AL of having overstepped a series of procedures, disregarding the Basic Law, the general law and the House Rules over the cour-



Sulu Sou watches as lawmakers (including Vong Hin Fai, right) vote on whether to suspend him or not

se of five decisions and deliberations.

But a proposal, authored by Vong and fellow lawmaker Kou Hoi In, argues that, as a “political act”, the suspension of Sulu Sou does not fall under the jurisdiction of Macau courts and cannot be ruled improper as Sou’s defense claims.

The positions taken by Vong and Sou had deepened into a public quarrel by Friday evening, with several other lawmakers,

lawyers and political analysts chiding in.

In a message posted on Sulu Sou’s Facebook page on Friday, the young democrat stressed that the bill “is a direct reaction to court action that I have filed [...] seeking the annulment of deliberation that suspended my mandate. [...] The decision is due to be discussed on the very day that I will undergo trial.”

Sou went on to highlight a conflict of interests in that the AL,

as a party to the dispute, ought not to be allowed to rule on it.

“Were one of the parties authorized to interfere with the decision of the courts, the sacred principle of equality before the courts – of the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor – would be watered down,” he advanced.

“The AL would be setting itself to resolve a dispute in which the AL is itself a party, in disrespect for the role of the courts, their autonomy and their authority as adjudicators of disputes. The

AL should not seek to behave as both a player and a referee.”

According to several media reports, lawmaker Vong admitted that the proposal was a response to Sou’s appeal. He added that it was necessary to introduce it precisely because of the involvement of the AL in the dispute.

The proposal, which is expected to be discussed by the legislature tomorrow, states in the first of its just two articles that “deliberations of the Legislative Assembly that lead to the suspension or loss of a lawmaker’s mandate are acts of a political nature that are excluded from administrative, fiscal or customs appeal.”

The second article establishes that the measure would have retroactive effects dating back to December 1999, when the MSAR was created.

KATCHI: A ‘FUTILE’ PROPOSAL

THE RESOLUTION presented by lawmakers Vong Hin Fai and Kou Hoi In “is futile, because it states something that is perfectly clear from a legal point of view,” António Katchi told the Times. “The Legislative Assembly is a political body, not an administrative one. It has a political function [...] and political acts are excluded from the administrative litigation. According to the legal expert, who is a lecturer at the Macau

Polytechnic Institute, it is possible to appeal from administrative acts practiced inside the AL by its president or administrative services and related to the assembly’s staff. Still according to Katchi, this issue shows that “in Macau there is lack of a constitutional court that could assess the constitutionality and legality of a certain type of political acts, inclusively the laws.” Something that “could only be solved by reviewing the Basic Law.”

AD

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Christoph Rauwald, Karin Matussek

Porsche ordered to reveal who knew what about VW diesel scam

PORSCHE SE's board was ordered by a German court to answer critical shareholder questions about what management at Volkswagen AG and the carmaker's majority investor knew about the diesel scandal and whether any evidence was destroyed.

The holding company's board must answer five questions originally asked at its 2016 annual shareholders meeting, a Stuttgart court said in two rulings issued shortly before Christmas. The judges also sharply criticized the two companies' handling of the crisis, saying that VW failed to stop employees from dumping documents that might have helped the U.S. investigation into the manufacturer's diesel-emissions test manipulation.

Porsche and Volkswagen are both facing investors' lawsuits seeking billions of euros in damages that hinge on what top managers knew when about the diesel-engine rigging. They have both avoided answering these types of questions, citing ongoing investigations, including one by law firm Jones Day on behalf of Wolfsburg, Germany-based VW.

"Citing the investigation by Jones Day is no valid argument to deny the information,



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because hiring an external law firm normally doesn't oblige the client to confidentiality," the judges wrote. "The right of shareholders to information may not be foiled by citing external investigations."

Porsche SE, the investment vehicle for the Porsche and Piech families that controls 52 percent of VW's voting stock, is effectively run by the same group of people as the carmaker, with several managers holding dual roles. Porsche

officials had declined to tell the shareholders when management learned about the cheating, citing confidentiality agreements with authorities and describing the matter as a topic that primarily affects VW and doesn't involve Stuttgart-based Porsche directly.

While Porsche has said it will appeal the ruling on the shareholder meetings, the court didn't give it permission to appeal the judgment ordering it to answer questions. Porsche

spokesman Albrecht Bamler declined to comment beyond reiterating that the investment vehicle will appeal.

Martin Weimann, the lawyer for a shareholder that brought the lawsuits against Porsche, said he will wait to see whether the holding company actually files an appeal before taking further steps to force it to turn over the answers. The court rejected requests to answer a further 49 queries from the shareholder.

VW faces a barrage of investigations and lawsuits since U.S. authorities disclosed in September 2015 that the carmaker had rigged engines on 11 diesel models to cheat on emissions tests. The company has already paid out more than 25 billion euros (USD30 billion) in fines, settlements and other costs since the scandal came to light.

The German court's decisions come at a delicate time for VW, the world's largest automaker, which is being supervised by U.S. monitor Larry Thompson to ensure the effectiveness of compliance systems that were stepped up in the wake of the

scandal. Any evidence showing the top brass knew about the emissions rigging or learned about it earlier than September 2015 could inflate financial risks for both companies.

In addition to the diesel woes, VW faces probes by German prosecutors into potentially excessive remuneration of labor officials, and an importer of its Skoda brand in Egypt is embroiled in a lawsuit over alleged bribery.

The Stuttgart court took VW's crisis management in 2015 to task, saying it failed to prevent employees from destroying evidence, which hindered U.S. authorities' investigations, according to the rulings. Porsche's boards also committed a "grave violation" by not setting up their own investigations into how VW managed the crisis, the court said. The automaker has claimed the engine rigging was done by a small group of engineers. U.S. court records show some 40 people destroyed thousands of documents when the cheating that stretched over almost a decade was about to come to light. **Bloomberg**

China's top movie ticketing app said to plan USD1 billion IPO

MAOYAN Weying, China's biggest online movie ticketing platform, is planning a Hong Kong initial public offering that could raise about USD1 billion, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The company, which also helped fund the latest "Transformers" movie, has held initial discussions with potential advisers about the share sale, according to one of the people. It is targeting a listing later this year, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private.

Maoyan Weying, whose backers include Shenzhen-listed film producer Beijing Enlight Media Co., was formed in September through the merger of two rival ticketing platforms. Its other investors include Tencent Holdings Ltd., the biggest Chinese internet company, as well



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as Meituan Dianping, the country's largest group-buying and restaurant reviews service.

China's box-office receipts rose 15 percent last year to 52 billion yuan (USD8 billion), making it the world's second largest movie market after the U.S. Almost 80 percent of movie tickets in the country are sold through mobile apps, and Maoyan Weying is the largest ticketing provider with a 52.5 percent market share as of the third quarter

2017, according to researcher Analysys.

Maoyan Weying raised 1 billion yuan from Tencent in a November funding round that valued the company at 20 billion yuan. In addition to its ticketing platform, the company has also distributed and marketed movies in China including "Transformers: The Last Knight."

Hong Kong is forecast to see a revival in new listings this year, after fundraising from first-time share

sales fell to a five-year low of \$16.5 billion, data compiled by Bloomberg show. The city is expected to host 150 IPOs in 2018, headlined by some significant technology offerings, Benson Wong, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers,

said in a Bloomberg TV interview last week.

Raising funds in Hong Kong could help Tencent-backed Maoyan Weying expand as it ratchets up competition with the rival TaoPiaoPiao service, which is backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s film affiliate. The market share gap between Maoyan Weying and its smaller rival could increase further, Chen Liteng, a researcher at the China E-Commerce

Research Center in Hangzhou, said Friday.

China's private market has pushed tech-related companies to lofty valuations. Five of the world's 10 biggest venture capital deals were in China-based companies last year, while the U.S. accounted for two, according to researcher Preqin. The largest globally was the \$5.5 billion fundraising for Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing. **Bloomberg**

AD

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Beijing university sacks professor over sexual misconduct

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A Chinese university has sacked a prestigious scholar following accusations of sexual misconduct against him by multiple women, the result of a campaign heralded by his chief accuser as the start of a Chinese chapter of the #MeToo movement.

Beihang University in Beijing said in a message on its official microblog late Thursday that an investigation found that Chen Xiaowu's behavior had violated professional ethics and created an "odious influence on society."

It said Chen has been relieved of his duties, including as professor and deputy head of graduate students.

"Morality and ability are paired; actions and talent are one. This is the demand of Beihang's values and the school has zero tolerance for violations of professorial ethics," Beihang said in its statement, pledging also to upgrade mechanisms and increase its attention to such issues.

The official China News Service said the move followed accusations of sexual misconduct against Chen by Luo Xixi, a Chinese academic now based in the U.S., and at least five other women. The allegations date from as far back as a dozen years ago.

Chen could not immediately be contacted Friday, although he was quoted by the official



Beihang University in Beijing

newspaper Beijing Youth Daily earlier this month as saying that he had done nothing that was illegal or violated school discipline. Chen said he would await the result of the school's investigation.

Calls to Chen's office at Beihang rang unanswered Friday and a graduate school receptionist said she had not seen him.

Luo hailed the school's decision on her Weibo microblog as a "victory in the initial stage" and said she and the other women involved would continue to monitor Beihang's handling of the matter.

"Women who have awoken to themselves are even more powerful!" Luo wrote, while congratulating Chen's other accusers who had chosen to remain anonymous.

"Kindness and bravery are our most beautiful expressions," she wrote.

Chen is among a select few named by the Education Ministry to the Cheung Kong Scholars Program, considered one of the country's highest academic honors. The program funded by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing is also known as the Changjiang Scholars and the Yangtze River Scholars.

According to reports, he holds a doctorate and multiple honors in computer engineering. His personal profile was removed from Beihang's website on Friday.

According to a Dec. 31 post on her official Weibo microblog using the #MeToo hashtag, Luo said she was inspired by the movement originating in the U.S. to expose sexual predators.

Luo said she was a graduate student under Chen's advisement in 2004, when he drove her to his sister's home, ostensibly to water the flowers. After he attempted to force himself on her, Luo resisted and Chen

backed off, driving her home and telling her to keep quiet about the matter. Luo said she suffered from depression after the incident and subsequently moved to the U.S. to continue her studies.

This will definitely influence more females who have experienced sexual harassment to step out.

FANG GANG
SCHOLAR

"I know there is a risk in standing up. My family's privacy is my biggest concern," Luo wrote. "I know my status as being overseas might expose me to nasty attacks, so it is a double-edged sword," she wrote.

Little research has been done on the issue of sexual misconduct in China, where men overwhelmingly dominate leadership positions in politics and the economy.

However, Luo's going public with her accusations will likely stir women to come out with their own stories, said Fang Gang, director of the Institute of Sexualities and Gender at Beijing Forestry University.

"This will definitely influence more females who have experienced sexual harassment to step out," Fang said. AP

Two killed by family member in HK Ritz-Carlton

A South Korean man who is suspected of the killing of two family members at a luxury Hong Kong hotel, was arrested in the HKSAR yesterday. The victims were the suspect's wife and six-year-old son, reports the South China Morning Post.

Authorities were notified of the incident following an alert from staff at the Ritz-Carlton hotel.

The suspect called a friend in South Korea, about 7 a.m. yesterday morning, to say that he and his family members were about to commit suicide at the hotel. The friend then called the hotel, which in turn alerted police authorities.

Police arrived at the hotel room to find that bodies of the victims and the suspect in a semi-conscious state. They also found a 13-centimeter ceramic knife at the scene, as well as alcohol.

A senior police officer told the SCMP that investigators had discovered multiple cuts on the women's neck, while the child sustained a cut to his throat. The man had minor cuts to his fingers and face. However, based on an analysis of the hotel room, there did not appear to be signs of a struggle.

The suspect, who is understood to be in his early 40s, was arrested and taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for treatment.

A speedboat carrying 27 Chinese tourists and several Thai crews exploded on southern Thailand's Andaman Sea near Phi-Phi Islands yesterday.

A Thai citizen was killed and 16 others have been found injured, according to local media.

The speedboat was on its way to Phi-Phi Islands and caught fire near the Viking Cave in the sea at about 1 p.m. local time yesterday. Five Chinese were seriously injured, according to the Consulate-General of China in Songkhla.

The consulate said all the Chinese tourists have been helped ashore while the rescue team is still searching for the others. All the injured were hospitalized.

Local media said there was a fuel leak. The captain went to check the engine and it suddenly ex-

THAILAND

Speedboat carrying 27 Chinese tourists explodes



ploded. The fire quickly spread, prompting all the passengers to scramble for swimming vests and jump into the sea.

Local media said there were five Thai passengers and 27 Chinese tourists, including three children on board. A seriously in-

jured Thai crew was later pronounced dead from burns. The explosion is under investigation. MDT/Xinhua

CHINA is stepping up its policing of international companies such as Inditex SA-owned Zara and Delta Air Lines Inc. and demanding they respect the government's position on long-standing territorial disputes from Taiwan to Tibet.

The Cyber Administration Office in Shanghai on Friday said Zara listed Taiwan, an island that China claims as its own, as a separate country on its website. On the same day, China's Civil Aviation Administration summoned executives of Delta as the carrier on its website listed Taiwan and Tibet, located in western China, as nations. The companies were asked to change the "illegal" contents.

China, emboldened by its growing economic and geopolitical influence, is showing less tolerance of what it sees as violations of its political bottom line by foreign companies. The warnings signal that the country may deploy more sticks against foreign companies that can't risk losing business in the world's second-biggest economy.

"The general political atmosphere these days is that you don't stand on the wrong side of sovereignty issues in the Xi Jinping era," said Ether Yin, partner at research firm Trivium China in Beijing. "The government responded very quickly."

International companies operating in China should respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity, state broadcaster CCTV said, citing Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang's comments at a regular briefing.

"Delta recognizes the seriousness of this issue and we took immediate steps to resolve it," according to a statement from the airline's corporate office. "It was an inadvertent error with no business or political intention, and we apologize deeply

Policing of multinationals over sovereignty stepped up



for the mistake. As one of our most important markets, we are fully committed to China and to our Chinese customers." Inditex didn't have an immediate comment.

Earlier this week, Shanghai government agencies summoned Marriott International's executives in China, after the company's Chinese-language website listed Tibet and Taiwan under "nation" and spurred intense online criticism. The company apologized on Chinese social media platfor-

ms. Regulators have started an investigation into Marriott for violating local laws on Internet security and advertising.

"The new cybersecurity law also said that you can't do anything on the Internet to harm the sovereignty of the country," said Yin. "This case represents a good opportunity to show they can use this law."

Beijing has been trying to squeeze Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who refused to accept that both sides belong to

"One China," its precondition for ties. Since her inauguration, Chinese visits to Taiwan have fallen significantly and more nations have severed diplomatic ties with the government in Taipei, in favor of Beijing.

China issued curbs on South Korea retail and tourism companies, with some of the country's consumers boycotting Korean goods. Ctrip.com International Ltd., China's largest travel website, said in October the number of tourists using the

week-long national holiday to visit South Korea plunged 70 percent this year.

“The general political atmosphere these days is that you don't stand on the wrong side of sovereignty issues in the Xi Jinping era.”

ETHER YIN
TRIVIUM CHINA PARTNER

Relations between China and South Korea soured after the government in Seoul agreed in 2016 to let its ally, the U.S., install a missile-defense system to guard against rockets fired by North Korea. China views the so-called Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system as a threat that will upset the "strategic equilibrium in the region."

In recent months there have been signs of improving ties. Last month President Xi Jinping held a summit with his Korean counterpart Moon Jae-in. South Korea announced Friday that two countries in February will hold the first high-level economic talks since May 2016. **Bloomberg**

Iran official: 'No hope' sailors alive on burning oil tanker

A burning Iranian tanker listing for days off the coast of China after a collision with another vessel sank yesterday, with an Iranian official saying there was "no hope" of survival for the 29 missing sailors onboard.

Iranian state television reported that the Sanchi had sunk yesterday, days after its collision in the East China Sea. An anchorwoman on state television also offered condolences on behalf of the nation for the loss.

State TV quoted Mahmoud Rastad, the chief of Iran's maritime agency, as

saying: "There is no hope of finding survivors among the [missing] 29 members of the crew."

Chinese officials could not be immediately reached for comment Sunday night, though the state-run broadcaster CGTN reported that the Sanchi had sunk. CGTN also said the ship's voice data recorder, which functions like "black boxes" on aircraft, had been recovered.

The cause of the collision, 257 kilometers off the coast of Shanghai, remains unclear. Three bodies have been recovered from the sea, leaving 29 crew mem-

bers still unaccounted for. The crew was all Iranian expect for two Bangladeshis.

The Chinese freighter CF Crystal, which collided with the Panamanian-registered tanker, had 21 crew members, all of whom were reported safe.

Television footage Saturday showed parts of the Sanchi still aflame, its hull and superstructure completely stripped of paint.

Thirteen ships, including one from South Korea and two from Japan, were engaged in the rescue and cleanup effort Saturday, spraying foam in an ef-

fort to extinguish the fire. The tanker was carrying a cargo of nearly 1 million barrels of condensate, a type of gassy, ultra-light oil that readily evaporates or burns off in a fire, reducing the chance of a major oil spill.

Intense flames, bad weather and poor visibility have all hampered rescue efforts.

The tanker has operated under five different names since it was built in 2008, according to the U.N.-run International Maritime Organization. The National Iranian Tanker Co. describes itself as opera-



ting the largest tanker fleet in the Middle East.

It's the second collision for a ship from the National Iranian Tanker Co. in less than a year and a half.

In August 2016, one of its tankers collided with a Swiss container ship in the Singapore Strait, damaging both ships but causing no injuries or oil spill. **AP**

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi says Rohingya mass grave investigation positive step

MYANMAR'S civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi has called the military's investigation into the deaths of Rohingya Muslims found in a mass grave a "positive indication," state media reported Saturday.

The military, which has been accused of indiscriminate killings, rape and burning of Rohingya villages, acknowledged that security forces and villagers were responsible for the deaths of 10 people found in a mass grave in December. It said the 10 were "Bengali terrorists" who had threatened villagers, but that the military would "take action" against those who "broke the rules of engagement."

The government of Buddhist-majority Myanmar does not acknowledge Rohingya as a minority group even though they have lived in the country for generations. It says they're immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh. Since

AP PHOTO



Rohingya women wait in a queue for rations at Nayapara refugee camp

August, military operations have driven more than 650,000 Rohingya into refu-

gee camps across the border in Bangladesh.

"It is a positive indication

that we are taking the steps to be responsible," Suu Kyi said, according to a report in the

Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper. "However, some may worry. But I believe that our investigation will prevent such things from happening again."

I believe that our investigation will prevent such things from happening again.

SUU KYI

Suu Kyi made the comments Friday during a joint news conference with Japan's foreign minister. Suu Kyi is Myanmar's foreign minister as well as the government's civilian leader though the military has a final say in security matters.

Neither the military nor Suu Kyi has said what action will be taken against those responsible for the deaths linked to the mass grave in Rakhine state, where most of the Rohingya live. AP

THAILAND

Gov't offices, barracks open to mark national children's day

THE government house where children are allowed to visit the prime minister's office has become the highlight of Thailand's annual children's festival on Saturday.

Thai government offices opened their doors to children on the second Saturday of every January for more than 10 years to celebrate the National Children's Day. The potential future leaders of the country got a chance to top the seat of the prime minister at the government house.

For this year, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha has given a motto for children to follow: "Think, Analyze, Promote Creative Technology" which he intended to encourage children and youth to always seek out new knowledge for themselves while being aware



of how to use technology in a creative manner. Exhibitions on science and technology were held in the conference hall of the government house.

Jirapat, 11, once represented Thailand in the international robotic competition and won the champion, brought to the festival the robots he designed. "I hope the exhibition will arouse more children's interest on robots and become their

access to the world of science," said the teen designer.

Activities, such as air shows, games and concerts were in full swing across the country. The atmosphere was lively especially in barracks where sophisticated tank VT-4 was on display along with helicopters and artillery pieces. Children flocked there and were seen riding in tanks, helicopters and armored cars. MDT/Xinhua

Rival Koreas agree to talk on art troupe's visit to Olympics

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

THE rival Koreans agreed Saturday that their talks next week will address a North Korean art troupe's visit to the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in the South, rather than the participation of the nation's athletes.

Pyongyang wanted talks on sending its athletes and other officials to the February Olympics to be held at a later date so that Monday's talks can focus primarily on its art troupe's participation in the Games, Seoul's Unification Ministry said. The South agreed to the North's proposal, the ministry said.

Officials from the two Koreas met earlier this week in the border village of Panmunjom, their first talks in more than two years. At that meeting they agreed to hold military talks and send a North Korean delegation of officials, athletes, cheerleaders, journalists and others to the Olympics.

Seoul's delegation to Monday's meeting at Pan-

AP PHOTO



Torch bearers pose as they pass the Olympic flame to a drone during the Olympic Torch Relay in Seoul

munjom will include an official from the Culture Ministry, the head of the Korean Symphony Orchestra and its art director and an official from Unification Ministry, the ministry said.

They will meet a delegation from Pyongyang headed by the director of the Arts and Performance Bureau of the Culture Ministry. A conductor and two other officials from a North Korean orchestra will also be part of the delegation.

Seoul's Unification

Ministry said it asked Pyongyang to promptly respond on when further talks can be held to discuss details of sending North Korean athletes and other officials to the Games. The delegation is expected to include 400-500 people.

Separately, the International Olympic Committee has proposed a meeting on Jan. 20 at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, involving the rival Koreas to discuss North Korea's participation in Pyeongchang. AP

Aunprecedented rift has opened in India's supreme court, with four senior judges speaking out against the chief justice in a move that could hinder Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to sell Asia's third-largest economy as a transparent investment destination.

India's key equity gauges - the Sensex and Nifty 50 - dropped as much as 0.5 percent after the judges addressed the media in New Delhi in a dramatic public airing of their long-standing dispute. They said the Supreme Court is "not in order" and alleged senior judges were not being properly allocated matters.

Justice J. Chelameswar said he along with the other three judges met the Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, over the allocation of sensitive cases, including the death of a lower court judge. That judge was trying Amit Shah, president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, in a criminal case.

The chief justice could not be reached for comment. The Supreme Court's Deputy Registrar and public relations officer Rakesh Sharma said there was no response from the court as of now.

"We thought we owed a responsibility to the institution, to the nation," Chelameswar said. "We tried to collectively persuade the chief justice that certain things are not in order, therefore he should take remedial measures." The chief justice declined, he said.

A divided house in India's top

INDIA

Top court split as spotlight falls on chief justice



India's supreme court

court raises broader questions about the quality of the Indian legal system as it regularly rules on significant business and economic matters such as Vodafone Group PLC's years-long tax case. Despi-

te jumping 30 spots on the World Bank ease of doing business ranking, India remains 164th in the world for "enforcing contracts," in part because of the subjective allotment of judges to cases.

"This is quite unprecedented and rather extraordinary for senior Supreme Court judges in the collegium to publicly raise procedural lapses in how recent cases have been assigned," said Pratyush Rao,

a Singapore-based analyst at Control Risks. "Foreign investors are likely to closely follow how this development plays out, including its potential to trigger legal reforms, considering the implications this has for rule of law in India."

Chelameswar and the present chief justice have sparred in recent months over allocating cases that could have ended in investigation of some of the sitting judges.

"It is with no pleasure in our hearts that we were compelled to take this decision to call a press conference," he said. "For sometime, the administration of the Supreme Court is not in order, many things that are less than desirable have happened in the last few months."

"It's an extraordinary event in the history of any nation," Chelameswar said. "An extraordinary event in the history of this institution."

Any uncertainty related to the federal government is a "sentimental negative" for the markets, Ajay Srivastava, managing director at Dimensions Consulting Pvt. in New Delhi said.

An independent judiciary is one of the fundamentals of economic growth and the comments made by judges might raise question about its credibility, Srivastava said.

The judges made their remarks from wicker chairs set on the back lawns of a faded colonial-era government bungalow, which are allotted to senior officials in New Delhi. **Bloomberg**

PHILIPPINES

Duterte rejects term extension, pushes for federal country

Andreo Calonzo

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has rejected calls from his allies to extend his six-year term and to cancel elections next year, while supporting moves to shift to a federal system of government.

In an interview with news website MindaNews, Duterte said he wants a federal government with a leadership structure similar to the French government, with both president and prime minister. He also wants the Philippine Senate and House of Representatives to be merged into a single chamber with some 50 lawmakers to enact laws faster.

If the Philippines



wished to change its system of government "you want a set-up that would ensure fairness and equality," Duterte told MindaNews, while warning that federalism may still not solve the use of money, power and violence to win elections.

Duterte also said he doesn't want to

stay in power beyond 2022 and doesn't favor calls to scrap mid-term elections for lawmakers and local officials next year as proposed by some House of Representatives lawmakers.

The Philippine president, who promised the shift to federalism during the campaign to bring peace to the

southern Philippines, further said he will form in a few days a consultative body to review the nation's constitution. He has repeatedly supported lifting the constitutional ban on foreign ownership, except on land, to further boost the economy and promote competition. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Renewable energy goals lag world, Foreign Minister says

Mahmoud Habboush

JAPAN'S plans to develop its renewable energy industry are lagging much of the world, as the nation has "prioritized keeping the status quo for fear of change," Foreign Minister Taro Kono said.

Japan wants renewable energy to account for 22 percent to 24 percent of its overall energy mix by 2030, while the global average today is already 24 percent, Kono said Sunday at an International Renewable Energy Agency meeting in Abu Dhabi. "As Japanese foreign minister, I consider these circumstances lamentable."

Japan held its first-ever solar power auction last November, with the aim of reducing costs in one of the most expensive countries to generate electricity from the sun. But the results showed "underwhelming demand," according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Government incentives have been decreasing since their in-

roduction in 2012 following the Fukushima earthquake and nuclear disaster. The support, known as feed-in-tariff, cost the Japanese public up to USD24 billion last year, and costs are expected to increase, Kono said.

"We need bold investments and institutional reforms to enhance the transmission network and electric power exchange between regional utilities for the larger deployment of renewables," he said.

There is some progress. Japan is leading research and development in a new type of "printable" photovoltaic solar cell that may lead to further cost reductions in the PV market, he said. A Japanese university has also developed an "all-solid-state battery" for the auto industry, he said. For the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Japan plans to transport, store and use hydrogen produced by renewables and provide hydrogen to fuel passenger vehicles and buses for the event. **Bloomberg**

A wave of panic rattles Hawaii after false missile alert

Caleb Jones, Audrey McAvoy

THE second recent blunder in Hawaii's planning for a possible North Korean nuclear attack left islanders shaken after an emergency alert warning of an imminent strike sounded on hundreds of thousands of cellphones.

For nearly 40 minutes people waited. Then came the second mobile alert: someone hit the wrong button, there was no missile.

Some people abandoned cars on the highway and others gathered in the interiors of their homes to wait for what seemed like the inevitable, a blast that would cause widespread death and destruction.

The message sent statewide just after 8 a.m. Saturday read: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency's administrator, Vern Miyagi, said he took responsibility for the mistake. He said officials would study the error to make sure it doesn't happen again.

The state adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Joe Logan, said a written report would be prepared. State lawmakers announced they would hold a hearing next Friday. And Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai said on social media the panel would launch an investigation.

The backlash from lawmakers was swift. Hawaii House Speaker Scott Saiki said the system Hawaii residents have been told to rely on failed miserably.

"Clearly, government agencies



are not prepared and lack the capacity to deal with emergency situations," he said in a statement.

Hawaii U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz tweeted the false alarm was "totally inexcusable."

"There needs to be tough and quick accountability and a fixed process," he wrote.

"This false alert is detrimental to the integrity and trust of the emergency management system," said state Sen. Donna Mercado Kim.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency tweeted there was no threat about 10 minutes after the initial alert, but that didn't

reach people who aren't on the social media platform. A mobile alert informing of the false alarm didn't reach cellphones until about 40 minutes later.

My wife was going ballistic. At that point, you just pray and find God, I guess.

JOSEPH KIRA

Many people said they are resigned to the fact that there is little they can actually do if a missile was to be launched toward the remote island chain, especially with only about 15 minutes of warning time for a strike from North Korea.

Joseph Kira was home with his kids when the alert came. His wife was at the gym.

"My wife was going ballistic," he said. "At that point, you just pray and find God, I guess."

With the threat of missiles from North Korea on people's minds, the state reintroduced the Cold War-era warning siren tests last month that drew international attention. But there were problems there, too.

Even though the state says nearly 93 percent of the islands' 386 sirens worked properly during the December test, 12 mistakenly played an ambulance siren. In the tourist hub of Waikiki, the sirens were barely audible, prompting officials to add more sirens there

and reposition ones already in place.

Mary Hirose was with her children at an ice skating arena in Honolulu when the alert came.

"Here, there is nothing you can do," she said. So, she grabbed her four children held them close, listened to the news and hoped for the best.

She questioned why it took civil defense so long to send out the all-clear and why they tweeted before sending a mobile push alert.

Hawaii officials apologized repeatedly and said the alert was sent when someone hit the live alert button instead of an internal test button during a shift change.

"Today is a day that most of us will never forget," said Hawaii Gov. David Ige. "A day when many in our community thought that our worst nightmare might actually be happening. A day when many frantically tried to think about the things that they would do if a ballistic missile launch would happen."

The agency did not have a plan for a false alarm in place, officials said.

Ige called the mistake unacceptable.

"I am sorry for the pain and confusion it caused," he said. "I, too, am extremely upset about this."

On the H-3, a major highway north of Honolulu, vehicles sat empty after panicked drivers ran to a nearby tunnel for shelter, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported. Workers at a golf club huddled in a kitchen fearing the worst.

Professional golfer Colt Knost, staying at Waikiki Beach during a PGA Tour event, said "everyone was panicking" in the lobby of his hotel.

"Everyone was running around like, 'What do we do?'" he said.

The White House said President Donald Trump, at his private club in Florida, was briefed on the false alert. White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said it "was purely a state exercise." AP

THE Israeli military said yesterday it destroyed an attack tunnel built by the Hamas militant group that stretched from the Gaza Strip, though Israel and into Egypt, and that ran past Israeli military posts as well as gas and fuel pipelines.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus said the 1.5-kilometer long tunnel ran underneath the Kerem Shalom border crossing, Gaza's main point of entry for humanitarian aid.

He said Israeli jets struck part of the tunnel and a new set of sophisticated "tools" destroyed the rest. Conricus said forces had been monitoring its construction for some time and an imminent attack on Israelis was possible. The

Israel says it destroys Hamas tunnel under key Gaza crossing

crossing has been closed till further notice.

Israel has made neutralizing the tunnel threat a top priority since its 2014 war, when Hamas militants on several occasions made their way into Israel. Although they did not manage to reach civilian areas, the infiltrations caught Israel off guard, killing five soldiers in one attack, and terrified the local population.

Sunday's operation marked the third such tunnel Israel has destroyed over the past two months. But Conricus said

this did not mark "more of the same" since it involved the most advanced technological means Israel has deployed.

"[We] now hold a method, an organized system to destroy terror tunnels dug into Israel," he said in an early morning briefing to reporters. "This is a key mission for us and our intention is to allow quiet and to deter Hamas so we can continue to build the obstacle."

Hamas initially said a typical smuggling tunnel was destroyed, but had no immediate response to

the Israeli announcement. There were no casualties in the Israeli airstrike.

Upon departing to India on a diplomatic mission, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu commented on the significance of the operation. "We are responding to aggression against the state of Israel and are taking vigorous and systematic action against hostile infrastructures," he said.

Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman said the tunnel's construction was a clear violation of Israeli sovereignty and

destroying it delivered a stinging blow to one of Hamas' most significant assets. "The message to Gaza's leadership and residents is clear — invest in the sanctity of life and not these burial tunnels," he said.

Conricus, the military spokesman, noted that the tunnel's route stretched underneath the Kerem Shalom crossing, where 15 million tons of food, clothing, construction material and other essential goods had been transferred into Gaza since the 2014 war. Israel and

Egypt have maintained a crippling blockade on Gaza since Hamas seized power in 2007.

Conricus said the crossing itself was a potential target, as well as the gas and fuel pipelines. The tunnel could have also been used to transfer militants and arms for attacks in Israel or Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, he said.

"It was a terror tunnel designed to strike strategic Israel assets," he said.

He didn't specify which tools were used, but in the past Israel has said its new system involves combat units, military intelligence, logistics and research to destroy the tunnels. The military released photos and video of a wide tunnel with concrete paneled walls. AP



TURKEY

Plane dangles off cliff after skidding off runway

A commercial airplane that skidded off a runway after landing in northern Turkey dangled precariously off a muddy cliff with its nose only a few feet from the sea. Images show the Boeing 737-800 on its belly and at an acute angle just above the water. If it had stopped any further along the slope, the plane would have likely plunged into the Black Sea in the Turkish province of Trabzon.

The incident late Saturday created panic among the 162 passengers and crew on board the Pegasus Airlines flight, but they were all evacuated safely. Trabzon Gov. Yucel Yavuz said Sunday that investigators were trying to determine why the plane had left the runway and that the airport would be closed until 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT; 12 a.m. EST). The flight originated in the capital, Ankara.

Ecuador says latest attempt to end Assange impasse failed

Stephan Kueffner

ECUADOR'S decision to grant citizenship to Julian Assange and subsequent attempt to register him as a diplomat has failed to solve a five-year stand off with British authorities over the founder of WikiLeaks.

Assange remains holed up at Ecuador's embassy in London after the U.K. government refused to recognize his diplomatic status, Ecuador's Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa told a news conference in Quito last week. "On December 20, the Foreign Ministry via its embassy in London requested the British Fo-

reign Office consider accrediting Mr. Assange as a diplomatic agent in Ecuador's mission in the United Kingdom," Espinosa said. "This petition was declined on December 21."

Espinosa confirmed that Ecuador had granted Assange citizenship a day after he tweeted a photo of himself wearing the yellow jersey of the country's football team following more than five and a half years at the London embassy. The Latin American nation is now looking for alternative ways to resolve the impasse.

"Ecuador is currently exploring other forms of resolution, of course, amid a dialogue with the United



Julian Assange

Kingdom, for example through mediation," Espinosa said.

The U.K. insists that Assange face justice for skipping bail following allegations of sex crimes in Sweden. Those origi-

nal allegations have since been dropped. WikiLeaks said that by staying as long as he had in the embassy, he had served more than 14 times the maximum sentence under U.K. law. **Bloomberg**

AD

WILD NIGHT OUT

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*Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
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what's ON



TEAMLAB FUTURE PARK

TIME: 1:30pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; 90 minutes per session, maximum capacity is 150 people at one time)

UNTIL: February 28, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: MOP150 (MOP120 for Macau residents; free admission for children aged 2 or under)

PATANE LIBRARY AN OASIS OF FILM AND MUSIC LORE

TIME: pm-8:30pm (Mondays)

9:30am-8:30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays; closed on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 69 - 81, Rua da Ribeira do Patane

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2825 9220

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

EXHIBITION "FICTION AND DRIFT - PAINTINGS BY JORGE MARTINS"

TIME: 10am-9pm daily

UNTIL: March 4, 2018

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4017

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

BUTCHER TRAPPED IN FREEZER USES SAUSAGE TO BASH HIS WAY OUT

A British butcher who got locked in a freezer says he was saved by a frozen sausage that he used as a battering ram.

Chris McCabe says he became trapped in the walk-in freezer at his shop in Totnes, southwest England, last month when wind blew the door shut. The safety button to open the door had frozen in the -20 C chill.

McCabe said he tried unsuccessfully to kick the button free before picking up a 1.5 kilogram black pudding, a form of blood sausage.

McCabe told website Devon Live that he used the meaty tube "like a battering ram" and managed to unstuck the button after several blows.

The grateful butcher told the Daily Mirror: "Black pudding saved my life, without a doubt."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Miscellaneous
17:25	Zig Zag
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:15	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Maias (Portuguese Serie)
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 JAN - 17 JAN



THE COMMUTER

ROOM 1

02:30, 04:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Starring: Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104 min



KIDNAP

ROOM 2

02:30, 04:30, 9:30pm

Director: Luis Prieto

Starring: Halle Berry, Sage Correa, Chris McGinn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 95min

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 4

ROOM 2

07:30pm

Director: Adam Robitel

Starring: Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Josh Stewart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min



UNLOCKED

ROOM 3

02:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Apter

Starring: Noomi Rapace, Orlando Bloom, Toni Collette

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 98min

COCO

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history



1953 EAST GERMAN PURGE BEGINS

The East German authorities have begun a purge of senior officials accused of plotting against the state and spying for "imperialistic" powers.

Several officers, including the Christian Democratic Foreign Minister, Georg Dertinger, and a number of Jewish politicians, have either been removed or have disappeared in the past few days.

The arrests follow a similar purge in Czechoslovakia last November which led to the trial in Prague of 14 senior Communists, 11 of them Jewish, charged with espionage and treason.

Former Communist Party General Secretary Rudolf Slansky was among those convicted of plotting against the Czech Government and executed on 3 December.

The chief prosecutor at the trial claimed Slansky had had criminal contacts with Israeli agents and that these agents had been interfering in government.

Two weeks after the Prague trial it was revealed in Moscow that several doctors, some of whom are Jewish, had conspired to poison the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

The so-called Doctors' Plot coincided with a spate of anti-Zionist propaganda and was followed by a number of arrests as the ailing Soviet dictator tried to bolster his position.

Reports today from Berlin say it is not yet clear why Mr Dertinger has been detained, but he was known to be friendly with Otto Fischl, the Czech representative in East Berlin, who was one of those hanged last month.

He has always been openly supportive of the Soviet Union but as a member of the East German Christian Democratic Union he was also a supporter of a united Germany.

He has been foreign minister since the provisional East German Government was formed in September 1949.

Reports say Peter Florin, a Jewish member of the foreign ministry, has also been replaced.

It looks as if these arrests are only the beginning of a more widespread purge of political groups and organisations in East Germany.

Meanwhile in West Germany there have been mounting protests, especially among right-wing politicians, at the arrest yesterday of several leading neo-Nazis by the British.

The British High Commissioner said those detained were accused of infiltrating West German political parties and were known as the Naumann circle after Dr Werner Naumann, former State Secretary in Goebbels' Ministry of Propaganda.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The arrests in East Germany were just the beginning of a purge which extended to all political parties, trade unions, youth organisations, women's and pensioners' groups.

It followed similar purges in other Eastern Bloc countries, as the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin sought to consolidate his power behind the Iron Curtain.

Forces of the East German police raided the homes and offices of all Jewish people in the Soviet Zone and East Berlin. Many documents were confiscated and families were instructed to remain close to their homes. Georg Dertinger was imprisoned in 1954 for espionage and treason. He was pardoned in 1964.

The number fleeing to West Berlin increased - and on 17 June 1953 there was a public uprising, which was quickly put down by Soviet tanks.

But unrest at the speed of economic recovery in the west led to a continual exodus from the east and led to the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961. Werner Naumann was held in custody for seven months and then released. He later tried to run for political office but was unsuccessful.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
We all tend to avoid whatever is unpleasant or scary - it's human nature!

Taurus April 20-May 20
You don't stop until you've got something perfect, but you need to plan on spending more than just a few hours shopping online - and make sure your plans are for somewhere close by.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Whatever you happen to be discussing, you are just on the verge of making some serious waves - on the job, most likely.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Did you really just spout off that shocking one-liner in the middle of the workday? What made you decide to wear that bright red outfit outdoors? Surely you're joking.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
One of them is so happily surprised (and secretly shocked) at just how willing you are to show how much you care that they're moved to share their own feelings before you have a chance to ask.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
The people you deal with every day seem less than cooperative for some reason today - especially when it comes to perspective or P.O.V. You're smart enough to consider at least trying to temper your rhetoric.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
If you're willing to compromise, though (make it early, because as the evening progresses, that's asking a lot) you can make some amazing progress. You may even be able to put an old financial issue to rest once and for all.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Your emotional depth is abundantly obvious to others, and to you, as well - even though you might try to fool yourself that they're still secret. No matter what you feel, you feel it in your bones.

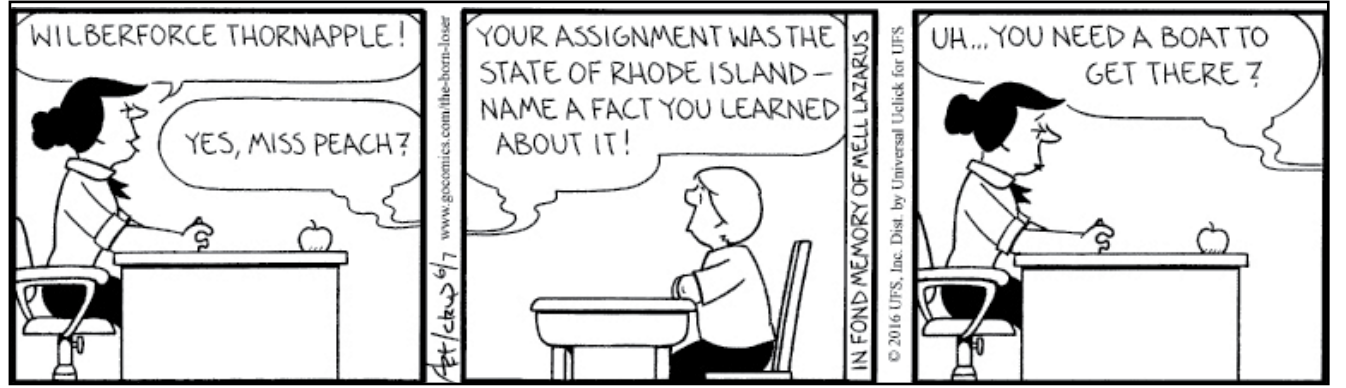
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You're in the mood for education, new experiences or foreign travel - and you may want to go it alone. If you can't take off just yet, you at least need to try to make plans.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your bosses probably seem difficult now, but that may not be exactly so. Weirdly, the one person who seems to be giving you the worst of it is most likely an angel in disguise.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Group situations are a bit much for you for the time being, but you won't mind it so much. Actually, the more they put you on the spot, the happier you're likely to feel. Go ahead and socialize.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Don't go anywhere you don't really want to be. You just can't pretend you're feeling anything that you're not really feeling - and forget about acting like you're happy when you're not!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

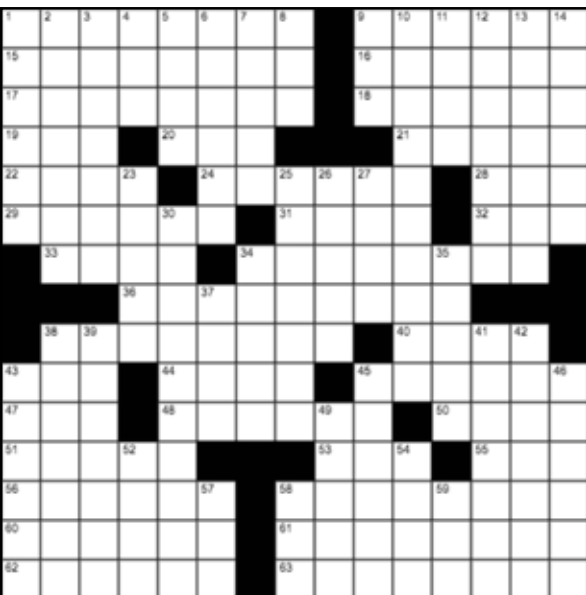
WORLD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Dominate; 9- Haunt; 15- Confidence; 16- Elaborately adorned; 17- Unpublished; 18- Sacred place; 19- Non-Rx; 20- Hanoi holiday; 21- Raison ___; 22- Stringed instrument; 24- Revolve; 28- Sot's sound; 29- Wears away; 31- '___ Tu' ('70s hit); 32- Bambi's aunt; 33- ___ go brag!; 34- Shining; 36- Cloisterlike; 38- Mollify; 40- Belinda Carlisle's 'Should ___ You In?'; 43- Lair; 44- Capital of Fiji; 45- Plant swellings; 47- Common Market abbr.; 48- Try to shred; 50- Talk wildly; 51- First-stringers; 53- 'The Bells' poet; 55- Dundee denial; 56- Like Saturn; 58- Grid; 60- Certifiable; 61- Crested; 62- Discharges; 63- Railway ties;

DOWN: 1- New World songbird; 2- Risk; 3- Voter; 4- Unburden; 5- Can of worms?; 6- Goes in; 7- Vinegary prefix; 8- Roulette bet; 9- That's gotta hurt!; 10- Wedding attendant; 11- Dagger; 12- Made of baked clay; 13- Hoarding; 14- Nero's tutor; 23- Decree; 25- Communications satellite; 26- Narrow mountain ridge; 27- Drop of water expelled by the eye; 30- Enrollment; 34- Tropical fruit; 35- Less healthy; 37- Shivering fit; 38- Assembly; 39- Pleasant fragrance; 41- Flow out; 42- Scarlet bird; 43- Honeybunch; 45- Prima ballerina; 46- Spirited horses; 49- Month of showers; 52- Turkish titles; 54- Robert ___; 57- ___ Moines; 58- Some docs; 59- One circuit;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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JML property logo and Chinese text '卓雅物業'.

More jeers for Real Madrid after home loss to Villarreal

ANOTHER poor result, another round of jeers for Real Madrid. Madrid's struggles in the Spanish league continued when it lost to Villarreal 1-0 on Saturday, infuriating fans at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Pablo Fornals netted Villarreal's winner in the 87th minute, prompting loud boos by the home crowd who three days ago saw their team draw with second-division club Numancia 2-2 in the Copa del Rey.

"There is no explanation for this," coach Zinedine Zidane said. "We did everything we could, we had plenty of chances, but the ball just didn't go in. It's a difficult moment for us. It's tough for the players, they gave their best. We didn't deserve this result."

But Madrid has gone four matches without a win. "We have endured negative results recently, but we



Ronaldo reacts during the match between Real Madrid and Villarreal

know that we can change this situation by winning again," Zidane said. "We have to start winning, and winning convincingly, then things will change."

The defending champion was 16 points behind league leader Barcelona at the competition's halfway point. The Catalan club can increase the gap when it plays at Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Madrid, which has a game in hand, is only four-

th in the standings, behind Valencia and Atletico Madrid.

"In our position we have to look to qualify for the Champions League next year," midfielder Toni Kroos said. "This has to be our goal for the rest of the season, because 16 points is far away."

Zidane's team has already lost more points (22) than in its entire title-winning campaign last season (21).

Villarreal moved to fifth place with the victory, its first ever at the Bernabeu.

"We knew we could make history," Villarreal coach Javier Calleja said. "We played a very smart match."

The host had most of the chances under steady rain. Cristiano Ronaldo, who was also jeered, hit the crossbar from a free kick, and he nearly scored from close range just before half-time but for a brilliant save by goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo.

Gareth Bale had a goal disallowed for offside early in the first half.

Fornals' goal came after a great save by Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas following a counterattack. Fornals picked up the loose ball just outside the area and chipped it over the goalkeeper for the stunning winner.

It was Madrid's third home loss this season. It has won only half of its games at the Bernabeu. AP

Major League launches video game circuit

MAJOR League Soccer will be the second U.S. sports league to launch its own competitive video game circuit, one that pits MLS franchises against each other in FIFA 18, the latest installment in the best-selling title from Electronic Arts Inc.

Nineteen of the 23 MLS clubs will hire professional gamers to represent them in the MLS esports league, which will start with the eMLS Cup in April. The winner will represent his or her club in EA's global campaign to find the world's best FIFA 18 player.

Esports's audience dovetails nicely with the MLS fanbase. A recent study conducted by market analyst Magna Global found that soccer's TV au-



dience is the youngest among big-time U.S. sports, including college basketball, college football and action sports.

Young fans, though, are fickle, and professional soccer sees esports and the FIFA franchise as a way to capture followers who prefer video games to the World Cup. Professional clubs around the world have spent a few years partnering with the world's best FIFA gamers. MLS's New York City FC, for example, has signed FIFA players for both PlayStation and Xbox consoles. Bloomberg



CULTURAL SUPPER CLUB

Friday 2nd February
7:30 - 10 pm
Grand Lapa, Macau
Club Lounge, 17/F

Peter Thomas Zabielskis
Associate Professor of Anthropology
University of Macau

THE CHALLENGES OF FAME:
Transformations in Place Identity and Public Space
through Tourism and Heritage Preservation
in Macau and Penang

This presentation critiques some of the cross-purpose effects that can occur when heritage preservation is pursued primarily for the purpose of tourist development.

Two case studies are compared and contrasted: Macau and the city of George Town, on the island of Penang in Malaysia. Both include UNESCO designated World Heritage sites.

Despite UNESCO's recent efforts to provide guidance on the protection of intangible heritage, both popular and governmental attention remains fixated on the tangible aesthetics of material structure above all else.

Efforts to preserve heritage can thus work against the goal of keeping history alive.

Members: MOP/HKD 500.00
Non-Members: MOP/HKD 650.00

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Macau Bats Rugby

4 years on in Sochi, cocktails replace steroid samples

James Ellingworth, Sochi

WOULD you drink a sample from the Sochi doping lab? The building at the center of a Russia doping scandal which rocked the 2014 Winter Olympics now hosts a restaurant celebrating its notoriety amid a tourism boom.

Former lab director Grigory Rodchenkov has testified to doping Russian stars and covering up for them, but four years on, the cocktails offered in the same space contain only alcohol, not steroids.

There's the B Sample, named after the second test that often confirms whether a doping athlete is guilty. It's a punchy shot of tequila, sambuca and hot sauce. Meldonium, the substance for which tennis star Maria Sharapova tested positive in 2016, now lends its name to a mixture of absinthe and Red Bull.

Performance-enhancing? Probably not.

The unusual menu is "so as not to forget the story of this building [...] it's about history," manager Elena Dyatlova told The Associated Press, though she considers the doping scandals "really unpleasant for Russia."

Rodchenkov says he served a different kind of cocktail back in 2014. He's testified he dispensed steroids dissolved in vermouth or whiskey to top Russian athletes ahead of the Winter Olympics in Sochi in a state-backed doping program, then covered up their drug use by swapping tainted samples for clean ones through a hole in the wall of the lab's supposedly secure storeroom.



Visitors drive past a restaurant now occupying the former building of the Olympic anti-doping laboratory in Sochi

Any evidence of that hole seems long gone after remodeling to create the restaurant and space for other businesses.

The International Olympic Committee has upheld Rodchenkov's testimony despite objections from the Russian government. The IOC banned 43 Russian athletes from the Olympics for life and forced Russia to compete under a neutral flag at next month's Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Away from the lab, Sochi is a city defined by its Olympic legacy.

Tourists flock for selfies in front of plaques in the Olympic Park bearing the names of 2014 medalists, including those sanctioned by the IOC. Time and the weather have nearly erased some names, just as the IOC has erased 13 Russian medals from its 2014 records.

For many visitors, the banned athletes are still champions. "I

react very badly to this. I think our athletes shouldn't be left like this and shouldn't be competing under a neutral flag," said Karina Tolmachyova, a lawyer from the industrial city of Saratov on her first skiing holiday in Sochi.

The Russian government spent an estimated USD51 billion on the Olympics and related infrastructure for Sochi, and the city is seeing the benefits.

Deputy mayor Sergei Yurchenko says the population has boomed by 50 percent to 600,000 people since the Olympics as Russians are tempted to move south for better weather. The rapid growth is forcing local authorities to build more schools.

Sochi offers skiing in winter and beaches in summer, and Yurchenko says 6.5 million tourists visited last year, around 85 percent of them Russians.

"The Olympics was a big boost to the whole development of the

city," he told the AP. "We consider the city's become practically like new, as if it were built all over again." That's certainly true of its tourism attractions, though many older houses still remain.

Political turbulence has affected other once-favored destinations, indirectly helping to boost Sochi's profile. Russian visitors spurned Turkey for much of 2016 when the two countries' governments clashed over the Turkish shootdown of a Russian fighter plane in November 2015. Flights to Egypt were suspended in 2015 and will only start again next month after an airliner carrying Russian tourists was destroyed in a suspected bombing.

In the Caucasus mountains above Sochi, business is strong too.

During the Olympics, the mountain village of Rosa Khutor was the base for many snow sports. However, numerous new

shops were unfinished, prompting visitors to wonder if they'd ever open once the Olympics were finished.

Now there's an array of businesses chiefly aimed at the wealthier Russians who can afford ski lessons, while a casino draws visitors from Turkey — where gambling is severely restricted — and a concert hall advertises shows by star Russian musicians.

The next step for Sochi is the soccer World Cup in June and July. The seafront stadium which held the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies is now reconfigured as a soccer stadium to welcome teams including Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal and world champion Germany.

Local authorities are hoping a successful World Cup will bring more foreign tourists. However, its sporting legacy is far from clear. The Fisht Olympic Stadium has hosted just seven soccer games to date, four of them at last summer's Confederations Cup, and Sochi no longer has a professional club.

FC Sochi played one game last year in front of 6,000 fans in the 47,000-seat arena, then soon after said it was "going on a one-year break" to rethink its strategy. There have been no updates on the club's status since June and its management did not respond to a request for comment.

Since 2003, there have been five failed attempts to run a club in the city, not counting the most recent incarnation of FC Sochi. All collapsed due to financial problems.

"The issue is that clubs in Russia are usually financed by [government] budgets, but in this case the Sochi city budget isn't able to support clubs," Yurchenko said. "We're all hoping that an investor will come in after the World Cup and we'll enter the 2019 season with a Sochi football club." **AP**

Sockless Mina looks to learn from Barcelona teammates

NEWLY signed Barcelona defender Yerry Mina took off his shoes and socks before stepping onto the field at Camp Nou Stadium during his official introduction to fans on Saturday.

For the young Colombian, it was an important first step into his new home.

"There is a verse in life that says that the soles of your feet will touch the land that you want to conquer," Mina said. "And I want to make history here. I want to triumph."

The 23-year-old Mina was signed from Brazilian club Palmeiras for 11.8

million euros (USD14.3 million), "fulfilling a dream" and joining a defense that has been depleted by the injury of France international Samuel Umtiti.

He is set to become the first Colombian to play an official match with the Catalan club.

"I want to add my grain of sand, learn from my teammates," the easy-going defender said. "We know the quality of my teammates, they are extremely good. Little by little I want to learn and work hard to become a good fit to the squad."

Barcelona's defense also

has Gerard Pique, Javier Mascherano and Thomas Vermaelen, who has been playing as a starter in Umtiti's absence.

The tallest player in the squad at 1.95 meters (6-foot-4), Mina is known for his speed and impressive play with the ball at his feet. He is a threat on set-pieces and often makes runs forward.

"I've always enjoyed Barcelona's style," Mina said. "It's gratifying that it's a style that I like."

Mina's contract is valid until June 2023 and has a buyout clause of 100 million euros (\$119 million).

Barcelona initially had an agreement with Palmeiras to bring Mina in the middle of this year for about 9 million euros, but agreed to pay extra and advance the deal because of the hamstring injury to Umtiti, who hasn't played since December and is not likely to return until next month.

Mina and Palmeiras already knew of Barcelona's interest when he was signed from Colombian club Independiente Santa Fe at the beginning of 2016.

Mina had helped Santa Fe win the Copa Sudamericana in 2015, and was key for Palmeiras when it



won the Brazilian league in 2016 and was runner-up in 2017. He was named one of the league's best defenders in 2016.

Mina scored nine goals in 49 matches with Palmeiras, celebrating with

his traditional dance moves.

"I always try to express what I feel while I'm on the field," he said. "We'll see how it goes here. I'll adapt to what the group wants to do." **AP**

opinion

World Views

Matthew Winkler, Bloomberg

DUBAI IS THE MODEL OF A MODERN MIDEAST ECONOMY

For more than 100 years, the Middle East has been defined by oil exploration, production and its boundaries. Now the region is getting repurposed by its aspiration to grow beyond fossil fuel. The shake-up in Saudi Arabia's royal family was as much about becoming a 21st-century economy as it was about rooting out corruption.

None of the region's petrostates has moved further from its oilfield roots than Dubai, which has been diversifying its economy since the 1970s. The result is a thriving gateway to globalization with a superior economic outlook.

The largest of the seven United Arab Emirates and home to more than 200 nationalities, Dubai is growing faster than its neighbors as the No. 3 regional tourist destination behind Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Situated within eight flying hours of two-thirds of the world's population, Dubai has the region's busiest international airport measured in total passengers and fourth-largest airline based on revenue per passenger kilometer. The city's 2,717-foot Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building, rising above Jebel Ali, the ninth-largest port. The relentless commitment to infrastructure development turned Dubai into the Mideast hub for finance, information technology, real estate, shipping and even flowers.

Oil production, which once accounted for 50pct of Dubai's gross domestic product, contributes less than 1pct to GDP today. The transformation of the economy accelerated as oil surged to a record USD147 a barrel in 2008 and continued in the aftermath of the financial crisis when oil plummeted to a low of \$26 in 2016, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The building boom persisted even as Dubai World, the government-owned holding company, sought a "standstill" on debt repayments while it restructured \$25 billion of debt in November 2009 and some borrowers fled the emirate as a result.

The credit crunch and ensuing slowdown made Dubai even more determined to overcome the Mideast oil legacy. Energy officials in 2016 said renewable energy will account for 25pct of the emirate's needs in 12 years. Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the UAE and ruler of Dubai, a year ago said that the renewable percentage will rise to 44pct by 2050. That's when Dubai aims to produce 75pct of its energy requirements from clean sources.

The strategy for making the emirate a green economy included a policy of expanding infrastructure. Even as oil prices declined 50pct in 2014, construction continued unabated for Expo 2020, which aims to showcase "opportunity, mobility and sustainability" with a specific focus on education, financial capital, logistics, natural ecosystems and biodiversity, among other themes.

All of which is reflected in the stock market, where Dubai is unique in the Persian Gulf. Historically, equity prices of Middle Eastern companies rise and fall with the price of crude. Not in Dubai. Since 2003, when oil began its five-year march to all-time highs, the correlation between share prices of its real estate companies and the oil price declined to 0.3 from 0.7, a transition statisticians characterize as "moving in a similar direction" to "no relation," according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Between 2009 and 2012, when oil doubled its value, the Dubai stock market appreciated 14pct and its real estate companies gained 48pct. With oil down 37pct since 2013, the Dubai stock market is up 155pct and real estate firms are 135 percent more valuable.

Corporate Dubai is represented by the Dubai Financial Market General Index, consisting of 36 companies. Since 2003, the seven companies that make up the real estate and construction sector of the index produced a 789pct total return, beating the benchmark's 417pct as well as the 250pct return for the 242-member Bloomberg World Real Estate Index. No other market in the Persian Gulf comes close to replicating the performance of Dubai real estate.

Dubai now is poised to be the growth leader among the six countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, with GDP expanding 3pct or more this year and in 2019. Saudi Arabia, which outperformed Dubai in growth in five out of the six years before 2016, remains the laggard.

THE BUZZ AT LEAST EIGHT DEAD, DOZENS INJURED IN PORTUGAL BUILDING FIRE

At least eight people died and dozens were injured, some seriously, after a heater exploded and started a fire late Saturday at the packed premises of a local residents' association in the center of Portugal, officials said.

A wood-burning stove exploded in the two-story building close to the town of Tondela, around 250 kilometers north of the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, local mayor Jose Gomes

Jesus told reporters.

At least 50 people were injured. Witnesses speaking to local television channels said the fire caused panic among the roughly 60 people in the building who were taking part in an evening amateur card tournament. They said people crowded the exits as thick smoke filled the building. Dozens of fire crews and two rescue helicopters were at the scene taking the injured to hospital.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	60-80 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

World media struggle to translate Trump's Africa insult

Tom Odula, Nairobi, Kenya

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's vulgar insult of Africa was a puzzle for many foreign media organizations, which didn't have a ready translation of his epithet for their readers or listeners. Their answers ranged from "dirty" to, well, dirtier.

While meeting with senators on immigration, Trump questioned why the United States would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa, according to one participant and people briefed on the conversation.

His comments Thursday revived racism accusations against Trump, roiled immigration talks and set off international outrage that left some foreign journalists wondering how to express the offending word.

"We have dozens of language services at the BBC which today are all discussing the right way to translate into their own language the word 'shithole' for their millions of listeners," Paul Danahar, the editor of the BBC's North America bureau, tweeted Friday.

In Africa, the continent that was the object of Trump's insult, Tanzania's Mwananchi newspaper translated his comment as "mataifa chafu" — simply, "dirty countries."

Taifa Leo, a sister Swahili publication to Kenya's leading Daily Nation, chose "nchi za kinyesi," a more or less exact translation but with a gentler word for excrement.

There is a more direct translation for Trump's term in Swahili, editor Gilbert Mogyire said. But, he explained, that would be "unprintable."

In Asia, Japan's Kyodo News wire service chose "kusottare," which literally means "dripping with excrement." The country's no-nonsense national broadcaster NHK settled for "filthy," while the Asahi Shimbun newspaper decided that a word meaning "outdoor toilets" conveyed the gist of Trump's term.

Chinese media outlets are tightly controlled and have relatively little latitude when it comes to creative interpretations. The official Xinhua News Agency and other outlets translated the expletive as "fenkeng" — literally "cesspit."

In the Spanish-speaking world, news outlets ranging from Argentina's Clarin and Todo Noticias to Spain's El Mundo and El Diario matched the president's profanity level by translating the word Trump reportedly used as "agujeros de mierda." "Agujeros" is Spanish for holes.



Mexico's El Universal used both that and the simpler "países de mierda," which is the phrasing The Associated Press sent to its Spanish-language customers. "Países" is Spanish for countries. O Globo and Folha de S.Paulo of Brazil published the Portuguese "países de merda."

Peru's Radio Programas went with "agujeros de porqueria," or "holes of filth."

News organizations in Serbo-Croatian-speaking countries didn't mince any words, applying a phrase with the same meaning as the term Trump reportedly used and arguably more off-color.

Croatian news portal Express.hr was among the media that used "vukojebina" for shithole.

A slightly less indiscreet English translation of the word would be "where the wolves fornicate," although it is used colloquially in Serbo-Croat to refer to places far from civilization. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Japanese bathers pray for the healthy new year while dipping in a cold water tub with blocks of ice at a Teppozu Inari Shinto Shrine during a winter ritual held yesterday in Tokyo.

WORLD BRIEFS

ISRAEL-PALESTINE

The Israeli military said yesterday it destroyed an attack tunnel built by the Hamas militant group that stretched from the Gaza Strip, through Israel and into Egypt, and that ran past Israeli military posts as well as gas and fuel pipelines.



TUNISIA Authorities announced plans to boost aid to the needy in a bid to placate protesters whose demonstrations over price hikes degenerated into days of unrest across the North African nation, which is marking seven years on Sunday since its long-time autocratic ruler was driven into exile.



HUNGARY-ROMANIA Hungary's government has condemned provocative comments by Romania's prime minister about the autonomy efforts by Szeklers, a group of ethnic Hungarians in Romania.

COLOMBIA's chief government negotiator in peace talks with the nation's last remaining rebel group said officials are still committed to reaching a new ceasefire agreement despite fresh guerrilla attacks that put a pause on the dialogue.



PERU A giant Christ statue in Peru's capital that was donated by a construction company at the center of Latin America's largest corruption scandal was damaged Saturday in a fire, days before Pope Francis is set to arrive in the South American nation.