



ENTHUSIASM FOR LATIN PROJECTS ON THE DECLINE
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WORLD BRIEFS



TAIWAN Tens of thousands of people gathered in Taiwan's capital over the weekend for the city's annual gay pride parade ahead of referendums next month that will determine whether same-sex marriages will be recognized on the island.

THAILAND The main political party that will oppose Thailand's ruling military government voted in new leadership yesterday as it prepares for elections scheduled for early next year.

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JAPAN-INDIA The leaders of Japan and India are reaffirming their ties amid growing worries about trade and regional stability. Relations with China are a major issue shared by Modi and Abe, as their cooperation may balance China's growing regional influence and military assertiveness.

More on p13



SAUDI ARABIA's top diplomat said that the global outcry and media focus on the killing of a Saudi journalist earlier this month has become "hysterical" as he urged the public to wait for the results of an investigation before ascribing blame to the kingdom's top leadership.

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IPIIM

Chang grilled over immigration scheme P3



New Istanbul airport aims to be key hub between Asia and Europe P14 TURKEY

ARTS

‘Sparkling Garden – Guan Huai Bin Works’ opens Thursday

THE exhibition “Sparkling Garden – Guan Huai Bin Works” will be inaugurated on November 1 at 6.30 p.m. at the special exhibition room on the third floor of the Macao Museum of Art (MAM). The exhibition features 16 sets of installations and images by contemporary Chinese artist Guan Huaibin, presenting the light and darkness of a “garden” in a variety of forms.

“Sparkling Garden – Guan Huai Bin Works” is divided into two sections: one comprising nine images and the other comprising seven related installations. The two sections form a complete work that creates an ambiance of a “garden.” Whether it is the installations that make up the space or the moving images, both serve as clues for the audience to “decode” the exhibition’s theme and symbols.

Guan Huaibin is currently the president, professor and doctoral advisor at the School of Intermedia Arts (SIMA) of the China Academy of Art. He has partici-

ted in several important international art exhibitions, and his works have been collected by several art institutions. Guan Huaibin excels in deconstructing and absorbing the traditional cultural elements and modes of perception into his own language system and creative structure of his works. By incorporating Chinese classical garden aesthetics into his spatial installations, the works are permeated with an alternative temperament of Chinese contemporary art.

In order to offer visitors a more in-depth understanding of Guan Huaibin’s works, the organizer will hold a series of activities from mid-November, including a guided tour of MAM, guided tours for families on Sundays and “Little Artist”, among others. The activities allow the audience to travel the spaces between installations and to experience the spatial aesthetics and visual enjoyment of installation art.

The exhibition is organized by MAM and co-organized by SIMA.

Company aims to promote inclusion through Sport Fun Day



CESL Asia CEO Antonio Trindade with a participant



The Bocce tournament

CESL Asia hosted its annual Sport Fun Day yesterday, aiming to strengthen society’s bond through competitive and group games and promote the inclusion of the challenged and underprivileged.

Held at the Macao Federation of Trade Workers Union Stadium, the funds raised from the event will be donated to the Macao Special Olympics (MSO) to support the development of disabled sports programs in Macau.

“As a local enterprise rooted in Macau over the past three decades, we have been granted a portion of its revenue and in partnership with other likeminded organizations, we constantly work to improve the well-being of the community and the environmental quality through various activities,” said António Trindade, president and CEO of CESL Asia.

The event kicked off this year with the Football and Bocce Tournaments, while Kids Corner and Charity Sale, along with a series of activities, targeted people from different companies in Macau.

Participating groups included team members ranging from large corporations to small and medium companies, as well as institutions such as government workers groups, consulates and non-profit organizations.

Over 200 people and 50 volunteers contributed to the organization of the Sport Fun Day and its activities.

According to Trindade, the CESL Asia Social Investment dedicates its efforts and resources to promoting social inclusion through investment in sports, training, education and the creation of jobs for those who are less fortunate.

“We at CESL Asia, our partners, the volunteers and the more than 200 participants are creating an opportunity to create awareness of the importance of developing a city without leaving anyone behind and betting on education as the main source of a sustainable future,” Trindade said.

“The purpose is to put people together. Things have grown substantially [and] it can still grow from where we are,” he added.

Last year, the firm raised some MOP80,000 and hoped to raise a similar amount this year.

Yet Trindade noted that the most important goal for the firm is to “open up the minds of the corporate world, authorities and private institutions in Macau to the need of getting people closer, qualified and self-valued and with that perspective feel that they are as important as anybody else.” **LV**

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

CLEANING A CAT WOUND

A cat wound needs proper cleaning in order to prevent infections. There are different types of wounds that can occur: puncture wounds, cuts or burns. Keep a first aid kit for emergency situations and use it when your cat is injured.

1. Apply Cold Compresses

If the injury is a burn wound, hold cold compresses on the area before proceeding to the following steps. The compresses are meant to ease the pain and reduce swelling.

2. Stop Cat Bleeding

In case the cat is bleeding, apply pressure on the wound. Use sterile compresses to stop the bleeding. If the cat has lost a lot of blood, go to the vet immediately.

3. Trim the Area

Wear a pair of surgical gloves and gently

trim the wound area with small scissors. Disinfect the scissors prior to use with a solution of hydrogen peroxide, to prevent the transfer of other bacteria to the wound. By trimming the wound area you will speed up the healing, allowing the air to circulate around it.

4. Clean the Wound

Clean the wound by placing the cat under running water. The water will flush bacteria. Use an antibacterial soap. Rinse well, getting rid of soap and other particles that may be stuck in the wound. You may use a sharp pointed tweezers to remove other particles from the wound, such as glass or splinters.

5. Dry the Area

Dry the area around the wound using a soft towel or paper tissues. Try to avoid touching the wound.

6. Disinfect the Wound

When the wound is dry, disinfect it by using an antiseptic cleaner, such as betadine, iodine or hibitane. Use sterile gauze to pad the wound. Don’t use cotton pads, because these may leave fibers behind. Apply disinfectant on the area surrounding the wound also. Avoid touching the area after cleaning.

7. Apply Ointment

After the area is dry, apply an antibiotic ointment to prevent an infection.

8. Cover the Wound

Cover the wound with a sterile gauze bandage. Even if uncovered areas heal faster, bandages are needed to prevent the cat from licking the ointment and biting or chewing the wound. Alternatively, you can opt for an Elizabethan Collar (also known as a lampshade collar or e-collar) which blocks your cat’s access to the wound.

Clean and disinfect the wounds two times per day until you see signs of healing. If the wound gets infected you will notice swelling, redness, damaged tissue, bad odor



or discharge from it. Your pet will be in a lot of pain. Don’t hesitate to take your cat to the vet to get proper treatment and avoid further complications. The cat will need oral antibiotics and even more advanced treatment.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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IPIM president and other officials under probe for corruption

THE president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Jackson Chang, as well as two other high ranking officials are under criminal investigation for alleged irregularities regarding the unlawful granting of residency statuses through an investment scheme, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) announced on Friday.



Jackson Chang

According to a statement from the CCAC, "the president of the Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee of the IPIM, together with a department chief of the Pension Fund (a former chief of the IPIM's Residency Application and Legal Affairs Division), were transferred to the judiciary, owing to their alleged commission of duty-related crimes in the process of vetting and approving the applications for immovable investment immigration, major investment immigration and technical immigration."

The corruption watchdog also noted in the statement that all suspects involved in the case

have been targeted with compulsory measures that include their suspension from their positions and are restricted from leaving the region.

TDM Radio, citing sources in Chinese local media, reported that the aforementioned member of the Executive Committee of the IPIM is Gloria Batalha Ung, a member since March 2015. In May this year, Ung assumed the role of Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Macau).

TDM also reported that the last of the officials under investigation is Miguel Ian, currently the Chief of Department of the Macau Pension Fund, a position that he has held since 2012.

On Friday, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, announced that the three suspects would also face disciplinary procedures within the administration.

In a statement, he noted that he "profoundly regrets" the incident, noting also that the government, "has this [case] in high consideration," and that his office has been cooperating with the CCAC in the investigations.

Additionally, Chief Executive Chui Sai On promised "full cooperation with the judicial authorities," noting that the government will treat the cases with "zero tolerance for corruption among public servants."

Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan commented on the case while exiting Friday's meeting of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee, saying that legal consultants are currently analyzing the Statute of the Personnel of the IPIM in order to be able to do the follow up on the case.

"The IPIM has a private statute of personnel [different from other public departments] and so the legal consultants of the Pension Fund are currently analyzing it in order to understand how to proceed with a follow up on the case," the Secretary said, adding that the outcome of this process should be public in one or two [working] days and promising to make the conclusions public as soon as she has them. **PC/RM**

Unemployment rate remains stable

Both the general unemployment rate (1.8 percent) and the unemployment rate of local residents (2.4 percent) for the July-September 2018 period remained stable, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The underemployment rate was 0.4 percent, down by 0.2 percentage points. The total labor force was 394,600 and the labor force participation rate was 71.3 percent. Total employment was 387,600 and number of employed residents totaled 285,300, up by 2,600 and 1,600 respectively from the previous period. Median monthly employment earnings of the employed in the third quarter remained stable from the previous quarter at MOP16,000, with those engaging in gaming and junket activities and construction earning MOP20,000 and MOP15,000 respectively. Moreover, median earnings of the employed residents stood at MOP20,000, the same as in the second quarter.

IC to subsidize eight teams for fashion design program

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has received a total of 21 applications for the "2018 Subsidy Programme for Fashion Design on Sample Making," and have selected 15 entrants for the second review, which will be granted a subsidy up to a maximum amount of MOP170,000. Following the second review, entrants may apply for a subsidy in the maximum amount of MOP12,000 to reimburse the expenses incurred on sample making and presentation. According to a statement, the adjudicating panel will select a maximum of eight individuals or teams as the beneficiaries of the programme. The subsidies will cover expenses of sample making and production of promotional materials.

Macau to sustain 'heavier pressure' in economy in 2019

MACAU is slated to face economic hurdles in 2019 as the U.S.-China trade tension continues, a local scholar remarked.

Although some analysts noted that the U.S.-China trade war was unlikely to affect the city, particularly local casinos, some warned that Macau should strengthen its study on the city's economic trend.

Director of the Macau Economic Association, Joey Lao, noted that the possible decline next year could affect the jobs of migrant workers.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of an economic forum organized by the association, Lao said, "The labor market, including the migrant workers, would certainly be affected," as cited in a TDM report.

"However, if the local job market can be stabilized, there would not be a significant impact," he added, noting that the trade war could be a factor affecting the city's economy.

He also noted that the trend in 2019 would "sustain a heavier pressure."

"I would describe it as an economic typhoon. Signal one is now being hoisted."

In September, Deutsche bank

cut its 2019 outlook by more than half, to 4 percent growth from 11 percent previously, citing concerns about the VIP segment and saying Macau is at the start of a downward earnings revision cycle, Bloomberg previously reported.

Factors include the decline in the yuan, along with the ongoing trade war.

Meanwhile, Director of the Economic Bureau Tai Kin Ip said that they are closely monitoring market changes.

"We pay close attention to the market changes while actively implementing the five-year development plan of the SAR. We will use the various supportive measures given by the country efficiently," he said.

Zhang Jianhua, from the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office called for stronger research on the city's economic situation.

"The international economic trend is complicated. The local gross gaming revenue slightly dropped and private large scale investments significantly declined," she said, adding that, "It is necessary for us to further strengthen the study of Macau's economic trend."

New Hengqin port expected to open in 2019



PHOTO ARCHIVE

THE new Hengqin port is expected to begin operation in 2019, before the 20th anniversary of the Macau handover, according to a report by TDM.

Hengqin initiated the construction of this project in 2016, as well as an integrated transportation hub in the same zone.

Despite being expected to begin operation in 2019, the port is planned to be complete only in 2022. Currently, the project is undergoing a large-scale digging process.

According to Li Qizhi, project manager of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation, the entire project will occupy an area of 1.31 million square meters. The total investment is approximately RMB16.8 billion.

It is expected that crossings at the Hengqin port will increase from the current daily 70,000 crossings to 222,000 crossings once the new port begins operation.

Regarding the current Hengqin port, relevant facilities will be demolished and reused as a part of the new port for service purposes.

Regarding the integrated transportation project, there are plans for a Hengqin port station connecting to Macau's Light Rapid Transit.

The train network between Guangzhou and Zhuhai will also be extended to Hengqin.

The Macau and Zhuhai governments are discussing details concerning the connection between Macau LRT and Hengqin, as revealed by Li.

DSI launches multi-service counters

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has officially launched multi-service counters for citizens to lodge application for various identification documents via a single counter. Through the implementation of the "multi-service counter" service model, citizens can now go through formalities for the resident identity card such as their SAR travel documents, the Certificate of Criminal Record, the Certificate of Personal Data, and the Certificate of Association and Foundation. According to a statement issued by the bureau, the counters aim to save citizens time for lodging different applications in the respective service counter and allocate human resources more effectively. Previously, such a service model has been introduced to the DSI service zone at the Government Services Centre in Areia Preta.

EDUCATION

Portuguese Corner in UM library opens

THE University of Macau (UM) held an opening ceremony for its library's new Portuguese Corner on Friday. Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and Yonghua Song, rector of UM, attended the ceremony.

In his speech, Tam noted that the Portuguese language is becoming increasingly important, not only because it is an official language in Macau, but also because the central government has provided a lot of support to the region to develop itself into a platform for cultural exchange between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, on top of its current role as a service platform for business collaboration. The Secretary added that the demand for bilingual Chinese-Portuguese language professionals is expected to keep increasing and the training of bilingual professionals will therefore become a major responsibility of the local government.

Rector Song said that UM's Department of Portuguese is undergoing a series of reforms such as optimization of the undergraduate curriculum, providing scholarships for Portuguese language students. He also mentioned other projects that reflect UM's effort to promote Portuguese language education and research, including the Chinese-Portuguese Bilingual Teaching and Training Centre, which was established a year ago; the Chinese-Portuguese Literary Translation Award, which was jointly launched by UM and the Macau Foundation last year; and the most recent one, the Portuguese Corner, jointly established by the UM library and the Department of Portuguese, for the purpose of making full use of UM's learning environment and increasing linguistic and cultural exchange with Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Portuguese Corner is located on the second floor of

the UM library. In addition to providing information about Portuguese culture, the corner will host talks and exhibitions on a regular basis. There is also an audiovisual room and a study room that serves as a learning commons for Portuguese studies, teaching, and research, and it supports the work of an alliance dedicated to the training of bilingual language professionals.



RECTORS' SUMMIT HELD AT USJ

OVER THE weekend, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) was the stage of the "1st Edition of the Forum of the Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of China and of the Portuguese-speaking Countries." The first edition of the Forum addressed several topics of interest of both parties including "Creative Industries and Cultural Inclusion," and "Harmony without Uniformity - Cultural Dialogue and Conflict Resolution". The Rectors' Summit focused specifically on joint initiatives of networking, research and scientific and technological innovation between the different institutions, also discussing issues such as scholarships and staff and students' mobility among higher education institutions in the space of the Greater Bay Guangdong-Hong



Kong-Macau Area and the Portuguese-speaking countries. A joint declaration of cooperation with Macau's higher education institutions was also signed.

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Enthusiasm for Latin projects on the decline, says festival organizer



Gary Ngai

Daniel Beitler

GOVERNMENT enthusiasm for funding Macau-Latin projects is on the decline, according to one of the organizers of the Latin American Cultural Festival 2018, which runs until the end of November.

Gary Ngai, president of the executive board of the Macau Association for the Promotion of Exchange between Asia-Pacific and Latin America (MAPEAL), told the Times that despite the rhetoric of the importance of Macau in Sino-Latin relations, private initiatives in the city are facing ever-tighter budgets.

"We have been doing this festival for many, many years, but we are still limited [in what we can do] because of the funding situation from the Macau government, which is not adequate," Ngai told the Times yesterday. "The funding was much better last year and this year it has been much tighter. They [the government] didn't explain to us why [this is the case]."

Mutual trade and investment interest between the countries of East Asia and Latin America has been on the agenda of Pacific-facing countries for years, culminating in the failed Trans-Pacific Partnership, which stalled in early 2016.

Beijing has been no exception, looking to expand ties with the southern American continent via its Belt and Road Initiative and viewing Macau as a device to furthering relations with Brazil, the richest and most populous of the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Ngai believes that local government resources are being diverted to develop cultural projects to which Macau is not naturally suited. He wants Macau to play to its strengths and tap into its Chinese-Latin heritage.

"People in the government want Macau to compete with Hong Kong. In what way can we compete with Hong Kong? We need our own identity and to use that to build our own cultural events," he said.

For example, "there is already the Hong Kong film festival. Why do we need to duplicate this in Macau? We spend a lot of money on that, but nothing on what we can do that Hong Kong cannot. We should not compete with Hong Kong or Guangzhou, but do our own thing. That's where our money should be going."

"People always forget that we are different from the other cities in the Greater Bay Area; there are things only we have in this region. One of those things is our link to Latin heritage."

Ngai also said that the Cultural Affairs Bureau, under the leadership of former chief Ung Vai Meng, had supported the festival and the building of a Sino-Latin identity in Macau. But today, he warned, the support is waning.

"Where are our really good Chinese-Portuguese translators in business, culture, politics and so on? I mean really good ones. My feeling is that there is a lot less nowadays than in the pre-handover years. And what about Spanish-Chinese translators? How do we establish Latin America relations without these skills?"

This year's Latin American Cultural Festival, the seventh of its kind, will feature an array of cultural activities from cooking demonstrations to photo exhibitions and culture seminar activities.

In honor of the "2018 Macau Year of Gastronomy" – a government initiative to promote Macau's recent designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy – this year's program includes a gourmet food festival as well as Latin American wine classes.

A series of 12 films from Latin America will be screened, the majority of which won awards at various international film festivals in previous years. There is also a Latin American culture seminar series, featuring highlight talks on the countries of Peru, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina and Cuba.

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Organises "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit" Professionalism Training for Team Members

Team members visit Foshan's Shunde district to promote culinary and cultural exchange

Sands China Ltd. led a delegation Oct. 10 to Shunde district in Foshan, as part of the company's professionalism training initiatives.

The "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit" was co-organised by Sands China Ltd. and the National Conditions Education Association (Macau) to deepen employees' understanding of national development and the Greater Bay Area.

The delegation comprised nearly 100 team members, including senior management, frontline food and beverage team members, and Because We Care Team Member Awards recipients. Like Macao, Shunde is a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, and the visit had the aim of promoting culinary and cultural exchange between the two regions.

Under the leadership of Sands China's senior management, the delegation visited officials from the Tourism Bureau of Shunde District and the Shunde Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. Together they engaged in constructive discussions on collaborative development in areas such as tourism, gastronomy and the interaction of young people between the two creative cities of gastronomy. The delegation also made visits to Shunde Polytechnic and to the Culinary Institute of Shunde to promote the exchange of ideas on training for food and beverage professionals in the two regions.



Sands China leads a delegation Oct. 10 to Shunde district in Foshan, as part of the company's professionalism training initiatives. The visit had the aim of promoting culinary and cultural exchange between Shunde and Macao – both of which are UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy.

Dave Sun, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Sands China Ltd., said:

"The rolling out of the planning process for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is likely to contribute to the sustainable development of Macao's economy. Sands China is one of the leading tourism and leisure enterprises in Macao, and organising a trip to Shunde for team members not only can strengthen the cooperation between the two regions in the food and beverage field, but can also deepen Sands China team members' understanding of national, provincial and regional conditions, in turn promoting both regions' economic integration in the Greater Bay Area."

Zuo Xianghua, director of the economic affairs department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, said: "We encourage Macao enterprises to organise more youth exchanges, especially in patriotic education, to deepen young people's understanding of mainland China. We hope Macao and Shunde will have more exchanges in the future, so as to explore the development opportunities available for the two regions in the Greater Bay Area, and assess their cooperation potential in the field of tourism, such as with service quality. I believe culinary tourism can be an important driver for their economic development."



A delegation from Sands China visits officials from the Tourism Bureau of Shunde District and the Shunde Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office Oct. 10 during the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit". They discussed collaborative development in areas such as tourism, gastronomy and the interaction of young people between Shunde and Macao.

The delegation also visited the Shunde Museum to learn about the history, people, economy and characteristics of Shunde, as well as provincial and national development. The group also visited the Black Pearl restaurant Shunfeng Mountain Villa and renowned local restaurant Mrs. Pork, which is renowned for its authentic Shunde cuisine.

Sands China has nearly 2,000 team members working in food and beverage. The professionalism training on Shunde's cuisine and culture aimed to enhance their pride in being part of a team, and to help Macao's food and beverage industry talent to continually improve, in support of the development of Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy.

In the future, Sands China will invite master chefs from the Culinary Institute of Shunde to visit its hotels and share their experience and knowledge with the company's team members, as a way to pass on Shunde's culinary culture and to promote cooperation and the exchange of ideas between the two regions.

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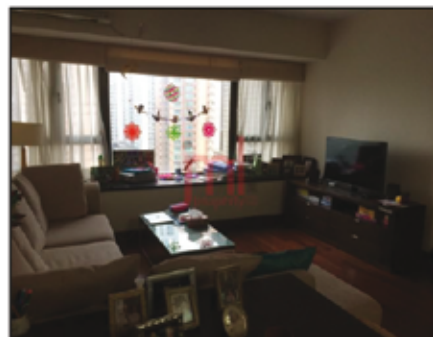
Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)

1,610 sq.ft. HKD 11.88M

Rate: HKD 7,378

A beautiful modern stylish apartment in the popular Ocean Garden complex in Taipa. This 3 bedroom apartment with an en-suite on the master bedroom. The apartment is bright and spacious with a lovely living/dining room, balcony and modern kitchen, plenty of built in storage and ready to move into.



F Unit, Manhattan Taipa

(Ref: 16105507)

1,720 sq.ft. HKD 13.60M

Rate: HKD 7,906

3 bedrooms apartment in an excellent location, in the 5-star residence: The Manhattan. High quality finishes and furnishings. Club House facilities include gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas, bbq facilities, lounge/party room with private kitchen.



ONE CENTRAL, TOWER 7 - MACAU T7

(Ref: 18045554)

2,700 sq.ft. HKD 36 M

Rate: HKD 13,333

The second floor with three excellent size double bedrooms, two with en suites shower rooms and one with a guest bathroom adjacent to one of the guest bedrooms furnished with double beds, bedside tables, table lamps.



Taipa, Supreme Flower City

(Ref: 13105367)

2,060 sq.ft. HKD 17.88M

Rate: HKD 8,679

This apartment has been fully renovated into a 3 bedroom apartment (Original a 4 bedroom). living room has been extended and now benefits from 2 large windows creating a bright and spacious area. Large western style kitchen including built in oven. 2 bathrooms with one being en-suite, fully renovated with a western finish.

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POLYTEC GROUP VS SON POU

DSSOPT requested to submit report to court

Julie Zhu

THE Court of First Instance has requested for the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) to submit two reports to the court regarding the lawsuit case between Polytec Asset Holdings Ltd (Polytec) and local Chinese newspaper Son Pou.

The second court session of the case took place on Friday. Four witnesses of the prosecution (Polytec) were called to court in order to present their testimonies. The four witnesses included the managing director of Polytec (Yeung Kwok Kwong), and Polytec's (Macau) sales and project managers.

Polytec's lawyer, former lawmaker Leonel Alves, questioned the first witness (Yeung) about Lei Kong's (the first defendant) eight articles which have been accused of defamation towards Polytec.

In response to the lawyer, Yeung said that phrases used in Lei Kong's column, in particular those including such terms as "bossy articles", "fraud", "seduce", "inten-

tional fraud" and "misleading advertisement" (among others) were "absolutely inaccurate, distorted, and seriously defamatory."

Questions were once again focused on whether the Polytec group knew, since the beginning, that it could complete the housing project, since it kept carrying out pre-sales. The first defendant, Lei Kong, who is a Son Pou columnist, accused Polytec group of lying to the buyers claiming that Polytec already knew that it could not complete the housing project.

As Yeung explained, the Pearl Horizon developer "had no intention" and also "had never thought" that the project could not be completed.

Moreover, according to Yeung and other witnesses, in 2006, Polytec got an approval for eight years of utilization of the relevant land plot. In early 2010, DSSOPT issued a Plan of Urban Conditions to Polytec attached with the bureau's newest requirements for the project's master layout plan.

In 2011, Polytec made changes according to DSSOPT, which

eventually approved the plan. However, in the same year, according to the witnesses, the government required Polytec to submit environment evaluation reports. Such reports concerning Polytec's business operation in Macau had not been requested for approximately 40 years.

The witnesses said that, in total, Polytec spent approximately three years submitting six environmental reports to the Macau government regarding the Pearl Horizon project.

"For three years of environment evaluation reports there should absolutely be compensation. [On accounts of the 1,200 sunny days], we can only count the days we can use. If we cannot use the days, how can we count them?" Yeung questioned.

"Environment evaluation reports are very rare in Macau. I have never seen one before," declared another witness, who is a senior project manager at Polytec.

A second Polytec project manager, surnamed Leong, also stressed that, "in 2006, the government did



The Son Pou director Chao Chong Peng (left) and Lei Kong (right) pictured outside the court

not mention anything about environment evaluation reports. It only said that [Polytec] would need to submit an environment evaluation report five years later."

Polytec started the Pearl Horizon pre-sale in January 2011, and ended it in June 2013.

Each pre-sale contract stated that Polytec would finish building the project within 1,200 sunny days.

In January 2014, DSSOPT issued a license to Polytec for starting the construction. However, the license was only valid until February 2014, according to the first witness.

The license was later renewed

until the end of 2015, shortly before the Macau government announced the expiration of the Pearl Horizon land plot, in accordance with Macau's latest land law.

This short period of construction allowed Polytec to only finish part of the construction.

According to the presiding judge, DSSOPT will submit two different reports: one related to the details of the master plan change of Pearl Horizon projects and another concerning the environment evaluation report issues.

The bureau has been requested to reply to the court within 10 days.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

More students seek Portuguese-speaking countries

The number of local students seeking education in Portuguese-speaking countries after high school increased 70 percent in the last five academic years, according to Sou Chio Fai, Director of the Tertiary Education Services Office. The number of students from Portuguese-speaking countries studying in Macau also tripled that of five academic years ago. As elaborated by Sou, the most popular subjects among local students in Portuguese-speaking countries are law, education and Chinese-Portuguese translation.

Seac Pai Van to build leisure area

The government will build a leisure area nearby Seac Pai Van Reservoir. Last Friday, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau received 18 tenders for the concession of the project's construction. The maximum construction period is 540 work days, with the construction expected to be finished within the first quarter of next year. The leisure area will have separate spaces for bicycles, running, walking and will provide a playground for children. Two new roads, one 430 meters long and another 320 meters long, will also be built.

DeClub says it will not engage in cryptocurrency activity in Macau

WIDE Rich Global Company Limited, which is looking to acquire DeClub Macau as part of a plan to build a casino club backed by blockchain technology, says DeClub will not directly engage in cryptocurrency activity in Macau.

Speaking to the Times, a representative of the company wrote that the purpose of the initial coin offering (ICO) for a cryptocurrency token known as DEC was to raise funds for the project.

However, "DeClub Macau itself does not issue or engage in any cryptocurrency activity in Macau," the representative noted.

"DEC offers rights to host, rights to affiliate and rights to invest in the cash pool reserve [... and] DEC is convertible to NNC - a common standard ledger between casinos issued by third party."

According to a white paper authored by DeClub, the company



also wants to develop a DEC app that will allow holders of the tokens to host games via an online platform. It says it wants to work closely with regulators, such as the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau and PAGCOR of the Philippines, to abide by local laws on the matter.

"Since we are a Malta company and abide by Malta's laws, we are dedicated to providing

a safe, legal and compliant platform which respects the laws of every operating country and area we are [entering]," said the company's representative. "We are willing to cooperate with [the relevant local] authority for licensing and are willing to discuss anything of their concern."

Founded by Kennis Wong, former CEO of Jimei Group, DeClub is partnering with Malta

-based Wide Rich Global Company Ltd., to issue 10 billion DEC tokens through the ICO, which will launch for pre-sale in mid-November.

The firm wants to have the first prototype for the casino blockchain system ready for launch at the beginning of next year. It will later seek to extend its blockchain technology club to land-based and digital casinos other than those acquired by DeClub.

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Tian Chen

Yuan declines toward weakest level in more than a decade

CHINA'S yuan slid toward its weakest in a decade and close to a key support level of 7 per dollar, before paring its loss slightly as the central bank said it was confident it could keep the currency stable.

On Friday the yuan declined as much as 0.22 percent to 6.9647 per dollar, the weakest intraday level since late 2016, when it hit 6.9666. That was the lowest since May 2008.

The currency has come under renewed pressure of late, after the People's Bank of China cut its reserve-ratio requirement for a fourth time this year and as the yield spread between Chinese and U.S. government bonds hovers near the lowest since April 2011. The last time the yuan slid to this level, the government engineered a dramatic liquidity squeeze in the offshore market.

PBOC Deputy Governor Pan Gongsheng said Friday the central bank will continue to take macro-prudential measures to stabilize expectations in the foreign-exchange market and keep the yuan at a reasonable, equilibrium level. He said the yuan is stable compared with other other currencies and that its recent weakness has been driven by factors including U.S. rate hikes, trade tension and a stronger dollar.

"We have dealt with short-sellers of the yuan a few years ago, and we are very familiar



with each other," Pan said at a briefing in Beijing. "I think we both have vivid memories of the past."

January 2017: Bears Scramble for Yuan as China Chokes Flows, Aids Currency

The yuan has tumbled 9 percent over six months, making it one of the worst performing currencies in Asia, amid escalating trade tensions with the U.S. and a slowing domestic economy. There are already signs of capital outflows: the

nation's foreign-exchange reserves shrank more than every economist's projection in a Bloomberg survey in September.

"There is a high chance that the yuan will break 7 a dollar, as the greenback is very strong and it seems like the PBOC is in no rush to stem depreciation," said Iris Pang, Greater China economist with ING Groep NV in Hong Kong. "The PBOC may not intervene heavily before the level is reached – it's

unnecessary to burn foreign reserves when the weakness is driven by fundamentals."

The PBOC set the yuan's daily reference rate weaker than expected on Friday, and the currency declined for a third straight day. Its moves have been relatively muted in recent days, though trading volume hit a record high on Wednesday, stoking speculation authorities intervened to stem depreciation. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said at a conferen-

ce on Friday that China won't engage in competitive devaluation of the yuan.

The U.S. stopped short of labeling China a currency manipulator in a semi-annual report this month, but it did criticize the country for not disclosing its currency interventions. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there could be a change in methodology for determining whether countries are gaming their currencies. **Bloomberg**

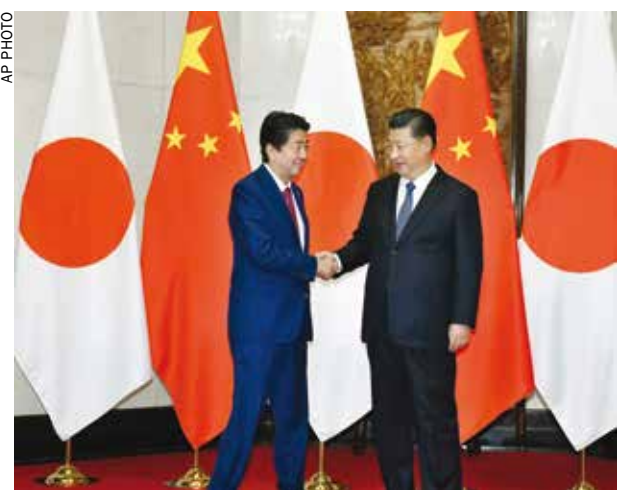
Japan banks, China Investment to set up USD1.8b trade fund

Takashi Nakamichi

JAPAN'S biggest banks and brokerages agreed to set up a USD1.8 billion fund with China's state-run investment group to help companies enhance trade between the nations.

The fund with China Investment Corp. is expected to raise between 100 billion yen and 200 billion yen (\$1.8 billion), Nomura Holdings Inc. spokesman Kenji Yamashita said by phone. The other participants are Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc., Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc., Mizuho Financial Group Inc. and Daiwa Securities Group Inc.

The deal is among several to coincide with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to China, where he is meeting Presi-



The deal coincided with Shinzo Abe's visit to China. Abe (left) pictured with Xi Jinping in Beijing

dent Xi Jinping as part of the first bilateral visit by a Japanese leader in seven years. Ties between Japan and China, long-time economic and political rivals, are now warming as both nations face trade threats from the Trump administration.

"The fund aims to

enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between China and Japan by investing in Japanese companies seeking to expand their businesses into China, as well as Chinese companies and companies from other third-party countries," Nomura said in a statement.

Nomura is seeking to expand in China, having this year applied to acquire a majority stake in a securities joint venture as authorities there loosen ownership rules. Under Chief Executive Officer Koji Nagai, Japan's biggest brokerage is seeking to do retail and wholesale business in the country to make up for diminishing growth opportunities at home and faltering results in Europe.

CIC, China's \$941 billion sovereign wealth fund, has been promoting bilateral funds to boost investments and reduce potential barriers in overseas markets. In August, it announced the closing of an initial \$1.5 billion round for a \$5 billion China-U.S. manufacturing fund with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. **Bloomberg**

MGM Resorts wants to settle Vegas shooting victims' claims

Edvard Pettersson

MGM Resorts International wants to negotiate a possible settlement with the victims of the Oct. 1, 2017, shooting at the Harvest Festival in Las Vegas, in which 58 people were killed and hundreds were wounded.

The company and a group of lawyers representing the victims said in a filing last week in federal court in Las Vegas that they are scheduling a mediation and they asked the judge to put the lawsuit there on hold.

They will make the same requests in other courts around the U.S. where MGM Resorts filed lawsuits to block potential claims over the shooting. Earlier this month, MGM lost a bid to have all the litigation consolidated before one federal judge.

"While we continue to

believe ultimately courts would find in MGM's favor, we hope that entering into mediation will allow the parties to work together toward a fair and timely resolution," Debra DeShong, a spokeswoman for MGM, said in a statement. "Years of protracted litigation is in no one's best interest. We look forward to continuing discussions and hope for a positive resolution so the victims, first responders and the entire community can look forward to the future and continue on the path toward healing."

The victims argue that MGM is liable for the deaths, injuries and other damages because it failed to prevent the shooter, Stephen Paddock, from bringing an arsenal of weapons to his suite at MGM's Mandalay Bay resort. He opened fire from his suite on the concert attendees below. **Bloomberg**



Cathay Pacific customer, said she isn't sure she'd take up the offer to use the Experian service.

"That company has [had] a data breach themselves - and they're asking for more information when your data has been compromised," said the Hong Kong-based traveler, who often flies to Singapore, the U.S. and Europe both for business and on vacation. "I still don't understand why it took them months to let us know."

■ The company has lost more than USD320m in market value since news of the hack broke

Cathay enlists firm once sued for data breach to help after hack

Bruce Einhorn, Kyunghye Park and Jinshan Hong

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. has enlisted a company that was itself once caught up in a hacking scandal to help deal with the fallout of a data breach that affected more than 9 million passengers.

Asia's biggest international carrier is offering customers hit by the hack - which saw passport details to emails illegally accessed - the option to take up a service provided by Experian Plc to monitor whether their information is being misused online.

But the Nottingham, England-based credit-tracking firm had its own experience with hacking in 2015, when a breach saw the data of 15 million subscribers of T-Mobi-

le US Inc. held on Experian's servers exposed. The company was sued over the incident, along with the telecommunications provider.

Cathay has lost more than USD320 million in market value since news of the hack broke, as investors and customers question the company's handling of the situation. The airline, which said it first discovered the breach in March and confirmed it in May, didn't disclose it until Oct. 24, in a late-night statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

When queried on Experian's history by Bloomberg News, Cathay declined to comment. The airline said the time taken to disclose the breach was mainly due to the complexity of the data, and because the event required considerable investi-

gation. "We are focused now on assisting affected customers."

The airline is just the latest company to have its data hacked, with Facebook Inc., and fellow air carriers British Airways Plc and Delta Air Lines Inc. all targeted over the past year. While firms have spent millions of dollars on sophisticated tools to shield their computer networks from attack, data security has become increasingly challenging. Hackers are on the rise, with many stealing troves of personal data that can be sold on the black market and used to carry out financial crimes.

Experian helps track stolen data, when it shows up on websites, chat rooms, blogs or for sale in corners of the internet, often known as dark websites. It is entirely up to the user to

decide how much information they want to share if they choose to subscribe to the one-year, free service, Cathay said in emails to affected passengers offering the service.

The security of customer data is "top priority," and Experian aims to provide protection and assistance to those affected, Sisca Margaretta, the company's Singapore-based chief marketing officer for Asia Pacific, said in an email. Referring to the past incidents, she said Experian's consumer credit database was not accessed and no payment card or banking information was obtained.

"We actively monitor our systems and are continually updating our security protocols to protect data stored on our systems," she said.

Laura Gabriela Politis, 36, a

The information accessed in the Cathay hack included names, nationalities, dates of birth, phone numbers, emails, physical addresses, numbers for passports, identity cards and frequent-flyer programs, as well as historical travel information. Flight safety wasn't compromised and there was no evidence any information has been misused, Cathay said, without revealing details of the origin of the attack.

Hong Kong's government said Friday it is "highly concerned" about the incident and has asked the airline to "fully cooperate" with the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data on a compliance check.

The delay in disclosing the breach could expose Cathay to lawsuits, said Robert Braun, a partner at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP in Los Angeles and co-chair of the firm's cybersecurity and privacy group.

"That's always a problem when you have that kind of delay," he said. "That means the information is out in the wild and people aren't aware they can take steps to protect it." **Bloomberg**

Liquor giant Moutai's sales rise 4pct on festival demand

CHINA'S Kweichow Moutai Co. posted a nearly 4 percent increase in revenue as demand for products from the world's most valuable distiller climbed in the runup to the Mid-Autumn festival.

Revenue climbed to 19.72 billion yuan (USD2.84 billion) in the quarter ended Sept. 30, the Guizhou-based company said in a statement yesterday. Net income rose almost 3 percent to 8.97 billion yuan.

While the liquor giant has so far benefited from

its leadership position in the luxury segment, the company could face headwinds from a downturn in consumer sentiment. China's economy, which in the most recent quarter grew at its slowest pace since the aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2009, is facing worsening trade tensions and a slumping stock market.

"Slower economic growth in China could hurt sales and earnings growth in the coming 12 months," Shen Li and Kai Tung Pang, analysts at

Bloomberg Intelligence, wrote in a note before the earnings announcement. "Weaker consumer sentiment associated with the property market and trade war may slow demand for luxury goods such as Moutai, and hinder the company's ability to raise prices in 2019."

In the third quarter, Moutai's sales were boosted by two Chinese public holidays, traditional peak periods for baijiu demand. Its inventory remains scarce, which helps prop up demand for its

fiery grain liquor even as other luxury companies say that Chinese demand is ebbing as consumer confidence wanes.

The premium alcohol is the toast of choice among China's leaders and has found widespread popularity among the country's middle class as they embrace a more affluent lifestyle. A bottle of its core brand, Flying Fairy, routinely fetches more than 2,000 yuan in shops, although the company recommends a retail price of 1,499 yuan. **Bloomberg**



Shifting toward China, Sri Lanka's political crisis deepens

Iain Marlow, Anusha Ondaatjie

A leadership struggle in Sri Lanka is the latest skirmish in the broader battle for influence in South Asia between India and China and has left the tiny island nation - already heavily indebted to Beijing - in the midst of an escalating constitutional crisis.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena unexpectedly dismissed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Friday and appointed former strong-man president Mahinda Rajapaksa as his replacement. On Saturday he suspended parliament until Nov. 16 in a power struggle that's brought fresh turmoil to the island nation.

The decision to reappoint Rajapaksa - who ruled between 2005 and 2015 - is expected to have regional impact, with his ties to China and history of borrowing heavily from Beijing to fund infrastructure projects. The return of Rajapaksa may also dent New Delhi's influence in Colombo, given Wickremesinghe's attempts to re-balance Sri Lanka's foreign relations away from China and toward India and Japan.

"China is once again emerging as Colombo's last hope," said Shailesh Kumar, Asia director at political risk firm Eurasia Group, who predicts Rajapaksa will re-open the door to Chinese funding. "This transition will ensure that China can once again prevail over Sri Lanka's economy as they have a friend in the prime minister's office - in contrast to Wickremesinghe."

The developments in Sri Lanka play into broader rivalry between India and China across the Indian Ocean. Beijing's potential gains in Sri Lanka could



Supporters of sacked Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe gather outside his official residence

make up for the perceived loss of Chinese influence in the tiny archipelago nation of Maldives, where a recent election turfed former President Abdulla Yameen, who had also moved closer to China at the expense of relations with India.

India's foreign ministry said on Sunday it was closely watching recent political developments in Sri Lanka, echoing the U.S. and European Union.

"We call on all parties to act in accordance with Sri Lanka's constitution, refrain from violence, and follow due process," the U.S. State Department said on Twitter. "We expect the government of Sri Lanka to uphold its Geneva commitments to human rights, reform, accountability, justice, and reconciliation."

Rajapaksa, who remains enormously popular in Sri Lanka, has a controversial past. He led a final assault on minority Tamil separatists ending the country's brutal 26-year civil war in 2009 that was criticized by human-rights groups and foreign govern-

ments. He also took numerous loans from China to fund large infrastructure projects, including the construction of a port in southern Hambantota - his own political constituency - that lost money and was eventually sold to a state-owned Chinese firm in a debt-to-equity swap on a 99-year lease. Roughly 80 percent of Sri Lanka's total government revenues go toward paying debt.

Although it was Rajapaksa-era loans that sank Sri Lanka into debt, the decision to hand the port back to China was made by Wickremesinghe -- and was roundly criticized. In a sign of how fraught relations were among Sri Lanka's two top leaders, Wickremesinghe was forced to defend himself against a no-confidence vote that was backed in part by Sirisena's party. He defeated the motion.

There was a general sense that Wickremesinghe wasn't steering the economy properly, and his replacement by Rajapaksa is likely to prove popular with the general public, said San-

jeewa Fernando, a strategist at CT CLSA Securities in Colombo. The federal budget may also be delayed as a result of this move, he added.

"There was this notion that nothing is being executed properly," Fernando said. "It has to do with sentiment. There is a general excitement for change."

With Sri Lanka still reeling under debt payments and global market turmoil making international financing less likely, the appointment of Rajapaksa could ensure a steady source of capital from China at a time when few other countries are interested in investing there, Eurasia's Kumar said.

Wickremesinghe said at a press conference on Saturday that he still commanded the majority backing in parliament and called for a special session of the legislature to prove it. He's likely to challenge his removal as unconstitutional in the courts.

Calls to both Wickremesinghe and Rajapaksa's offices went unanswered.

"Life is a fight. We should not worsen the situation" of the people of Sri Lanka, Wickremesinghe told reporters. His comments came as political parties jostled for power.

Mahinda Amaraweera, general secretary of Sirisena's United People's Freedom Alliance, told MTV news television that the party decided to quit the unity government due to "economic troubles" and questions of national security, including an alleged plot to assassinate Sirisena.

This transition will ensure that China can once again prevail over Sri Lanka's economy as they have a friend in the prime minister's office.

SHAILESH KUMAR
EURASIA GROUP DIRECTOR

With Friday's defection, Rajapaksa and Sirisena have the backing of about 95 parliamentarians in Sri Lanka's 225-seat legislature. A simple majority of 113 is needed to show that the prime ministerial candidate has the confidence of parliament.

Wickremesinghe has the backing has 106 MPs (including eight MPs of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, six MPs of Mano Ganesan's Tamil Progressive Alliance and five MPs of Rishard Bathiuddin's All Ceylon Makkal Congress). The Tamil National Alliance, which has yet to comment on who it will back, has 16 seats and the Marxist JVP, condemned the President's move to appoint Rajapaksa, has six.

Woman with knife injures 14 children in Chongqing

A knife-wielding assailant injured 14 children at a kindergarten in the western Chinese city of Chongqing on Friday, police reported. The attacker, a 39-year-old woman, was taken into custody and no motive for the assault was immediately publicized.

A report posted on the police force's microblog said the attack at the Xinshiji Kindergarten in the city's outskirts took place at 9:30 a.m. as the

children were returning to classes.

It said all were receiving treatment in a hospital. A doctor who answered the phone at the city's Banan People's Hospital confirmed the children were there but declined to give any details or his name, referring questions to the local government.

No other information about the attacker was given, other than her surname, Liu. Video posted on social media showed

injured children walking to ambulances from the school gate, with some being placed on gurneys.

China has suffered a number of such incidents in recent years, blamed largely on the mentally ill or people bearing grudges.

In June, a man used a kitchen knife to attack three boys and a mother near a school in Shanghai, killing two of the children. Police said the assailant was unem-

ployed and carried out the attack "to take revenge on society."

Chinese law restricts the sale and possession of firearms, and mass attacks are generally carried out with knives or homemade explosives.

Almost 20 children were killed in school attacks in 2010, prompting a response from top government officials and leading many schools to add gates and security guards. AP



US Treasury sanctions 2 Singapore firms for N. Korea dealings

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

AN executive of one of two Singapore companies accused by the U.S. Treasury Department of violating U.N. sanctions against North Korea said Friday that he was unaware of any such dealings.

The Treasury Department said in a statement Thursday that the companies, commodities trading house Wee Tiong (S) Pte. Ltd. and ship management services company WT Marine Pte. Ltd., engaged in laundering money for North Korea.

The Singapore Police Force said in a statement Friday that the country takes its obligations under the U.N. sanctions seriously and "will take appropriate action based on the outcome of our investigations." It said it could not comment further until the investigations are complete.

The sanctions and charges filed by the Justice Department follow earlier allegations against other Singapore-based companies and highlight con-



A woman walks near the Wee Tiong building in Singapore

cerns over the role the trading hub may play in helping bypass sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear program.

"Singapore has historically been a weak link in the enforcement of U.N. sanctions against North Korea and a key node in North Korea's smuggling and money laundering operations,"

said lawyer Joshua Stanton, who helped to draft the North Korea sanctions law.

Wee Tiong and WT Marine Pte. share the same director and address and have similar board members, official records show. Wee Tiong lists its activities as general wholesale trade. WT Marine describes itself as provi-

ding ship management services and operating barges, tugboats and freight "bumboats."

The Treasury Department also blacklisted Singaporean Tan Wee Beng, the director of both companies. The Justice Department named him in criminal charges for "a multi-year scheme to violate and evade U.S. national security controls."

Tan, his brother Tan Wee Tiong and father Tan Siong Kern are listed on the business profiles of both companies.

According to the Treasury, Tan worked with at least one individual in Wee Tiong (S) Pte. Ltd. to fulfil millions of dollars of commodities contracts for North Korea, dating back to 2011.

It said that on at least one occasion, when a wire transfer was rejected, they orchestrated the payment in cash, hand-delivered to a North Korean.

The sanctions freeze any assets Tan and the companies may have in the U.S. and generally prohibit Americans from dealing with them.

Calls to Wee Tiong on Friday

were directed to the executive, who said he had no knowledge about the company's alleged dealings with North Korea.

"I am not in the position to say anything," the man added, before abruptly hanging up. He refused to give his name.

Tan has also been accused, along with at least two others, of using commodities businesses and front companies in Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong and elsewhere to evade restrictions on North Korea's access to the U.S. financial system, and dealing with entities that were already under sanctions.

The Justice Department alleges he engaged in bank fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to defraud the United States.

Tan remains at large. A condominium in Singapore is listed as his residential address in business records.

Singapore authorities have accused three individuals, including a North Korean man, of helping to supply luxury goods such as watches and jewelry to North Korea. One of them faces 161 charges for selling millions of dollars of those goods to high-end retail stores in Pyongyang and cheating banks such as DBS, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited and Malaysian Banking Berhad. **AP**

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SEVERE WEATHER

Super Typhoon Yutu threatens Philippines with deadly winds, surf

SUPER Typhoon Yutu could rip into eastern Luzon in the Philippines tomorrow, extending the toll of destruction it left in the U.S. Northern Mariana Islands earlier this week.

According to information posted yesterday by the Hong Kong Observatory, Yutu will move towards Luzon in the next couple of days. The chance for it to enter the South China Sea is relatively high on Wednesday, the subsequent track and the weakening of Yutu will depend on its interaction with the replenishment of the monsoon.

Yutu, called Rosita in the Philippines, will bring flooding rain, tree-snapping winds and a life-threatening storm surge when it comes ashore. Luzon is the largest and most populous island in the Philippines, home to some 53 million people.

On its current track the storm would pass well north of the capital of Manila, which could see rain and gusty winds.

Yutu became the strongest storm since 1950 to hit the U.S. territories of Saipan and Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands, when it brought winds of nearly 180 mph over the area on Wednesday. At least one person died, many were injured and buildings were destroyed or damaged, according to a blog post by meteorologist Bob Henson of Weather Underground, an IBM company.

Yutu's winds could weaken slightly before it hits the Philippines about 2 p.m. local time tomorrow, but it should still be a Category 4 storm.

Warning signals may be raised on Sunday in eastern and central Luzon, and high winds and heavy rain are forecast for the area, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

■ Yutu's winds could weaken slightly before it hits the Philippines about 2 p.m. local time tomorrow

"The best thing is to evacuate the area," Richards said. "But if they are going to stay and withstand it, people need to prepare to be able to survive after the storm passes."

Northern Luzon was hit by Super Typhoon Mangkhut in September, a storm which went on to strike Hong Kong. At their peak both storms had winds of 180 mph, making them the strongest in the world this year. **MDT/Bloomberg**



A damaged plane sits at the airport after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

SAIPAN AIRPORT REOPENS FOR LIMITED SERVICE

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL Airport has been reopened with limited service after the Northern Mariana Islands were hit by Super Typhoon Yutu. A statement posted on the Facebook page of Northern Mariana Islands Gov. Ralph Torres says the airport is open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is limited to receiving six international flights per day starting yesterday. Inbound flights are restricted to residents and humanitarian aid. The airport sustained significant damage to buildings and several small,

crumpled planes were scattered around the tarmac after the storm. Officials say the airport is still mostly without power, and the Transportation Security Administration has only one working scanning machine. The statement says baggage and cargo may have to be examined by hand. Saipan is a popular tourist destination for visitors from China and South Korea, just a few hours away by plane. Some 650,000 tourists visited in the 2017 fiscal year, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Japan, India leaders build ties amid trade, security worries

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

THE leaders of Japan and India are reaffirming their ties amid growing worries about trade and regional stability.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived Saturday, was meeting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a resort area near Mount Fuji on Sunday. Modi is also visiting a nearby plant of major Japanese robot maker Fanuc.

Relations with China are a major issue shared by Modi and Abe, as their cooperation may balance China's growing regional influence and military assertiveness.

"The India-Japan partnership has been fundamentally transformed and it has been strengthened as a 'special strategic and global partnership,'" Modi told Kyodo News service. "There are no negatives but only opportunities in this relationship which are waiting to be seized."

Modi chose Japan among the first nations to visit after taking power four years ago.



Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe (right)

He has been urging countries in the Indo-Pacific region to unite against protectionism and cross-border tensions.

In another sign of closer relations, India and Japan are also set to hold their first joint military exercises involving ground forces, starting next month.

Abe has just returned from China, where he met President Xi Jinping and agreed the two nations were "sharing more common interests and

concerns." President Donald Trump's policies that have targeted mostly China with tariffs, but also Japan and other nations, accusing them of unfair trade practices, are working to prod India and Japan to promote their economic ties.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said the leaders had lunch at a hotel in Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, and exchanged a wide range of views on pursuing "a free and open"

Indo-Pacific region. Abe told Modi about his recent trip to China, and both sides agreed on the need to cooperate closely on getting North Korea to drop nuclear weapons development, the ministry said in a statement.

Japan's investment in India still has room to grow. Japan is helping India build a super-fast railway system.

Abe has made bolstering and opening the nation's economy central to his policies called "Abenomics," and has encouraged trade, foreign investment and tourism.

Although Japan has long seen the U.S. as its main ally, especially in defense, Abe is courting other ties. He has also been vocal about free trade, which runs counter to Trump's moves to raise tariffs.

Earlier this year, Japan signed a landmark deal with the European Union that will eliminate nearly all tariffs on products they trade. European and Japanese leaders pledged to strengthen their partnership in defense, climate change and human exchange, to send what they called a clear message against protectionism.

Abe and Modi will hold a more formal summit today in Tokyo. **AP**

THAILAND

Main opposition party picks leader ahead of election

THAILAND'S main opposition Pheu Thai Party picked acting head Viroj Pao-in as its leader ahead of a general election expected in 2019 after more than four years of military rule.

Viroj, a police lieutenant general, was the only name on the leadership ballot, the party said in a briefing yesterday. The party added it will decide later if Viroj - who was once a deputy prime minister in an earlier Thai administration - will be its candidate for prime minister in the national poll.

A military government has been in power in Thailand since a coup in 2014 that ousted a Pheu Thai-led administration. Prayuth Chan-Ocha, the former army chief who seized power, has flagged Feb. 24 through to May as the window for holding the delayed general election. The current stretch of military rule is one of the longest since the 1970s, in a country with a history of army intervention.

Pheu Thai and other parties linked to Thaksin Shinawatra have won the past five elections, only to be unseated by the courts or the military. The discord reflects deep fissures in Thai society between urban royalists, known as the so-called yellow shirts, and Thaksin and his rural support base, the red shirts. **Bloomberg**

Istanbul to unveil new airport, seeks to be world's biggest



Construction continued last week in Istanbul's new airport ahead of its opening



An aerial view of Istanbul's new airport

**Zeynep Bilginsoy
and Neyran Elden, Istanbul**

RECEP Tayyip Erdogan has held plenty of grand opening ceremonies in his 15 years at Turkey's helm. Today he will unveil one of his prized jewels — Istanbul New Airport — a mega-project that has been dogged by concerns about labor rights, environmental issues and Turkey's weakening economy.

Erdogan is opening what he claims will eventually become the world's largest air transport hub on the 95th anniversary of Turkey's establishment as a republic. It's a symbolic launch, as only limited flights will begin days later and a full move won't take place until the end of the year.

Tens of thousands of workers have been scrambling to finish the airport to meet Erdogan's Oct. 29 deadline. Protests in September over poor working conditions and dozens of construction deaths have highlighted the human cost of the project.

Istanbul New Airport, on sho-

res of the Black Sea, will serve 90 million passengers annually in its first phase. At its completion in ten years, it will occupy nearly 19,000 acres and serve up to 200 million travelers a year with six runways. That's almost double the traffic at world's biggest airport currently, Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson.

"This airport is going to be the most important hub between Asia and Europe," Kadri Samsunlu, head of the 5-company consortium Istanbul Grand Airport, told reporters Thursday.

The airport's interiors nod to Turkish and Islamic designs and its tulip-shaped air traffic control tower won the 2016 International Architecture Award. It also uses mobile applications and artificial intelligence for customers, is energy efficient and boasts a high-tech security system.

All aviation operations will move there at the end of December when Istanbul's main international airport, named after Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, is closed down. Atatürk

airport now handles 64 million people a year. On the Asian side of the city, Sabiha Gokcen Airport handled 31 million passengers last year. It will remain open.

Erdogan is expected to announce the official name of the new airport, part of his plan to transform Turkey into a global player.

Turkish Airlines will launch its first flights out of the new airport to three local destinations: Ankara, Antalya and Izmir. It will also fly to Baku and Ercan in northern Cyprus.

Nihat Demir, head of a construction workers' union, said the rush to meet Erdogan's deadline has been a major cause of the accidents and deaths at the site that employs 36,000 people.

"The airport has become a cemetery," he told The Associated Press, describing the pressure to finish as relentless and blaming long working hours for leading to "carelessness, accidents and deaths."

The Dev-Yapi-Is union has identified 37 worker deaths at the site and claimed more than

100 dead remain unidentified.

Turkey's Ministry of Labor has denied media reports about hundreds of airport construction deaths, saying in February that 27 workers had died at the site due to "health problems and traffic accidents." It has not commented since then.

Airport workers in September began a strike against poor working conditions, including unpaid salaries, bedbugs, unsafe food and inadequate transport to the site. Security forces rounded up hundreds of workers and formally arrested nearly 30, among them union leaders. The company said it was working to improve conditions.

Megaprojects in northern Istanbul like the airport, the third bridge connecting Istanbul's Asian and European shores and Erdogan's yet-to-start plans for a man-made canal parallel to the Bosphorus strait are also impacting the environment. The environmental group Northern Forests Defense said the new airport has destroyed forests, wetlands and coastal sand dunes

and threatens biodiversity.

These projects are spurring additional construction of transportation networks, housing and business centers in already overpopulated Istanbul, where more than 15 million people live. Samsunlu, the airport executive, said an "airport city" for innovation and technology would also be built.

The five Turkish companies that won the USD29 billion tender in 2013 under the "build-operate-transfer" model have been financing the project through capital and bank loans. IGA will operate the airport for 25 years.

This airport is going to be the most important hub between Asia and Europe.

KADRI SAMSUNLU
ISTANBUL GRAND AIRPORT

Financial observers say lending has fueled much of Turkey's growth and its construction boom, leaving the private sector with a huge \$200 billion debt. With inflation and unemployment in Turkey at double digits and a national currency that has lost as much as 40 percent of its value against the dollar this year, economists say Turkey is clearly facing an economic downturn.

Despite those dark financial clouds, the airport consortium hopes the world's growing aviation industry will generate both jobs and billions of dollars in returns.

"Istanbul New Airport will remain ambitious for growth and we will carry on mastering the challenge to be the biggest and the best. That's our motto," Samsunlu said. **AP**

Georgians choose new president directly for last time

VOTERS in Georgia are choosing a new president for the former Soviet republic on the Black Sea, the last time the president will be elected by direct ballot.

Opinion polls ahead of yesterday's election suggested that none of the 25 candidates is likely to receive the absolute majority need for a first-round win. If no one wins 50 percent support, a runoff between the top two candidates is to be held by Dec. 1.

After the new president's six-year term in completed, future presidents are to be chosen by a delegate system, part of constitutional changes that make the



prime minister the most powerful political figure in Georgia. The president functions as head of state

and commander in chief but is otherwise largely ceremonial. Incumbent Giorgi Margvelashvili is

not running.

The three top contenders are all former foreign ministers — Salome Zurbishvili, Grigol Vashadze and David Bakradze — who served during the presidency of now-exiled Mikheil Saakashvili.

Zurbishvili was sacked in 2005 amid disagreements with parliament. She is running as an independent but is backed by the powerful Georgian Dream party, which is funded by controversial billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili, a Saakashvili foe. Georgian Dream holds an overwhelming majority in the parliament.

Zurbishvili, however,

has been heavily criticized for her contention that Georgia started the 2008 war with Russia. Some Georgians look with suspicion at her foreign background: born in France, she did not visit Georgia until she was in her 30s and she once served as a French diplomat.

Zurbishvili counters that this background is a strong qualification for Georgian president as the country seeks closer ties with the European Union. Georgia also is a strong U.S. ally and has ambitions to join NATO.

Vashadze, who is backed by a coalition that includes the United National Move-

ment that was founded by Saakashvili, says Saakashvili, who was stripped of his citizenship in 2015 and was sentenced in absentia for abuse of power, should be allowed to return to Georgia.

The third top candidate, Bakradze, is from the European Georgia Party, which split off from the UNM. He says Zurbishvili is "unacceptable due to her position and statements, which directly harm Georgia's security and national interests."

Some 3.5 million people are registered to vote in the election, which is being monitored by local and international groups. **AP**

USA

How the FBI used science to identify mail bomb suspect

IN the hours before his arrest, as federal authorities zeroed in and secretly accumulated evidence, Cesar Sayoc was in his element: spinning classic and Top 40 hits in a nightclub where he'd found work as a DJ.

As he entertained patrons from a dimly lit booth overlooking a stage at the Ultra Gentlemen's Club, where Halloween decorations hung in anticipation of a costume party, he could not have known that investigators that very evening were capitalizing on his own mistakes to build a case against him.

He almost certainly had no idea that lab technicians had linked DNA on two pipe bomb packages he was accused of sending to prominent Democrats to a sample previously collected by Florida state authorities. Or that a fingerprint match had turned up on a separate mailing the authorities say he sent.

And he was probably unaware that investigators scouring his social media accounts had found the same spelling mistakes on his online posts — "Hillary Clinton, Debbie Wasserman Shultz" — as on the mailings he'd soon be charged with sending.

In the end, prosecutors who charged Sayoc with five federal crimes Friday say the fervent supporter of President Donald Trump unwittingly left behind a wealth of clues, affording them a critical break in a coast-to-coast investigation into pipe bomb mailings that spread fear of election-season violence. The



This frame grab from video provided by WPLG-TV shows FBI agents escorting Cesar Sayoc, in a sleeveless shirt

bubble-wrapped manila envelopes, addressed to Democrats such as Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton and intercepted from Delaware to California, held vital forensic evidence that investigators say they leveraged to arrest Sayoc four days after the investigation started.

"Criminals make mistakes so the more opportunities that law enforcement has to detect them, the greater chance they're going to be able to act on that, and that appears to be what happened here," said former Justice Department prosecutor Alope Chakravarty, who prosecuted the Boston Marathon bombing case.

But it wasn't always clear that such a break would come, at least not last Monday when the first package arrived: a pipe bomb delivered via mail to an estate in Bedford, New York, belonging to billionaire liberal activist George Soros. That

same day, Sayoc, still under the radar of law enforcement, retweeted a post saying, "The world is waking up to the horrors of George Soros."

Additional packages followed, delivered the next day for Clinton and Obama and after that to the cable network CNN, former Attorney General Eric Holder, former Vice President Joe Biden and other Democratic targets of conservative ire.

Each additional delivery created more unease. But together they also provided more leads for the FBI, which mined each pipe bomb for clues at a laboratory in Quantico, Virginia.

As the packages rolled in, technicians hit a breakthrough: a fingerprint and DNA left on a package sent to Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat and one of the intended pipe bomb recipients, and DNA on a piece of pipe bomb intended for Obama. The FBI said it had

identified no other possible matches on the evidence it had examined.

Besides that, the FBI said, his social media posts that traffic in online conspiracy theories, parody accounts and name-calling include some of the same misspellings as were noticed on the 13 packages he was charged with sending.

As the packages rolled in, technicians hit a breakthrough: a fingerprint and DNA left on a package sent to Rep. Maxine Waters

The clues, authorities say, led them to a 56-year-old man with a long criminal history who'd previously filed for bankruptcy and appeared to be living in his van, showering on the beach or at a local fitness center.

As the FBI worked around the clock, and as Americans were busy debating the hard-edged political climate and whether Trump had fanned the flames with his rhetoric, it was business as usual for Sayoc as he took to Twitter to denigrate targets like Soros. That was not uncommon

for the amateur body builder and former stripper whose social media accounts are peppered with memes supporting Trump and posts vilifying Democrats.

On Thursday from noon to 9 p.m. as law enforcement grew ever closer, descending on a postal sorting facility in Opa-locka, Florida, Sayoc was working as a disc jockey at a West Palm Beach nightclub where he'd found work in the last two months. There, he spun his music from inside a small dimly lit booth overlooking a stage with performers dancing below. Autographed photos of scantily clad and nude adult entertainers were plastered across the walls like wallpaper.

"I didn't know this guy was mad crazy like this," said Stacy Sacca, the club's manager. "Never once did he speak politics. This is a bar. We don't talk politics or religion in a bar, you know?"

But Scott Meigs, another DJ at the club, had a different experience.

He said Sayoc had been talking about politics to everybody at the club for the last two weeks, preaching the need to elect Republicans during the November elections. "I just figured he was passionate about the upcoming elections."

The next morning, he was taken into custody near an auto parts store in Plantation, Florida, north of Miami. Across the street, Thomas Fiori, a former federal law enforcement officer, said he saw about 50 armed officers swarm a man standing outside a white van with windows plastered with stickers supporting Trump and criticizing media outlets including CNN.

They ordered him to the ground, Fiori said, and he did not resist.

"He had that look of, 'I'm done, I surrender,'" Fiori said. **AP**

IMF board approves USD56.3b credit line for Argentina

Patrick Gillespie

THE International Monetary Fund's executive board approved a USD56.3 billion credit line for Argentina, clearing the way for the embattled South American economy to receive a larger amount of funding at a faster pace than originally negotiated.

The board's sign-off Friday ratified a revised agreement announced in September. Under the new deal, Argentina will receive about \$35.8 billion throughout the remainder of this year and all of 2019, representing nearly a \$19 billion increase from the original arrangement negotiated



A banner that reads in Spanish "Get out IMF" hangs on a fence outside Congress as lawmakers discuss next year's budget in Buenos Aires

in June. It already received \$15 billion in June. The remainder of the funds are slated for 2020 and 2021.

South America's second-largest economy has been battered by a plunge in its currency, surging inflation and prospects of back-to-

back years of recession. In exchange for the funds, Argentine President Mauricio Macri has pledged to balance the government budget in 2019, a year earlier than previously expected. That'll be no small task for policy makers targeting a fiscal deficit of 2.6 percent of gross domestic product this year, and some analysts say that much austerity could risk Macri's re-election chances.

Under the revised agreement, all of the funds will be dispersed by the IMF, and each installment will be subject to the board's approval. The front-loaded payment all but guarantees Argentina will not

have to tap international capital markets until after the 2019 election, which may alleviate concerns about the country's fiscal deficit.

The deal has also revamped Argentina's monetary policy. The central bank implemented a currency band, allowing the peso to float between about 34 to 44 pesos to the U.S. dollar. The bank is also conducting daily sales of 7-day notes to remove excess cash in the market in order to tackle inflation.

Macri first turned to the IMF in May when economic concerns ballooned and triggered a currency crisis. Critics in Argentina blame the IMF for its

role in the nation's 2001 default and argue the current deal is terrible, while possible contenders for the 2019 election are already saying the next government should renegotiate it.

Still, there are signs the agreement has halted a slide in investor confidence. The peso is up more than 12 percent in October, on pace for its best month since 2003. The yield on the government's 100-year bond is down from its peak in early September. The difference in yield between Argentine bonds and 10-year U.S. Treasury notes has also come down over the same period. **Bloomberg**

what's ON



TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (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

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

KEITH HARING MAZE MACAU

TIME: 1pm - 9pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2018

VENUE: Cotai Expo Hall F, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP150

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

Offbeat

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND: TINY FEMALE LION CUB IN FRENCH GARAGE



France's customs agency says it's made an extremely surprising discovery in a garage in Marseille: a lion cub.

Marseille's customs brigade found a small female lioness inside a cage Wednesday that weighed just "a few kilograms." Experts say she's 1 to 2 months old and has not been weaned.

The agency said a man who was placed in detention said he acquired the cub from some people in "a building" in the southern French city who said they didn't know how to look after a wild cat and gave the animal up.

The custom agency says the feline was immediately handed over to France's animal protection group for specialized care.

In January 2007, two lion cubs were discovered by Montpellier customs before being given to the Marseille Zoo.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
19:00	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	You, Me & Apocalypse
22:00	Funny Things To Know
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Documentary
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 - 18 Oct



HUNTER KILLER

ROOM 1

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

Director: Donovan Marsh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman

Language: English

Duration: 112min



HALLOWEEN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Will Patton

Language: English

Duration: 130min

CAFE FUNICULI FUNICULA

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Ayuko Tsukahara

Starring: Kasumi Arimura, Kentaro, Haru, Hiroko Yakushimaru

Language: Japanese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



VENOM

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

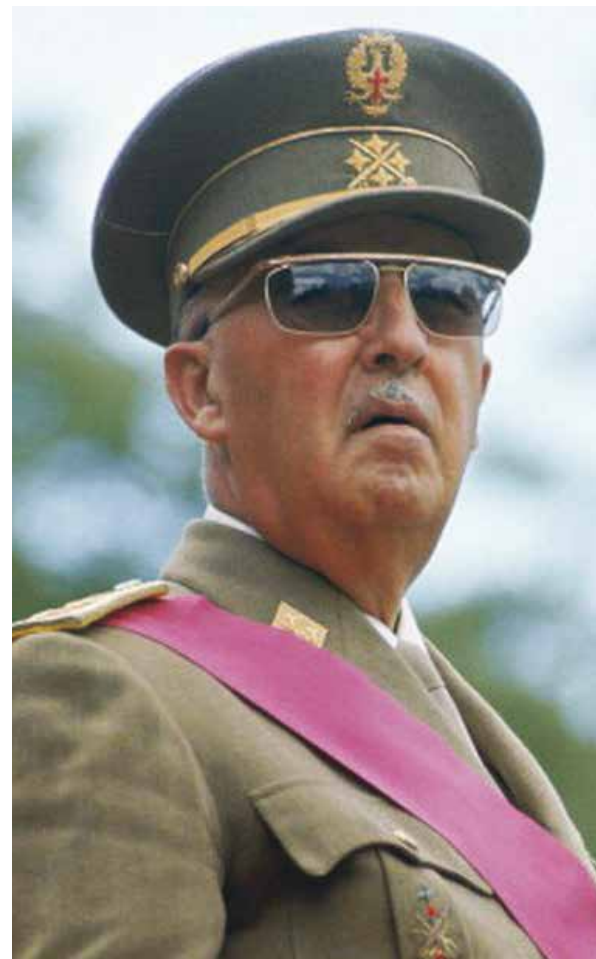
Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1975 FRANCO'S 36-YEAR REIGN ENDS

General Franco's dictatorship has effectively ended with the announcement heir designate Prince Juan Carlos will take over as provisional head of state for Spain.

The move comes as a result of the general's continuing illness. He has suffered a massive series of heart attacks and internal bleeding in the last three weeks.

The 37-year-old prince has been groomed for the role since he was named heir designate in 1969, continuing an agreement between General Franco and the Prince's father.

The urgent need of a leader for the country persuaded the prince to take over on a provisional basis, something which he had been reluctant to repeat.

He had previously been placed in charge last June when Franco was last ill but lasted a mere six weeks.

The prince will have to wait until the general dies, thought to be a matter of days, before he is officially sworn in as King.

The latest report on the health of General Franco said his condition remained grave. The onset of a mouth infection and an increase of liquid in the peritoneal cavity are said to be adding to the problems being faced by the semi-comatose dictator.

The placement of the Prince as King and commander-in-chief was deemed more favourable than other options, including a possible vote of incapacity by the Council of the Realm or getting the general to sign a transfer of power.

The first role for the new provisional leader will be to preside over a Cabinet meeting at Zarzuela Palace.

When sworn in he will become the first King of Spain for 44 years. After municipal elections in 1931 showed an overwhelming republican majority, the Prince's grandfather, King Alfonso XIII suspended the exercise of royal power and went into exile.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

General Franco died on 20 November 1975. The decision was made by doctors who had been keeping him alive through 34 days of critical illness. In his last message to the nation the dictator said: "I ask pardon of all my enemies, as I pardon with all my heart all those who declared themselves my enemy, although I did not consider them to be so."

Prince Juan Carlos was sworn in as King of Spain on 22 November 1975. His first major role was to attend the funeral of the former dictator where he joined thousands of other mourners.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Now is a good time to check in with that one troubled friend or relative...

Taurus April 20-May 20 A minor health complaint inspires something big and bold and wonderful...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Romance is a definite possibility today - whether you're single or not...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try to open up to that new person in your life - at work, at home or wherever...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Today is great for making decisions about technical equipment - whether you're buying, repairing or reconfiguring...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You can't quite make up your mind about something or someone today - and there's nothing wrong with that...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your energy level is tremendous today - so make good use of it! You can tackle any issue you want, and should be able to deal with it more easily than you had feared...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're feeling a bit introverted today - and there's nothing wrong with that, of course! If you can just shut your door and work on your own, that's optimal...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's a fun day for you and your people, so make sure that you're sharing as much as you can with as many people as possible...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A fresh challenge asserts itself early today - and you may be alarmed or excited about this. Just let yourself face it directly and see what your nimble brain comes up with...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your amazing personal energy is helping you to see the truth behind whatever is really going on these days - so make sure that you're open to almost anything...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 How is your cash flow? Now is the time to really think about your relationship with money, and it may be somewhat easier for you to deal with things like budgets and investments...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle clues and solutions. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues, and a 'Friday's solution' grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

List of useful telephone numbers including Emergency calls (999), Fire department (28 572 222), Police (993), Customs (28 559 944), and others.



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' listings for various properties in Macau with details on size, price, and location.

McLaren's USD2.3 million monster roars at Lamborghini and Ferrari

Hannah Elliott

ON Friday, McLaren debuted the £1.75 million (USD2.3 million) Speedtail, previously known by its BP23 codename.

The all-new, three-seat "hyper-GT" is the next model in McLaren's Ultimate Series, the most expensive and exclusive line the automaker sells. The P1 and Senna also belong to the Ultimate Series, while others you actually have a chance of seeing on the road, such as the 720S and the 570S, belong to the Super Series and Sport Series, respectively.

In addition to its major price tag and odd seating arrangement (more on that later), the Speedtail is an homage to the iconic McLaren F1, which held the production car speed record of 240mph from 1998 to 2004. McLaren will make only 106 of them—a number that matches the F1's production run—and they're already sold out, according to a McLaren spokeswoman.

That response is similar to when McLaren debuted the \$1 million Senna, which sold out before it was formally announced, according to McLaren. For a company that sells fewer than 3,500 cars annually, the margins for such extreme cars remain considerable. (So does the wait-time: Speedtail owners won't see delivery until 2020.)

Which is to say the strategy is working: The Speedtail is the first of 18 new cars or derivatives to be announced under McLaren's "Track25" business plan—the company's grab at an additional £200 million per year, financed from deposits taken from customers willing to buy such expensive, extreme cars.

It's also the latest move by the Woking, England-based company to enhance its stature in the luxury and lifestyle market. Although McLaren first gained prominence for its Formula 1



racing success—famed Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna competed under its marque—and then earned respect for the laboratory-precise driving characteristics and video-game styling of its production cars, McLaren has yet to achieve the level of interior comfort and entertainment and exterior fit and finish of the higher-end cars from Ferrari, Lamborghini, Mercedes-AMG, Bentley, and Aston Martin.

HYPERCAR PERFORMANCE

Buyers are in for a treat. The Speedtail is ultra-light (3,153 pounds) for its size, with an active suspension and lightweight carbon ceramic brakes that enhance its nimbleness and handling. It's more powerful than the Senna and its F1 forebear, with a hybrid-electric powertrain that can reach 1,035bhp and a top speed of 250mph. It can get from zero-186mph in 12.8 seconds—four seconds faster than the P1.

That's enough to indicate that McLaren might possibly break the current production car land-speed record of 277.87mph,

which Koenigsegg set last year—though McLaren boss Mike Flewitt has said jumping into the fastest-car fray with Koenigsegg, Bugatti, and Hennessey isn't an explicit goal. "These days, we prefer to let our customers set the records," affirms the company.

Officially, at least, McLaren says the Speedtail is all about the joy of the open road. Its exterior style looks softer than those of previous McLarens, with a teardrop-shaped cockpit and an aerodynamic, all-carbon-fiber body. It's both longer and narrower than the P1, with easy-to-open dihedral doors and retractable digital rear-view cameras in lieu of mirrors. The front splitter, diffuser, and side skirts are all finished in a special "titanium deposition" carbon fiber that is lighter and stronger than that of previous cars. The "Velocity Active Chassis Control" can lower the Speedtail by 1.4 inches, leaving its highest point just 3.7 feet from the road. Raising the car high enough to navigate steep driveways and speed bumps will be rather more difficult.

HYPERCAR COMFORT IS NOW A THING

Inside, the Speedtail is clearly the most luxury-oriented model McLaren has made. It features such creature comforts as electrochromic glass that darkens the top of the windshield at the touch of a button—removing the need for sun visors—and there's actual luggage space in both nose and tail. Engine controls shine in polished aluminum and are set in panels above the driver's head. That overhead control panel, as well as the gearshift paddles and steering wheel clasp, also uses a separate kind of highly refined carbon fiber made in partnership with watchmaker Richard Mille.

For further luxury, the McLaren Special Operations team can oblige with optional platinum or 18-carat white gold-and-carbon fiber badging and inlays, instead of the standard gloss-black on aluminum. (MSO exists to make special customized McLarens for the company's most valued, wealthiest clients, such as the hun-

ter-green Senna for mattress tycoon Michael Fuchs.) The badges, which come in a set of three, are cut in the U.K. by Vaughtons—the same 100-year-old company that makes the U.K.'s Olympic medals—and dramatically increase the cost of the car by at least £50,000. For those worried about the additional weight of a golden or platinum badge, a special, lacquered-on golden badge is available, too.

■ The model is an homage to the iconic McLaren F1, which held the production car speed record of 240mph from 1998 to 2004

The three-seat layout is meant to enhance the overall driving enjoyment and feeling of splendor: The driver sits in the center of the cabin, achieving the most commanding view of the road possible, while a passenger sits on either side. The unconventional design emulates the seating position of a Formula 1 race car, seen previously in such sports cars as Ferrari's ultra-rare 365P and items from more obscure automakers Aeon and Matra-Simca.

While extravagant, this isn't the first time McLaren has put three-seats—or gold—into its cars: The F1 had three seats as well, and it famously used gold foil as a heat shield in the engine compartment. Production will begin by the end of next year. **Bloomberg**

REPORT

Leicester City chairman was on chopper when it crashed

VICHAI Srivaddhanaprabha, the chairman of Leicester City, was on a helicopter that crashed outside the English Premier League soccer club's King Power Stadium, the BBC reports.

The crash happened about 45 minutes after the team played West Ham. The chopper, owned by

Vichai, got into problems shortly after takeoff and slammed into a nearby parking lot, bursting into a ball of flames, according to multiple reports.


The BBC reported that a person close to the family said Vichai was on the helicopter when the incident occurred about 8:30 p.m. local time.

"We are assisting Leicestershire Police and the emergency services in dealing with a major incident at King Power Stadium. The Club will issue a more detailed statement once further information has been established," a Leicester City spokesman said in a statement on Twitter.

Vichai is worth \$3.3 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Most of his wealth derives from King Power Group, which he developed into Thailand's biggest duty-free company. He also controls 4 percent of AirAsia, the region's biggest discount carrier. **Bloomberg**




Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha



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Halloween party

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opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



Y-SHAPED DREAMS

Sooner rather than later, the special structure/engineering work of art currently known by its simple and dry descriptive of "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge" will get a much more deserving name in keeping with its level of importance and significance. Beyond the obvious aim of giving South China a precious piece of infrastructure to fuel the Greater Bay Area and the economic development up and around the Pearl River Delta, the 55-km Y-shaped superlative sea-crossing bridge is to be seen as an important tool to support the SARs of Macau and Hong Kong in integrating their own economic development into the overall development of China.

Such an ambitious design at 20 billion would inevitably raise doubts among democrats both in Hong Kong and Macau. Not only in their concern for a better use for their respective shares of funds but mainly because they associate the direct-line road link with a central move to exert further control in the special administrative regions on both sides of the Pearl River Delta.

As the saying goes, it is no use...the bridge that took a decade to build is there waiting to fulfill its Y-shaped dreams. Macau's Chief Executive, speaking at the inauguration, pointed to the bridge as a way to facilitate MSAR's contributions to the making of the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative. Perhaps, this was an oblique and elegant way to acknowledge the enormous contributions that mainland China made to the landing side of Macau.

Besides the practical and economic side of things, and forgetting for the same reason the fait accompli to the grievances of ecologists who blamed the "Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge" for the dwindling numbers of white/pink dolphins, the bridge looks likely to worry civil libertarian-minded people in Hong Kong as a symbol of belonging to the PRC.

The well-connected HKSAR - and since last month further upgraded with a high-speed rail link - could look onto the 55-km as a symbol of closeness, none other than an umbilical cord, as a reminder of China's growing political influence in Hong Kong's affairs. The above mentioned economic side of things will or will not be proven in time, but the political side of things is self-evident.

Again the 55-km long and award-winning engineering work of art, bridging from Lantau to make its Y in Zhuhai and Macau, stands there over the Pearl River Delta with totemic value in its symbolic or emblematic importance. Allow us to quote roughly Xunzi: The person attempting to travel two roads at once will get nowhere.

In what concerns only Macau, so as not to retreat from the news of Hong Kong People being denied entry to the MSAR on the grounds of internal security - coincidentally apparently utterly legal - this time ahead of the inauguration, authorities stopped award-winning playwright Yan Pat-to.

Yan Pat-to waited two hours at the Macau Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal and then was given notification that no entry would be permitted despite claiming his visit was only related to an event co-organized by the Macau Theatre Culture Institute and the International Association of Theater Critics from Hong Kong. Yan says he told the Immigration Officer he had never had problems entering Macau, but the officer allegedly replied the rules have changed.

P.S: Finally, one closing note about veteran lawmaker Pereira Coutinho who is demanding the six standing committees' proceedings be open to the media, thus to the public. Coutinho points his finger to colleagues who get free passes on declarations made indoors which are later contradicted in the floor session. It looks like the Land Law is causing ripples.

Let the sunshine in, says Coutinho.

THE BUS PLUNGES OFF BRIDGE INTO CHINA'S BUZZ YANGTZE RIVER, KILLING TWO

A bus has plunged off a large bridge spanning China's Yangtze River, with state media saying two people were killed. Police say the bus suddenly veered into the wrong lane and collided with an oncoming car yesterday before breaking through a guard rail and falling into the wide river in Chong-

qing in southwestern China. Divers and other rescue workers were searching for the passengers and driver. Police said that more than 10 people were on the bus. State broadcaster CCTV said that two people had been confirmed dead. The cause of the accident is under investigation.



BRAZIL

Country on course to usher in new era of hard-right politics

BRAZIL looks set to pivot sharply to the right with the election of a former Army captain who wants to privatize state companies in an ailing economy, liberalize gun ownership and mine the rain forest.

Barring an upset, Jair Bolsonaro, 63, will win the presidency after a divisive campaign that encompassed his stabbing, an onslaught of fake news and the imprisonment on corruption charges of former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who had been the front-runner. Lula's successor, Fernando Haddad, 55, has largely failed to shake off public anger over his Workers' Party's record of graft.

So far, voters appear willing to give Bolsonaro the benefit of the doubt despite a history of skeptical statements about the virtues of Brazilian democracy during seven terms as a lawmaker. Last week, he scolded his son Eduardo, a 34-year-old federal deputy, when a July video surfaced in which he suggested closing the Supreme Court should judges impede his father's presidency.

Bolsonaro has dipped in recent polls but has kept his strong lead in surveys by MDA and Datafolha pollsters released on the eve of Sunday's runoff vote. He had 55 percent of support, against 45 percent



Bolsonaro waves after voting in Rio de Janeiro

for Haddad according to Datafolha.

Investors have ignored Bolsonaro's authoritarian streak and bet he'll deliver on his pro-market stance: Brazilian assets have surged with his rise. On Friday the benchmark Ibovespa index defied a slump in global assets to rise as much as 1.2 percent. The real was up by as much as 1 percent, leading gains in major currencies.

Haddad, by contrast, alarms money managers who fear a return to the Workers' Party statist, free-spending policies. In the past few days, he has promised voters subsidized cooking gas and a 20 percent increase in some state benefits.

More than 147 million voters have 4 a.m. [Macau time] today to cast ballots. More than 550,000 electronic voting machines are in operation across the fifth-largest country, from tiny hamlets deep in the Amazon to the sprawling megalopolis of Sao Paulo.

While a victory appears all but assured, Bolsonaro's margin will be an early indicator of his strength in dealing with Brazil's Congress and the Supreme Court. Despite his allies' strong showing in Oct. 7 congressional elections, the legislature remains divided among 30 parties. Bringing them into line won't be easy.

"A comfortable win would make all the difference," said Lucas de Aragao, a partner at Brasilia-based political consultancy Arko Advice, adding that it would give Bolsonaro "greater confidence negotiating with congress and more legitimacy in choosing his cabinet."

Bolsonaro's commitment to liberalize the economy is both recent and decidedly vague - as well as dependent on both congress and his politically inexperienced future finance minister, Paulo Guedes.

Bloomberg

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Wu Xiaochu



The Zhuhai side of the bridge: Passengers queue to take a shuttle bus from Zhuhai to Hong Kong, preparing to cross the newly inaugurated HKZMB.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN's top court has reinstated a ban on the broadcast of Indian TV content following a petition from local producers.

GEORGIA Voters in Georgia are choosing a new president for the former Soviet republic on the Black Sea, the last time the president will be elected by direct ballot.



GREECE Officials surveyed damage on the Greek island of Zakynthos after a powerful earthquake that was felt as far as Libya jolted western Greece. The magnitude-6.5 undersea quake overnight triggered a tsunami warning that ended several hours later. No serious damage or injuries were reported

ALBANIA's interior minister has resigned as the Balkan nation tries to better tackle widespread corruption and drug trafficking.



GERMANY A hot, dry summer has left German rivers and lakes at record low water levels, causing chaos for the inland shipping industry, environmental damage and billions of euros in losses.

ARGENTINA The International Monetary Fund on Friday increased to USD56.3 billion a \$50 billion it had granted to Argentina in June. Argentine President Mauricio Macri is trying to halt economic turmoil that has caused the steep depreciation of the Argentine peso and that is why earlier this year he sought help from the IMF for the first time in two decades. **More on p15**