



SURF HONG FINED MOP10 MILLION

The company was fined following the forced closure of several swimming pools due to a shortage of lifeguards

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THOUSANDS JOIN CARITAS FUNDRAISER

Thousands of participants flooded the Nam Van Nautical Center over the weekend

P7



US CHARGES FINANCIER JHO LOW

P12 MALAYSIA

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES An Australian nun who angered the Philippine president by joining anti-government protests used her final hours in the country to call on Filipinos to unite and fight human rights abuses.



INDONESIA Thousands of conservative Muslims protested in the Indonesian capital about the burning of an Islamic flag, sparking criticism from the government's top security minister that the country was in mourning after a plane crash and back-to-back natural disasters.

PAKISTAN The husband of a Christian woman acquitted eight years after being sentenced to death for blasphemy, but not released after countrywide protests, appealed yesterday to U.S. President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May to help the family leave Pakistan. [More on p14](#)



US-IRAN The Trump administration has restored U.S. sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, but carved out exemptions for eight countries that can still import oil from the Islamic Republic without penalty.

BAHRAIN A Shiite cleric who was a central figure in Bahrain's 2011 Arab Spring protests was sentenced to life in prison yesterday on spying charges.

[More on backpage](#)

RENATO MARQUES



Kiang Wu hospital opens fertility center

P5

LYNZY VALLES



OVER 2,700 PEOPLE

Record participation in ninth edition of MGM Macau Eco Trailhiker

P2-3 MDT REPORT

Lynzy Valles

LLOUD cheers and an energetic crowd filled MGM Cotai's lobby on Saturday as the MGM Macau Eco Trailhiker hit a record high, attracting 2,700 participants and raising MOP400,000 for two local charities.

A total of 675 teams competed for top honors in three race categories: 10km Family Fun, 20km Corporate Challenge and 30km Corporate Challenge.

Macau TrailHiker attracted support from local residents, along with participants from mainland China and Hong Kong.

The winners of the 10 km team, 愛華跑步, finished the course in 50 minutes 23 seconds, while for the 20km course, the champion was 愛華跑步, finishing in 1 hour 43 minutes and 55 seconds.

For the 30 km course, the champion was The North Face Team, who came from Hong Kong, finishing in a breaking record of 2 hours 27 minutes and 46 seconds.

Participants are calling for more similar activities to be conducted in the region, noting that holding it once a year is not enough for the community.

"Macau should have more of this; gathering people together and just run together for fun,

Trailhiker participants call for



The 20km course champions

and also to raise funds for charities," said a participant.

"Macau needs more of these running competitions but, you know, the land is limited," said

another.

"Events like these are good because we can walk for the charities and it also promotes well-being," another resident

responded.

A representative of The North Face Team also noted, "In Hong Kong, almost every weekend there are trail races

but in Macau [due to the lack of] trails, it's difficult to organize, but it's good to get more people involved in the trail running." ▶▶

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

DOG SKIN ALLERGIES

DOG skin allergies are usually identified by constant biting, obsessive scratching, compulsive licking, chewing, rashes, hair loss and hot spots (extremely itchy lesions on the skin caused by self-infliction) in a specific area or multiple spots. There could be several causes to your dog's skin predicament, and you should seek a veterinary dermatologist. The following are the five most common dog skin allergies that require a dermatologist.

Fungal and bacterial skin allergies

This allergy can be contagious, transmitted to people and other pets. Typically, these infection-caused allergies are greasy looking and odorous. This kind of allergy is usually easily diagnosed and treated by your veterinarian with topical ointment or antibiotics. Possible infections include:

Skin allergy due to food

Despite the fact that some companies state that their dog foods are "complete" or "well-balanced," their food can still result in a skin allergy in your dog, due your dog being allergic to one or more ingredients and/or due to a lack of healthy, immune-system supporting ingredients. If the first ingredient listed in your dog's food is not a meat, then it's not of good quality.

If your dog continues to experience skin allergies after switching to a high quality dog food, he's prob-

ably allergic to certain ingredients. In this case, ask your vet for suggestions on a healthy, (common) allergen-free recipe that will meet your dog's nutrient requirements.

Allergies from Parasites

A highly common allergy is caused by the saliva and droppings of pests that occasionally make dogs their hosts. Some can be easily stopped by flea and tick preventatives. These are usually easily diagnosed and treated by your vet. Possible parasites include:

- Fleas
- Chiggers
- Scabies
- Lice
- Cheyletiella Mites
- Demodex mites (Mange)
- Environmental Allergies

Dogs can suffer from allergies due to things in the environment, notably dust, mold or pollen. As a result, some dogs are more susceptible to allergies depending on the season and the region.

Neurogenic allergy

Some canines suffer from an obsessive-compulsive disorder which manifests itself as obsessively licking, biting or chewing an easily reached spot. This is a psychological disorder not attributed to an allergy resulting from any of the above causes. There are



plenty of reasons why a dog might self-mutilate. These include:

- Boredom
- Confinement
- Stress
- Separation Anxiety
- Frustration

For some dogs, this can be overcome with a combination of regular exercise and exercise and a commanding "No!" when he performs the action; however, many dogs require a trip to both a dermatologist and a behavioral specialist to arrive as a solution.

Other possibilities

If all of the above have been ruled out, then the skin

problem could be caused by an underlying, more serious illness. Examples are:
Hypothyroidism
Cancer
Cushing's Syndrome
Endocrine Abnormalities

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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Walking the trails

In response, MGM China CEO, Grant Bowie, hinted at the possibility of holding similar events in 2019, having seen the demand from local residents.

According to Bowie, he is looking to speak with organizers about creating similar events throughout the year, also hoping for more youngsters to join.

"[Trailhiker] brings the community of Macau together. [...] I think it's a great event and it's all about having fun."

"We're also looking forward with the organizers to making another event during the year because we think Trailhiker and the concept of getting out and having exercise and being in the environment is good for us," the executive added, noting that next year will be a significant year as the SAR is set to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the handover of Macau.

Meanwhile, director of Macau Trailhiker Ltd. Robert Kirby said that the ninth edition of the event is a "record in a number of ways," citing the new venue, the new 20 kilometer course and the increasing number of teams and crews participating.

Commenting on the 10th edition next year, Kirby noted that they are set to plan "so-

mething special" and add activities to recognize the milestone of the event.

Since Trailhiker has recently been sold out in just few hours of launching its registration, Kirby hinted that there are plans to do a weekend run.

Macau should have more of this; gathering people together and just run together for fun.

PARTICIPANT

"I do believe that going forward with the support of corporate sponsors, a weekend of running, like 10k and 20k will be on a Saturday, while the 30k and 50k will be on a Sunday," he said, adding "It could be a possibility but we have to work closely".

This year the event was focused on raising awareness of the eco and natural environment in Macau, with an aim of reducing its carbon footprint.

Paper certificates were replaced by electronic certificates, and participants are

encouraged to bring their own bottles and water to the event. The fun continued at the post-race Carnival, which included a Signature Buffet, Lucky Draw and the "Wellness Boulevard."

The Wellness Boulevard promoted a wellness lifestyle by incorporating 12 booths – introducing products from the latest running gear to wellness supplements and wholesome food choices, and engaging activities – including games, stretching sessions, massages & health talks.

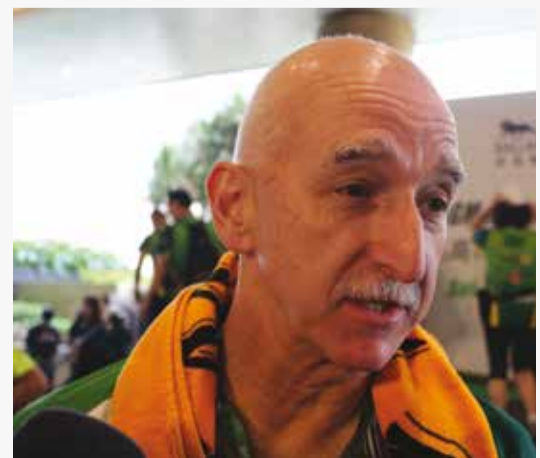
Macau Daily Times is Eco TrailHiker's official media partner



SMOKING LOUNGES AT MGM TO BE READY BY JANUARY 1

MGM CHINA'S CEO Grant Bowie said that the gaming operator has largely finished the construction works of its smoking lounges and is currently working with the government in terms of the approval process. "In terms of our investment, it's been substantial, many, many millions of Hong Kong dollars has been invested in creating smoking lounges," he told the press. Bowie mentioned that the gaming operator

had worked with different government departments to create the smoking lounge, particularly with the Health Bureau. Commenting on the operations of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and its effects on its visitor arrivals Bowie said, "I think it's only going to get better as things settle down. [...] What's more important is the improved connection to all of the cities and that tourists [can] move freely around the three regions."



Surf Hong fined MOP10 million

Surf Hong Company, the employer of 24 lifeguards who were engaged in a lengthy employment dispute, has been fined MOP10 million by the government. According to the Sports Bureau, the fine – which may still increase – is based on the damage caused to the public by the forced closure of several swimming pools due to a shortage of lifeguards. Around two dozen lifeguards went on strike this year after accusing Surf Hong of not paying appropriate overtime, failing to provide copies of contracts, failing to provide monthly pay slips, and failing to give annual leave or days off. Lawmaker Sulu Sou wrote on social media that about 20 workers were fired after striking for a second time when employer-employee negotiations broke down. Surf Hong won the right to operate services at Macau's public swimming pools by public tender. The contract with the company ends next year.

Agnes Lam questions school bullying matter

Agnes Lam is calling for the government's attention on matters of school bullying, she wrote in a written inquiry to the government. According to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Macau has a higher rate of school bullying than the global average. A recent case of school bullying is now being investigated by the Judiciary Police. In particular, Lam asked the government: "Will the education authority conclude what needs to be reviewed and improved regarding this bullying case?... According to PISA, Macau's school bullying is rather serious. What does the education authority think about the eventual reasons? [...] Does the government have a way of creating a friendly and happy school environment?" Lam asked.

US trade union investigating firms linked to Angela Leong



Angela Leong

A U.S.-based trade union has submitted a letter addressed to macau's the Court of Final Instance asking for clarification on the interests of lawmaker and businesswoman Angela Leong in 23 companies

reportedly not listed in her financial disclosure form, required as per Macau law for individuals holding office.

The letter from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) - a trade union in the U.S. representing approximately 400,000 construction workers, is addressed to the President of the Court of Final Instance, Sam Hou Fai.

The letter is dated October 31 and requests a reply within 10 working days.

It says that a division of the U.S.-based trade union, known as Local 501, is investigating a venture between slot machine and lottery games provider International Game Technology (IGT) and Hong Kong-listed Paradise Entertainment, which together operate satellite casinos under Sociedade de Jogos de Macau's (SJM) gaming concession.

Local 501 represents over 2,000 maintenance engineers and slot machine technicians in Las Vegas, Nevada, while IGT operates a subsidiary in the MSAR called IGT Asia-Macau Lda.

"These findings necessarily led us to research SJM and its principals, including executive director Angela Leong On Kei, who also serves as a standing member of the Macau Legislative Assembly," the letter reads.

After referring to Leong's 2013 financial disclosure form, the IUOE letter suggests that the lawmaker might have an interest in 23 Macau-based companies not included in her mandatory declaration.

"It is our understanding that members of the Legislative Assembly are required to make regular financial disclosure statements, which are available to the general public on the Macau judiciary website," notes IUOE in the letter.

"Regarding Assembly Member Leong's Macau company holdings, we request from your office clarification on her interests in the 23 Macau-based firms listed below and whether she is required to include these in her 2018 financial disclosure statement."

Leong's financial disclosure statement shows that, as of 2013, she had stated interests in 31 Macau-based firms, 87 based in Hong Kong, 99 in the British Virgin Islands, six companies in mainland China and another six in Australia.

The 23 companies listed in the IUOE letter cover the sectors of hospitality, consultancy, logistics, food and beverage, media and communications, and land development.

The list includes Panda Sociedade de Gestão de Investimentos limitada, a subsidiary company of the Ho family's Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau and Shun Tak Holdings, which owns the New Yaohan department store in downtown Macau, having acquired it in 1997.

Another company on the list is Invest - Sociedade de Desenvolvimento e Promoção de Investimentos, S.A.R.L., which is the registered owner of local media outlet Jornal do Cidadão, according to government records.

Meanwhile, land developer "Companhia de Investimento Predial Hoi Sun, Limitada" was one company to have its land plot in Taipa confiscated by the Macau government in 2015, on account of failing to meet its "obligation to use the land within the time limit."

Some of the companies do not appear to be active. Good Harvest Enterprises (Macau) Limited, for example, is listed only in a government document dating back to 2005. The filing says that the firm had capital valued at MOP100,000 at that time.

AD



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HEALTH

Kiang Wu opens assisted reproduction center

KIANG Wu Hospital opened its assisted reproduction center on Saturday, introducing services that will accommodate up to one thousand cases per year.

The hospital says that it has acquired advanced technology in assisted reproductive services, however pre-implantation genetic screening will not be permitted for now. This is because Macau's law forbids gender selection, which can be influenced during the genetic screening process.

The new center, to be staffed by 10 professionals, will offer standard in vitro fertilization treatment at a cost between MOP60,000 and MOP70,000 per year, according to the hospital's deputy director, Chan Tai Ip.

"The overall design of the center should be able to handle 1,000 cases per year," said the deputy director, as cited by public broadcaster TDM. "The equipment is relatively more advanced, so



PAULO BARBOSA

according to the cost accounting, the initial price will be set at around MOP60,000 to MOP70,000."

In July, Macao Daily News reported that Chan had suggested the hospital would fix the price of the services in accordance with the actual needs of people in Macau. Citing concerns about

Macau's "imperfect supply chain", the deputy director said at the time that the price might be lower than the cost of the service itself, ranging between MOP30,000 and MOP50,000.

Last year, the authorities identified and cracked down on several cases of illegal assisted reproduction activities

at health clinics located in Macau. The Health Bureau maintains that there are only a select number of institutions that can provide these services, such as the Conde de S. Januário Hospital Center and at private health institutions that possess emergency services, as well as obstetrics and neonatal intensive care units.

The overall design of the center should be able to handle 1,000 cases per year.

CHAN TAI IP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Earlier this year, a team of license experts from the Health Bureau inspected the assisted reproduction center at Kiang Wu Hospital.

Macau and Zhuhai co-tested boxed tissue and sanitary napkins

THE Macau Consumer Council (CC) and the Zhuhai Association for Consumers' Rights and Interests Protection recently co-tested boxed tissue and sanitary napkins. According to a statement issued by the IC, the two consumer organizations co-tested 46 samples of boxed tissue and sanitary napkins. Only one napkin sample from Zhuhai failed to meet the test requirement, while the results of all samples of boxed tissue and sanitary napkins from Macau were satisfactory.

The 12 samples of boxed tissues all pass the requirements of softness, brightness, water absorbency, and traces of fluorescent brightener that may cause irritation or allergy was not found. The total bacteria count and the number of pathogenic bacteria is also satisfactory.

The CC stresses that sanitary napkins are made of ingredients such as cotton and pulp and therefore are prone to bacteria growth when there is too much moisture. The tests of 12 samples for bacteria had acceptable results, but differences in water absorbency of these products varied.

Consumers can visit the websites of both consumer organizations to check the result.

AD



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Sharing is caring – presenting Macau's first brasserie cuisine designed for sharing. Aux Beaux Art is serving up new dishes, large and small, perfect for friends and family reunions. Octopus confit, mussels marinere, home smoked spare ribs and anchovies pissaladiere to name just a few of the many creative platters on the menu. Reserve a table for a delicious time with friends and family!

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(Ref: 18100691)
837 sq.ft. HKD 21,000

Multiple offices for rent, ranging from 837 sq ft to 6,415 sq ft. Some fitted out, others bare-shell. All include management fees and central air conditioning.



Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden

(Ref: 18040674)
3,700 sq.ft. HKD 35,000

Mid - floor, 4 bedroom apartment located in Taipa. Nice apartment for family. Unfurnished, but all appliances built-in. Large and bright living room with balcony with amazing sea view. Carpark included. Clubhouse facilities can be available gymnasium, outdoor pool, mini theatre, function rooms etc.

FOR SALE



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)
627 sq.ft. HKD 3.74 M
Rate: HKD 5977

One bedroom apartment in Heritage Area of Macau. A five minute from the Ruins of St Pauls. Renovated 3 years ago. Good size master bedroom with built in wardrobes. Modern shower room with built in under counter cabinet. Well equipped kitchen. S shaped living / dining area with small nook for desk.



Hellene Garden, High Floor Carnation Court

(Ref: 18085559)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 9.8M
Rate: HKD 5,893

Beautiful apartment in the Hellene Garden complex. Located on high floor. Nicely renovated with an open kitchen and two balconies (one facing the sea and another facing the hills).



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane

(Ref: 16095490)
664 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M
Rate: HKD 6,404

Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 8 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. Two bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Compact kitchen. Small balcony.



Taipa, Nam Long

(Ref: 18095561)
516 sq.ft. HKD 4.28 M
Rate: HKD 8,294

Fully renovated apartment with a bright street view situated on the edge of the popular Taipa Village. The original two bed layout has been converted into a large one bedroom configuration that can easily turn back into two. Great investment apartment. Central location means easy access to restaurants, supermarkets, shops, bus stops and the Cotai Strip.



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.



Va Nam Top Floor

(Ref: 18045550)
750sq.ft. HKD 4.18M
Rate: HKD 5573

This property is centrally located in Taipa and enjoys exclusive access to the corresponding rooftop area. The internal area does need some TLC which makes it a unique opportunity for investors to renovate and force appreciation. The property is currently tenanted but can be viewed with prior arrangement.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5 M
Rate: HKD 5,750

The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. On the mezzanine floor two large double bedrooms with a lots of built in storage share a good size walk in shower room.



Jubilee Court, Macau

(Ref: 18030672)
2,200 sq.ft. HKD 13.5M
Rate: HKD 6,136

Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Open plan living room with adjacent dining area is a wonderful space with high ceilings are large windows. The kitchen is fully fitted with an extra storeroom or maids quarters, plenty of space for entertaining.

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Thousands join Caritas fundraiser

THOUSANDS of participants flooded the Nam Van Nautical Center over the weekend to take part in the 49th Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar. At-

tendees were able to browse more than 90 booths with food, drinks and games. The fundraising event concluded yesterday with organizers hoping to col-

lect MOP8 million this year, an increase of one million over last year's edition. The profits from the Charity Bazaar are used to support the work of Caritas.

Paul Pun, secretary general of Caritas Macau, noted that the Charity Bazaar is not only important to raise funds. "It is more important to get the cooperation from the communities, from companies, from schools and from government organizations as well," he said, quoted by TDM. "We became partners to build a better society. That's why we say: 'With love we build together'."

Interviewed during the event, Paul Pun talked about a recently opened social clinic. The clinic is not related to Caritas and was offered to Pun by a local medical practitioner in a bid to assist migrant workers from the burden of expensive medical cost.

According to the secretary general of Caritas Macau, the clinic located nearby Av. De Almeida Ribeiro did not have many patients in the beginning. However, he said that migrant workers are starting to become aware of its existence.

"The migrant workers deserve support and a health system that protects them. So we initiative will stimulate others to do something for the migrant workers," Paul Pun noted.

Gov't with strong presence at China Int'l Import Expo

SEVERAL departments of the MSAR Government formed delegations to participate in and attend the first China International Import Expo (CIIE), held in Shanghai from today to November 10 [see more on page 10].

The CIIE is the world's first national level, large-scale expo with import trade as the theme. Jointly hosted by the Ministry of Commerce and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, the event is held with the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as organizing partners.

The CIIE is comprised of the expo and a forum. The expo in-

cludes the Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment and the Enterprise and Business Exhibition, while the forum is named the Hongqiao International Economic and Trade Forum.

Several local government departments will set up exhibition booths and attend the forum during the expo period. A Macau exhibition area will be set up within the China Pavilion of the Country Pavilion for Trade and Investment. The exhibition is organized by the Government Information Bureau and titled "Macao Hub". It features photos, text, videos and multimedia to tell the story of how Macau developed from a fishing village in the 16th century to an international trading port where East meets West.

AD

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IPOR president visits Polytechnic Institute



Joaquim Ramos, the president of Instituto Português do Oriente (IPOR), visited the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) on October 30 and was received by Professor Im Sio Kei, president of the education institution. Ramos visited the Chinese-Portuguese-English Machine Translation Laboratory and learned about the teaching and research development of IPM and its contribution to the language services industry in Macau. During the meeting, Im expressed his intention to expand the realm of cooperation with IPOR and its partners from Portugal and to foster collaboration between teachers and students of the two parties. Both parties discussed cooperation in different fields, including the promotion of joint research projects. An exchange program of teachers from IPOR to IPM was suggested, which would provide an opportunity for teachers from both parties to interact with each other.

Bird forces plane to abort takeoff

An Air Macau plane was forced to abort its takeoff from the Macau International Airport on Saturday morning, on account of a bird flying into one of the aircraft's engines. The flight, which was headed to Incheon in South Korea, was scheduled to leave Macau at about 8.25 a.m. However, prior to takeoff, a bird flew into one of the engines, leading aviation officials to abort the procedure. Public broadcaster TDM reported that no one was injured in the incident. The passengers were transferred to another Air Macau plane, which departed for Incheon later that same morning.

SPORTS

Badminton finals: Korean team performs well



The men's doubles final was an all-Korean affair

THE Macau Open Badminton finals were played yesterday at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion. Veteran Korean player Lee Hyun-il was the winner of the men's singles, beating Chinese qualifier Zhou Zeqi in two matches (21-9, 21-19). In the women's singles, top seed Canadian player Michelle Li defeated Chinese Han Yue (23-25, 21-17, 21-15).

The men's doubles final was an all-Korean affair, with Lee Yong Dae and Kim Gi Jung (Taiwan) beating their compatriots Ko Sung Hyun and Shin Baek Cheol in three matches (17-21, 21-13 21-19). In the women's doubles competition, the Malaysian pair Vivian Hoo and Yap Cheng Wen surprisingly won against the Japanese pair Misato Aratama and Akane Watanabe (21-15 22-20).

The Hong Kong team dominated the mixed doubles, placing two pairs in the finals. The winners were Tang Chung Man and Tse Ying Suet (21-14, 21-15). The tournament has been held annually since 2006 and was organized by the Badminton Federation of Macau. It had a total prize of USD150,000.

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EU stress tests show banks more robust against a crisis



An Alpha Bank AE branch in Athens, Greece

EUROPE-WIDE stress tests show that big banks would come through a theoretical financial crisis in better shape than in the last such test two years ago.

But several analysts said the test didn't mean Europe could sound the all-clear about potential trouble from Italian banks and government finances.

None of the 48 tested banks, covering about 70 percent of the EU banking sector by assets, fell short of a capital yardstick used in earlier exercises, although this year's exercise does not give pass-fail grades. That bar was easily cleared by all four Italian banks and by Deutsche Bank, which is trying to return to profit after three years of losses.

Italian banks are in focus because of their large holdings of government bonds, which lost value due to fears that Italy's new populist government will run bigger deficits.

The results showed that, on average, banks across Europe were left with capital padding of 10.3 percent of their assets, measured as their common equity tier one ratio. That is a widely used measure of bank financial strength and ability to cope with losses on investments and loans that don't get repaid.

This year's average strength compared to 9.4 percent in the 2016 stress test of 51 banks under a different scenario.

This year's scenario, run by the European Central Bank, the European Banking Authority and national supervisors, involved a bigger shortfall in economic output than last time in 2016. Banks faced a 2.7 percent fall in economic output over three years, plus a ferocious bear market in stocks and steep declines in house prices. The scenario attempts to capture some of the known risks to the European economy, including those associated with Britain leaving the European Union and a big drop in sky-high home prices in Sweden.

The stress tests are part of a broader effort to strengthen banking regulation and the banking system in the European Union in the wake of the Great Recession global financial crisis a decade ago, and the eurozone debt crisis that peaked in 2011-2012. Bad banks played a

role in the eurozone debt crisis in Ireland, which was forced to seek a bailout from other eurozone governments after guaranteeing the liabilities of failing banks.

Although the results are not pass-fail, all the banks exceeded a 5.5 percent capital yardstick used in an earlier test. The results of the test will now be digested by the European Central Bank's banking supervisory arm. That process could result in weaker banks being asked to raise money or take other steps to improve their finances.

Several analysts said the test did not fully capture the risks to Italian banks from potential falls in the value of Italian government bonds. A dispute between Italy's government, which wants to spend more, and the European Commission, which wants to enforce rules against excessive debt and deficits, has emerged as a potential new crisis for the 19-nation eurozone.

Analysts at credit-rating agency DBRS said the scenarios for falls in the prices of Italian bonds were "relatively soft" compared to the plunges seen in the 2011-2012 crisis for Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

Jack Allen, senior European economist at Capital Economics, said that "these stress tests shouldn't be taken as a sign that the country's lenders could with stand a crisis sparked by doubts about debt default and/or currency redenomination," which would happen if Italy were to leave the shared euro currency union.

The Italian banks and their strength ratios under the stress scenario were: UniCredit, 9.3 percent, Intesa Sanpaolo, 10.4 percent, Banco BPM, 8.5 percent, and Unione di Banche Italiane, 8.3 percent. The Italian Central Bank said their average loss of 3.9 points was in line with the test average.

Deutsche Bank saw its capital buffer fall to 8.1 percent. Chief Financial Officer James von Moltke said in a statement that the result showed that "our risk profile is strong, but our profitability is not. This is exactly where our focus is now." Deutsche Bank says it aims to turn a profit this after slashing expenses and risky investments after three straight years of annual losses. **AP**

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MGM Showers with 12 International HR Awards

Early October, MGM won the Association for Talent Development's (ATD) BEST Awards in the U.S., making MGM the first company in Macau to win this international human resources recognition. Shortly after MGM took home an impressive 10 awards at the HR Distinction Awards 2018, and was then pronounced the "Grand HR Winner", making it a total of 11 awards, the biggest winner of the ceremony night.



All categories in the HR Distinction Awards were reviewed by a jury of regional HR heads from around Asia, making the awards the only HR awards in Asia based on a peer review system. Companies represented on the jury include the most respected Fortune 500 organizations and some of the biggest employers in Asia. At the HR Distinction Awards 2018, MGM was recognized with five gold awards in the following:

- 1) Excellence in Employee Wellbeing
- 2) Excellence in Learning and Development
- 3) Excellence in Workplace Culture
- 4) Excellence in Compensation and Benefits
- 5) Excellence in HR Digitalization

And, three silver awards in the following:

- 6) Excellence in CSR strategy
- 7) Excellence in Employee Development
- 8) Excellence in Organization Development

And, two bronze awards in the following:

- 9) Work-life Balance
- 10) Innovative Use of HR technology



Outstanding Talent Development

The overall HR Grand Winner certainly reflects the collective effort of everyone at MGM especially in the areas of Learning and Culture. MGM has been actively nurturing local talent and providing its team members with comprehensive training and developmental opportunities to help them reach their full potential and career growth. In 2017, the Company offered over 200 training courses and provided more than 569,000 training hours with an average of 62 hours per team members. Examples of our innovative schemes and programs include full sponsorship for continuing education, online learning, career diversification, overseas study exchanges, PRIDE Career Development program, Management Associate program and Back to School program.

Talent Well-being

Besides our strong emphasis on training and development, MGM invests in creating a workplace where wellbeing is promoted by offering healthy food options, providing comfortable work spaces, relaxing places to take breaks and clinics with Western and Chinese doctors as well as physiotherapists. Through our Employee Assistance Program, professional counselling services are made available 24 hours a day to help MGM employees and their families to resolve issues such as life stress or family matters.



Community Outreach

MGM is committed to motivating its team members to reach their full potential as professionals and as people, enabling them to make a real difference in serving our community. In 2017, we held 95 different community activities and our Golden Lion Volunteer Team donated over 9,000 hours to bettering our community.

HR Digitalization

Communication is the key to engage with MGM's over 10,000 team members effectively. At MGM, we are always finding innovations and solutions to improve our employees' HR experience. We have invested in best-in-class HR systems and created an integrated platform for HR services to allow easy access to company information, eLearning and HR services. Employees can access services and self-directed learning anytime, anywhere using their phone or personal devices.



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China seeks to rebrand global image with import expo

Joe McDonald, Beijing

FACING a blizzard of trade complaints, China is throwing an “open for business” import fair hosted by President Xi Jinping to rebrand itself as a welcoming market and positive global force.

More than 3,000 companies from 130 countries selling everything from Egyptian dates to factory machinery are attending the China International Import Expo, opening today in the commercial hub of Shanghai. Its VIP guest list includes prime ministers and other leaders from Russia, Pakistan and Vietnam.

The United States, fighting a tariff war with Beijing, has no plans to send a high-level envoy.

Xi's government is emphasizing the promise of China's growing consumer market to help defuse complaints Beijing abuses the global trading system by reneging on promises to open its industries.

“This says, look, we're not a global parasite that is creating massive deficits, we are buying goods,” said Kerry Brown, a Chinese politics specialist at King's College London.

The event also is part of efforts to develop a trading network centered on China and increase its influence in a Western-dominated global system.

President Donald Trump and his “American first” trade policies that threaten to raise import barriers to the world's biggest consumer market loom in the background.

Exporters, especially developing countries, want closer relations with China to help “insulate themselves from what is happening with Trump and the U.S.,” said Gareth Leather of Capital Economics.

China has cut tariffs and announced other measures this



year to boost imports, which rose 15.9 percent in 2017 to USD1.8 trillion. But none address the U.S. complaints about its technology policy that prompted Trump to impose penalty tariffs of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing has responded with tariff hikes on \$110 billion of American imports.

Chinese leaders have rejected pressure to roll back plans such as “Made in China 2025,” which calls for state-led creation of global champions in robotics and other fields, ambitions that some American officials worry will undermine U.S. industrial leadership.

To keep the economy growing, China needs to nurture its consumer market and that requires more imports. But foreign

companies say regulators are still trying to squeeze them out of promising industries and that they face pressure to hand over technology.

The Shanghai expo “will be of little consequence to U.S. and other companies unless its pageantry is matched by meaningful and measurable changes in China trade practices,” Kenneth Jarrett, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, said in an email.

Some companies might get a brief sales boost, “but its long-run impact will be defined by China's willingness to end many of its unfair trade practices,” said Jarrett.

Europe, Japan and other trading partners have been leery of Trump's tactics but echo U.S. complaints.

They say Beijing improperly hampers access to finance, logistics and other service industries. European leaders are frustrated that Beijing bars foreign acquisitions of most assets while its own companies are on a global buying spree.

Writing in a Chinese business magazine, the French and German ambassadors to Beijing appealed for changes including an end to requirements that foreign companies operate in joint ventures with state-owned partners. They called for an overhaul of rules they say hinder companies from profiting from and protecting their technology.

“We encourage China to address these issues through concrete and systematic measures that go beyond tariff adjustments,” Ambassadors Jean-Maurice

Ripert of France and Clemens von Goetze of Germany wrote in the magazine Caixin.

China already is the No. 1 trading partner for all its Asian neighbors, though a big share of the iron ore, industrial components and other goods it buys are turned into smartphones, TV sets and other goods for export.

Tariff cuts announced over the past year were aimed at giving Chinese consumers better access to foreign goods. Chinese leaders emphasize those include anti-cancer drugs and other medical products. But many are specialty goods such as high-end baby strollers, avocados and mineral water that don't compete with Chinese suppliers.

■ To keep the economy growing, China needs to nurture its consumer market and that requires more imports

The Shanghai expo also gives Beijing a chance to repair its image following complaints about its “Belt and Road” initiative to expand trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across a vast arc of 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and Europe.

Governments including Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand have scrapped or scaled back projects due to high costs or complaints too little work goes to local companies. Sri Lanka, Kenya and other nations have run into trouble repaying Chinese loans.

“It's become too associated with debt and China getting what it wants,” said Brown. “They are trying to get out this more positive message that China is open for business.” AP

Hong Kong art show canceled after threat

David Tweed

AHong Kong exhibition featuring an artist critical of China - as well as the band Pussy Riot and former protest leader Joshua Wong - has been canceled because of “threats” by the Chinese authorities, the organizer said.

“The decision follows threats made by the Chinese authorities relating to the artist,” the organizer, Hong Kong Free

Press, said in a statement on its website and Twitter account. “Whilst the organizers value freedom of expression, the safety of our partners remains a major concern.”

The cancellation represents the latest allegation of Beijing's interference with free speech rights guaranteed to the former British colony before its return to Chinese rule in 1997. Authorities have stepped up efforts to rein in criticism of the

ruling Communist Party in recent years, issuing an unprecedented ban against a pro-independence political party in September.

Hong Kong Free Press Editor-in-Chief Tom Grundy declined to identify which Chinese authorities made the threats or say what threats had been made. The exhibition was slated to open Saturday and run through a series of events known as Free Expression Week.

A spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong said Friday he was unaware of the issue. A spokesman for the Hong Kong government didn't immediately respond to request for comment.

The event, “Gongle,” was to feature the debut exhibition of the artist known as Badiucao's cartoons lampoon Chinese political leaders and highlight the Communist Party's encroachment on

Hong Kong affairs.

“‘Gongle’ paints a suffocating reality as Badiucao's biting cartoons find a physical form at his debut exhibition,” a promotion describing the exhibition said. “Portraits of political leaders, exhibits of torture equipment, and iconic Hong Kong neon are blended together to reconstruct metaphors anew.”

In October, a journalist who helped organize an August speech by the founder of the banned poli-

tical party at the Foreign Correspondents Club, Hong Kong, was denied a work visa renewal by the city. The Foreign Ministry had earlier requested that the club cancel the event.

Pussy Riot, the Russian feminist punk rock band critical of President Vladimir Putin, and Wong, was expected to appear at another event tomorrow, according to a post on the festival's Facebook page. Wong, a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist who helped lead the 2014 Occupy Central protests, will attend a film screening on Wednesday. **Bloomberg**

Shawn Donnan

Trump-Xi trade deal is likely to begin rather than end at G-20

PRESIDENT Donald Trump often seems to be caught between his ideological desire to rewrite America's trade relationship with China and a businessman's instinct to cut a deal. And with Tuesday's midterm elections looming and financial markets coming off a rough October, the deal-maker appears to have the upper hand.

"We'll make a deal with China, and I think it will be a very fair deal for everybody," Trump told reporters on Friday after asking aides the day before to begin drafting ideas for an agreement to take to his planned meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Argentina Nov. 30 to Dec. 1. The two sides are "getting much closer to doing something," he said.

Still, to satisfy Trump's own inner ideologue - and the China hawks in his administration - that "something" is going to have to hang on substance. And that's where things are likely to get complicated.

TEMPORARY TRUCE

Xi may fill out the picture today when he is due to address a trade fair in Shanghai. Analysts familiar with White House discussions, however, say any deal struck at the G-20 is likely to take the form more of a temporary truce than anything that will bring a final peace in the trade wars.

Such a ceasefire could, they said, see a commitment to forgo additional tariffs, and possibly even to remove some, while high-level officials negotiate a broader pact.

Any of those things would in the current context be a significant achievement and be welcomed by markets. But they would also leave Beijing and Washington facing arduous negotiations ahead, as one senior administration official indicated on Friday.

"If there's goodwill and agreement, at least personal agreement between the two presidents of the two biggest economies, we'll move forward after it and try to work with the Chinese on details," Larry Kudlow, the head of Trump's National Economic Council, told a conference in Chicago. But even if conversations go well between Trump and Xi in Buenos Aires, Kudlow said, "it will still be a long, tough process."

The reason for that, analysts argue, is that the structural and economic complaints Washington has with Beijing are far more consequential than those the U.S. is confronting with any other trading partner.

If anything, the Trump administration has also been embarking on a more confrontational path with China of late, with recent speeches and comments by officials such as Vice Presi-

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dismantle the network of state-owned firms that control much of the Chinese economy.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

One possible area of progress is protecting intellectual property, with Beijing potentially agreeing to do more to rein in hackers or to cooperate with U.S. authorities who have intensified a crackdown on Chinese theft of trade secrets.

Washington this week restricted U.S. businesses from selling to China's Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co., saying the chipmaker poses a threat to national security. Last month it secured the extradition from Belgium of a Chinese agent accused of stealing trade secrets from companies including General Electric Co.

Data released Friday showed the U.S. goods-trade gap with China has continued to rise

But making the sort of meaningful long-term changes to Chinese economic policy that Washington has been demanding is likely to be far more difficult for Beijing, analysts said.

"It is difficult to see what sort of commitments China could credibly make to address concerns that the U.S. has about a host of complicated issues" like how to address "Made in China 2025," said Eswar Prasad, a former China expert at the International Monetary Fund who is now at Cornell University. Yet "hardline members of Trump's administration see these as existential issues in the long-term economic conflict between the U.S. and China."

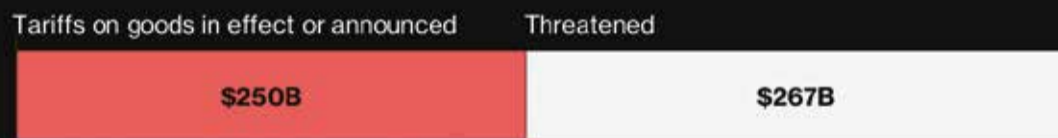
Chinese analysts, meanwhile, say officials in Beijing continue to feel burned by their past experience in dealing with the Trump administration, which as recently as May appeared close to another deal with Beijing.

Zhou Xiaoming, a former commerce ministry official and diplomat, said one fear in Beijing was that the Trump administration would continue to demand changes that Xi could never agree to. If China can't meet those demands, the U.S. "will kick the ball back to China and hold China accountable for the fruitless negotiations," Zhou said. **Bloomberg**

Shots Fired

U.S.-China trade war is intensifying, based on imposed and threatened tariffs

Total U.S. imports of Chinese goods in 2017: \$506 billion



Total Chinese imports of U.S. goods in 2017: \$130 billion



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Bloomberg

Bloomberg

dent Mike Pence causing ruminations of a new Cold War.

"The distance between a leaders' statement that they would like to work something out and would like to make some progress and actually reaching a deal is ginormous," said Scott Kennedy, an expert on U.S.-China relations at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

'ECONOMIC AGGRESSION'

As the diplomacy sputters along, the economic evidence Trump uses to support his

case for a domestic audience is mounting. U.S. Commerce Department data released Friday showed the U.S. goods-trade gap with China has continued to rise, hitting \$301 billion in the first nine months of 2018. That's an increase of almost 10 percent from the same period last year. That is almost three times the deficit with the European Union and six times the size of the imbalance with Japan, two other economies the Trump administration is now embarking on trade talks with.

The Trump administration has also repeatedly labeled industrial policies such as Beijing's "Made in China 2025" plan to lead the world in areas such as robotics acts of "economic aggression" meant to undermine America's place in the global economy.

Abandoning - or even weakening - the state subsidies and other incentives behind that plan is a concession Xi is unlikely to make, analysts said. Likewise, leadership in Beijing is unlikely to respond favorably to U.S. demands for it to

US charges Malaysian financier in multibillion-dollar scheme

Eric Tucker, Jim Mustian

THE Justice Department announced charges last week against a fugitive Malaysian financier and two former Goldman Sachs bankers accused in a money laundering and bribery scheme that pilfered billions of dollars from a Malaysian investment fund created to spur economic development projects in that country.

A three-count indictment charges Low Taek Jho, also known as Jho Low, with misappropriating money from the state-owned fund and using it for bribes and kickbacks to foreign officials, to pay for luxury real estate, art and jewelry in the United States and to help finance Hollywood movies, including "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Also charged was a former Goldman Sachs banker, Tim Leissner, who pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy and to conspiring to violate foreign bribery laws. Another former bank official, Ng Chong Hwa, 51, also known as Roger Ng, was arrested on Thursday in Malaysia and accused of circumventing internal accounting controls, prosecutors said.

Leissner's attorney did not return messages seeking comment. It was not clear if Ng had a lawyer.

A spokesman for Goldman Sachs, which the indictment says raised about \$6.5 billion through bond offerings for the fund, said the firm "continues



Jho Low pictured in 2015

to cooperate with all authorities investigating this matter."

Police in Malaysia said in July that Low had fled Macau to an unknown destination. Before facing criminal charges, Low became well known in the New York City and Los Angeles club scenes. In 2012, he threw a lavish 31st birthday bash attended by Leonardo DiCaprio, Kim Kardashian and other celebrities that The Wall Street Journal called the "wildest party [Las] Vegas ever saw."

Low, who remains at large, issued a statement through a spokesman maintaining his innocence.

"Mr. Low simply asks that the public keep an open mind regarding this case until all of the evidence comes to light, which he believes will vindicate him," the statement said.

Leissner acknowledged paying millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks to government officials in Malaysia and Abu Dhabi, according to court records. He was ordered to forfeit \$43.7 million as part of his guilty plea.

The set of charges represent the first criminal prosecutions in the U.S. arising from the epic corruption scandal at the state investment fund known as 1MDB. The Justice Department

in 2016 moved to recover more than \$1 billion that it said had been stolen, filing a civil complaint that sought the forfeiture of property, including a Manhattan penthouse, a Beverly Hills mansion, a luxury jet and paintings by Vincent Van Gogh and Claude Monet.

In a speech last year in Washington, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions denounced the scandal as "kleptocracy at its worst." The pilfered funds were used on a "lavish spending spree," the attorney general said, including a \$265 million yacht and a \$100 million investment in the music label EMI.

"In total, 1MDB officials allegedly laundered more than \$4.5 billion in funds through a complex web of opaque transactions and fraudulent shell companies with bank accounts in countries ranging from Switzerland and Singapore to Luxembourg and the United States," Sessions said.

The fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, was set up in 2009 by then-Prime Minister Najib Razak to promote economic development. It relied primarily on debt to fund investment and economic development projects and was overseen by senior Malaysian government officials, according to court records.

Najib chaired its advisory board and as finance minister held veto power over its activities. Low, a friend of Najib's

stepson Riza Aziz, had no official role at 1MDB but had considerable influence over its dealings and was in frequent contact with Najib, U.S. authorities have said.

"As noted in the indictment today, Mr. Low held no formal position at 1MDB, nor was he ever employed by Goldman Sachs, or the Governments of Malaysia or Abu Dhabi," Low's spokesman said.

The scandal has already had major political ramifications in Malaysia, where Najib in 2015 sacked his attorney general and a deputy prime minister for demanding answers about 1MDB. A parliamentary inquiry found many irregularities but had no mandate to prosecute.

Former leader Mahathir Mohamad, outraged over the scandal, came out of retirement and the opposition united behind him in the national elections, leading to Najib's ouster in May.

Najib and his former treasury chief were charged last week with criminal breach of trust involving 6.64 billion ringgit (\$1.6 billion), charges that came on top of 32 earlier counts of corruption, breach of trust and money laundering that Najib faces in connection with the 1MDB scandal.

Najib and Mohamad Irwan Serigar Abdullah, the former treasury secretary-general, pleaded not guilty to misappropriating government funds between December 2016 and December 2017. Police have also seized hundreds of luxury handbags, jewelry and cash — worth more than \$266 million — during raids on apartments linked to Najib's family.

An attorney for Najib, Shafee Abdullah, dismissed the latest charges as "foolish." AP

INDONESIA

Data recovered from crashed Lion Air data recorder: official

INVESTIGATORS succeeded in retrieving hours of data from a crashed Lion Air jet's flight recorder as Indonesian authorities yesterday extended the search at sea for victims and debris. National Transportation Safety Committee deputy chairman Haryo Satmiko told a news conference that 69 hours of flight data was downloaded from the recorder including its fatal flight.

The Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet crashed just minutes after takeoff from Jakarta on Oct. 29, killing all 189 people on board in the country's worst airline disaster since 1997.

The flight data recorder was recovered by divers on Thursday in damaged con-

dition and investigators said it required special handling to retrieve its information. The cockpit voice recorder has not been recovered but searchers are focusing on a particular area based on a weak locator signal.

National Search and Rescue Agency chief Muhammad Syaugi said yesterday the search operation, now in its 7th day and involving hundreds of personnel and dozens of ships, would continue for another three days.

Syaugi paid tribute to a volunteer diver, Syahrul Anto, who died during the search effort on Friday. The family of the 48-year-old refused an autopsy and he was bur-

ied Saturday in Surabaya.

More than 100 body bags of human remains had been recovered. Syaugi said the number would continue to increase and remains were also now washing up on land.

He said weak signals, potentially from the cockpit voice recorder, were traced to a location but an object hadn't been found yet due to deep seabed mud.

Flight tracking websites show the plane had erratic speed and altitude during its 13 minute flight and a previous flight the day before from Bali to Jakarta. Passengers on the Bali flight reported terrifying descents and in both cases the diffe-

rent cockpit crews requested to return to their departure airport shortly after takeoff. Lion has claimed a technical problem was fixed after the Bali flight.

Syaugi said a considerable amount of aircraft "skin" was found on the seafloor but not a large intact part of its fuselage as he'd indicated was possible Saturday.

He and other top officials including the military chief plan to meet with families on Monday to explain the search operation.

The Lion Air crash is the worst airline disaster in Indonesia since 1997, when 234 people died on a Garuda flight near Medan. In December 2014, an AirAsia



Navy divers inspect what is believed to be engine of the crashed Lion Air jet after it was retrieved from the sea floor

flight from Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing all 162 on board.

Indonesian airlines were barred in 2007 from flying to Europe because of safety concerns, though several were allowed to resume services in the following decade. The ban was completely lifted in June. The U.S.

lifted a decadelong ban in 2016.

Lion Air is one of Indonesia's youngest airlines but has grown rapidly, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations. It has been expanding aggressively in Southeast Asia, a fast-growing region of more than 600 million people. AP

Voters in Pacific territory choose to keep ties with France

Charlotte Antoine, Noumea

A majority of voters in the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia chose to remain part of France instead of backing independence, election officials announced yesterday as French President Emmanuel Macron promised a full dialogue on the region's future.

The decision to keep ties with France was watershed moment for the archipelago that lies east of Australia and has sun-kissed lagoons as well as a nickel mining industry. The independence referendum itself was a milestone in New Caledonia's three-decades-long decolonization process, which was borne out of deep resentment by the region's native Kanaks of decades of ill treatment by their European colonizer.

Final results yesterday saw 56.4 percent of voters choosing to remain part of France compared to 43.6 percent support for independence, the high commissioner's office said.

The poll had a record-high participation rate of 80.6 percent of registered voters — so many that some polling stations in the capital, Noumea, had to stay open about an hour longer than planned Sunday to handle the crush.

More than 174,000 registered voters were invited to answer the question: "Do you want New Caledonia to gain full so-



Roch Wamytan, a former leader of the independentist party, Union Caledonienne, prepares to cast his vote

vereignty and become independent?" France has ruled New Caledonia since the mid-19th century.

"I'm asking everyone to turn toward the future to build tomorrow's New Caledonia," Macron said, speaking from the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris. "The spirit of dialogue is the sole winner."

Praising both sides for their "responsible" campaigns, Macron added that "contempt and violence" were the only losers in the historic poll.

The high commissioner's office reported limited outbreaks of unrest in Noumea as votes were counted, with seven cars set ablaze, some roads closed

and two instances of stonethrowing. But otherwise the vote was overwhelmingly peaceful.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe is set to meet with New Caledonian officials Monday morning for talks about the political future of the territory of 270,000 people. New Caledonia receives about 1.3 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) in French state subsidies every year, and many had feared the economy would suffer if ties were severed.

Residents of the region include the native Kanaks, who represent about 40 percent of the population, people of European descent, which make up about 27 percent and others from

Asian countries and Pacific islands.

Most Kanaks had tended to back independence, while most descendants of European settlers had favored keeping the French connection.

The referendum is the result of a process that started 30 years ago to end years of violence between independence supporters and opponents that had overall claimed more than 70 lives. The two sides agreed upon a 1988 deal and another agreement a decade later included plans for an independence referendum.

Voter Monette Saihulinwa said she opposed independence. "I don't necessarily want our lives to change," the 50-year-old said.

Others hailed the ballot as historic. "We've been waiting for 30 years for this vote," said Mariola Bouyer, 34. "This vote must demonstrate that we want to live in peace, no matter our race, our roots. It's building a country together."

The New Caledonia archipelago became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III — Napoleon's nephew and heir — and was used for decades as a prison colony. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957. Under French colonial rule, the Kanaks faced strict segregation policies and suffered discrimination. **AP**

Thai elite turn out for Leicester City owner's funeral



The deputy prime minister of Thailand, Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan (center) participates in the Buddhist funeral rituals of Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha

An elaborate funeral began Saturday for Thai billionaire and Leicester City owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who died last week when his helicopter crashed in a parking lot next to the English Premier League club's stadium.

The royally sponsored funeral was being held at a Bangkok temple and its guests included top government officials, businessmen and other public figures. The first ceremony began Saturday, with other ceremonies scheduled through Nov. 9.

"It's a very difficult time for his family and I'm here to show support," said Kiattisak Senamuang, a former Thai national soccer team coach and player who noted that Vichai was always supportive of soccer projects in Thailand. "May Vichai rest in peace."

The grounds of Wat Thepsirin were guarded by scores of security officers. White sheets were lowered to block outsiders and media from viewing the proceedings. However, the chanting of monks, amplified by loud speakers, could be heard resonating around the temple's grounds.

Leicester City's players plan to travel to Bangkok to attend Vichai's funeral after their match with Cardiff City on Saturday.

Vichai was killed in the Oct. 27 crash, which occurred about an hour after a Leicester City match.

The Thai billionaire oversaw one of the greatest underdog successes in sports when his 5,000-1 outsiders won the English Premier League title in 2016.

In an era of often-absentee foreign owners in the Premier League, Vichai also broke the mold by forging close ties with supporters and the local community.

The business world remembers Vichai as the retail entrepreneur who grew Thailand's massive King Power duty-free chain. Today the King Power empire is worth 3.8 billion pounds (\$4.88 billion), according to Forbes, with Vichai having been the fifth-richest person in Thailand.

A devout Buddhist who had monks bless his team's King Power Stadium regularly for good luck, Vichai and his wife, Aimon Srivaddhanaprabha, had four children. He was born Vichai Raksriaksorn, but in 2012, the king of Thailand recognized his achievements by bestowing on his family their new surname, which means "light of progressive glory." **AP**

JAPAN

Murakami reveals plan for library of works

JAPANESE author Haruki Murakami announced yesterday that he is working to set up a library that will showcase his works and also serve as a meeting place for research and international exchanges.

The library would archive his books, various stages of drafts of his novels, materials he used to write his books, and his translation work, as well as his massive collection of music, which plays a key role in his stories, he said.

The library is planned at Waseda University, his alma mater in Tokyo.

"I'm more than happy if those materials can



contribute any way for those who want to study my works," Murakami said at a joint news conference with school officials at Waseda. "I hope it would create an opportunity for cultural exchanges."

Media-shy Murakami said it was his first formal news conference in 37 years. Though he in-

teracted with fans on several occasions this year, including hosting his radio programs twice and appearing before fans at a book event in New York, Murakami yesterday agreed to pose only for still cameras.

Murakami began writing while running a jazz bar in Tokyo before graduating from Waseda in

1975. His debut novel, "Hear the Wind Sing," came out in 1979, and the 1987 romantic novel "Norwegian Wood" was his first best-seller, establishing him as a young literary star. His latest novel, "Killing Commendatore," recently hit U.S. bookstores.

The library project emerged earlier this year when Murakami offered to donate his growing collection of materials as he was running out of space at his home and office. "I also have no children to take care of them and I didn't want those resources to be scattered and lost when I die," said the 69-year-

old, who is a perennial contender for the Nobel literature prize. "I'm grateful that I can keep them in an archive."

Waseda officials said details were still being worked out, but a partial archive would start in 2019.

Murakami said he wants to see the library to stimulate interaction and cultural exchanges among students, scholars and others interested in his books. Ideally, he said he wants to make it a place like his study, where he writes stories while listening to his choice of music of the day, and perhaps have a concert sometimes. The library is not yet going to have a full archive and it would develop as he brings in more materials in years to come, Murakami said. "I'm still alive and I have to use some of them," he said. **AP**

EGYPT

Security forces kill 19 involved in attack on Copts

EGYPTIAN security forces killed 19 militants suspected in a weekend attack on a busload of Coptic Christians, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

Photos released by the ministry showed several of the suspected militants dead on the ground, as well as personal belongings including posters bearing the logo of Islamic State.

The attack on Friday, claimed by the jihadist group, left seven dead and 12 others wounded. Officials said the gunmen opened fire on the bus carrying pilgrims from a monastery in the southern province of Minya. It occurred near the same spot where 29 Copts were killed in a similar incident last year.

Islamic State has repeatedly targeted Egypt's Coptic Christian minority with a wave of bombings and other attacks, including a similar assault near the same monastery last year in which 29 pilgrims were killed. Copts have repeatedly complained that the government has not done enough to protect them and that they are the targets of discrimination in a country that's about 90 percent Muslim.

President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, speaking to a youth forum in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh, reaffirmed the right of Egyptians to worship as they please.

The weekend attack shattered months of relative calm and highlighted the challenges confronting President El-Sisi, who has led a sweeping crack-down on the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters while trying to revive an economy left in shambles following the 2011 uprising against then-leader Hosni Mubarak.

For more than a year, security forces have been on a campaign to purge the restive Sinai Peninsula of militants, including fighters loyal to Islamic State. Earlier this year, militants killed 305 people in a mosque in the northern part of the Sinai. **Bloomberg**

PAKISTAN

Blasphemy case: Appeal to help family leave country

Asim Tanveer, Multan

THE husband of a Christian woman acquitted eight years after being sentenced to death for blasphemy, but not released after countrywide protests, appealed yesterday to U.S. President Donald Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May to help the family leave Pakistan.

Asia Bibi's husband, Ashiq Masih, in a brief video message said they were in danger in Pakistan.

"Please help us, we are in trouble in Pakistan," Masih appealed to Trump and May. Masih had previously told The Associated Press by phone that he and his wife feared for their lives. "We are now living under an increased sense of fear."

Bibi's lawyer Saiful Malook has already fled the country for safety. Bibi was arrested in 2009 after she was accused of blasphemy following a quarrel with two fellow female farm workers who refused to drink from a water container used by a Christian.



Pakistani protesters burn a poster image of Christian woman Asia Bibi, who has spent eight-years on death row accused of blasphemy

A few days later, a mob accused her of insulting Islam's prophet, leading to her 2010 conviction. Bibi's family has always maintained her innocence and says she never insulted the prophet.

Insulting Islam is punishable by death in Pakistan, and the mere rumor of doing so can incite lynchings.

Pakistan's top court acquitted Bibi on Wednesday of the charges

carrying the death penalty, infuriating hard-line Islamists who held three days of nationwide protests demanding her execution. The enraged protesters torched scores of vehicles, blocked highways and attacked government and public property; a radical cleric also threatened to kill the three judges who acquitted Bibi. The protests ended after the government agreed to

impose a travel ban on Bibi and allow her case to be reviewed. A review petition was filed in the Supreme Court.

Earlier in the day, police said over 150 people were arrested on charges of arson, vandalism and violence during the protests.

Senior police officer Nayab Haider said that police were using video clips to identify those involved in assaults, torching property and vehicles, and blocking highways.

Defending the police's actions, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said the government cannot spare those involved in violence. He said that the government cleared blocked cities without any bloodshed.

"No government can tolerate a rebellion against the state," Chaudhry said. Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari tweeted that "appeasement to 'avoid bloodshed' sends a dangerous message to non-state actors and undermines the concept of democratic peaceful protest." **AP**

ITALY | SEVERE WEATHER

Storms, floods in Sicily kill at least 12 people

Frances d'Emilio, Rome

STORMS lashing Sicily have killed at least 12 people with torrential floods, Italian authorities said as the country's leader headed yesterday to the stricken Mediterranean island. Divers pulled out nine of those victims from a home flood-

ed by a rapidly swelling river in the countryside near Palermo.

State TV broadcaster RaiNews24 said the sole survivor of the flood that ravaged the home with water and mud was the owner, who had just stepped outside to walk the family dogs Saturday when the torrent hit.

News reports said the man at first clung to a tree, then ended up on the roof of a nearby house. He used his cellphone to call for help but it was too late for the others, who included a one-year-old baby, a three-year-old child and a teenager. The victims were from two families who had gathered in the country villa for the weekend.

A man's body was also found on a guardrail along a Palermo-area road after floodwaters swept away his car, Italian news reports said. Across the island, in the town of Cammarata, near Agrigento, the fire department said its divers were working to recover the bodies of two people swept away while driving on a road near the flooding Saraceno River. Also in Agrigento province, firefighters rescued 14 people from a hotel in the town of Montevago, which was threatened by floodwaters from the Belice River.



A view of the flooded house where nine people lost their lives in Casteldaccia

Agrigento, famed for the ruins of ancient Greek temples, is a popular tourist destination.

Elsewhere in Sicily, at least two other people were missing yesterday after floodwaters swept away their cars, including a doctor heading to the hospital in the hill town of Corleone.

Other storms had battered northern Italy earlier in the week, killing at least 15 people, uprooting millions of trees near Alpine valleys and leaving several Italian villages without electricity or road access for days.

In Casteldaccia, the hamlet where the river flooded the home in Si-

cily, neighbor Maria Concetta Alfano said she, her husband and their adult disabled daughter fled after barking dogs drew their attention to the rising waters in the Milicia River, the Italian news agency ANSA said. It quoted the husband, Andrea Cardinale, as saying he drove away as "water was up to the hood of the car."

Rescuers retrieved the bodies from the home. A Sicilian prosecutor opened an investigation to determine if any human error, such as possible inadequate drainage of the river, might have played a role in the deaths. **AP**

AD

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WWI centenary to be marked in London and Paris, not Berlin

David Rising, Berlin

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel will mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on French soil, and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will be in London at a ceremony in Westminster Abbey with Queen Elizabeth II.

But while the leaders visit the capitals of Germany's wartime enemies, at home there are no national commemorations planned for the centenary of the Nov. 11 armistice that brought an end to the four-year war that killed more than 2 million of its troops and left 4 million wounded.

Next week, the German parliament is holding a combined commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the first German republic, the 80th anniversary of the brutal Nazi-era pogrom against Jews known as the Night of Broken Glass, and the 29th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Almost as an afterthought, parliament notes there's also art exhibition in the lobby called "1914/1918 - Not Then, Not



A field of graves belonging to WWI soldiers in the main cemetery in Frankfurt

Now, Not Ever."

More than just being on the losing side of the World War I, it's what came next that is really behind Germany's lack of commemorative events.

For Germany, the Nov. 11 armistice did not mean peace like it did in France and Britain. The war's end gave rise to revolution and street fighting between far-left and far-right factions. It also brought an end to the mo-

narchy, years of hyperinflation, widespread poverty and hunger, and helped create the conditions that brought the Nazis to power in 1933.

The horrific legacy of the Holocaust and the mass destruction of World War II simply overshadows everything else in Germany, said Daniel Schoenpflug, a historian at Berlin's Free University's Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute. His new book, "A

World on Edge," explores the immediate aftermath of the war through individual perspectives.

"One can't reduce it to the simple fact that one country won the war and the other lost," Schoenpflug said. "Germany is a country that draws practically its entire national narrative out of the defeat of 1945" — and not the defeat of 1918.

By contrast in Turkey, which was also on the losing side in World War I, the war's end produced a similar collapse of the Ottoman empire and a war of independence, but also gave rise to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the modern Turkish republic.

In Germany, even though the end of World War I is now viewed through the prism of Hitler and the Holocaust, in the immediate postwar period there actually was a period of utopianism, with movements promoting idealistic visions of peace and democracy, Schoenpflug said.

Yet on the other side of the political spectrum, utopianism on the right also gave birth to fascism, he said.

And as initial euphoria over the end of World War I faded, hopes for the future quickly gave way to feelings of resentment at the reparations and conditions imposed on Germany by the victorious axis powers. The Nazis and right-wing nationalists were able to garner support by propagating the "stab-in-the-back" myth, which held that Germany's civilian leaders sold out the army by agreeing to the Nov. 11 surrender.

"There was a war of dreams, a clash of utopias" between the right and the left, Schoenpflug said.

Although there aren't any national commemorations in Germany marking the war's end, individual events are planned, including an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin. A special World War I religious service is also being organized by the German Bishops Conference at the Berliner Dom cathedral.

And in addition to German officials taking part in the events in London and Paris, the Foreign Ministry said they and their British counterparts have worked together to coordinate the ringing of church and secular bells around the world on Nov. 11 to mark the war's centenary.

"The bells will ring at midday to commemorate the more than 17 million victims of World War I and as a call for understanding and reconciliation across borders," the ministry said. AP

AD

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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

"STYLE-ENCOUNTER MOMENT"

TIME: 10am - 8pm

UNTIL: December 30, 2018

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

PYTHON PRESENTS SLITHERY SITUATION AT TEXAS GOODWILL STORE

A Goodwill worker collecting clothes and other items at a Texas sorting center was surprised to find an albino python clinging to the side of a bin.

The python was huddled in a pile of clothes when the worker discovered it Thursday at the center in Fort Worth.

Manager James Murphy says it's not clear if the snake slithered away from its owner and was accidentally dropped off or if its donation was intentional.

The python had a serpentine journey: It arrived at one of nearly 40 Goodwill donation drop-offs in the area before being transported to the Fort Worth sorting center.

Goodwill staffers will care for the python until the owner claims it or a permanent home is found.

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

01 - 08 Nov



GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ari Sandel

Starring: Madison Iseman, Wendi McLendon, Jeremy Ray

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



HUNTER KILLER

ROOM 1

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

Director: Donovan Marsh

Starring: Gerardo Butler, Gary Oldman

Language: English

Duration: 112min

PERFECT WORLD

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Kenji Shibayama

Starring: Takanori Iwata, Hana Sugisaki, Kenta Sui

Language: Japanese (Chinese/ English)

Duration: 112min

this day in history



1978 IRAN'S PM STEPS DOWN AMID RIOTS

Iran's Prime Minister Jaffer Sharif-Emami has resigned after two days of virtual mob rule.

The appointment of Mr Sharif-Emami, a Shia Muslim, by the Shah just over two months ago was designed to put an end to the religious violence currently sweeping across the country.

However, his presence in the Shah's government failed to have the desired effect of curbing the unrest which has been particularly marked among university students.

The unrest is partly a response to the programme of secularisation being implemented under the Shah who took over from his father as Iran's ruler in 1941.

Iran has prospered thanks to its oil reserves but there is popular resentment against the Shah and the ruling elite who are believed to have profited disproportionately.

Two other government ministers have also resigned as anti-Western feeling comes to a head.

Yesterday mobs which have been running virtually unchecked through Tehran set fire to the British embassy and dozens of other buildings in the capital.

In response to the worsening violence, martial law has been extended.

The start of the nightly curfew has been moved forward three hours to 2100 and remains in force until 0500 each morning.

The authorities have announced that from now on martial law regulations, which ban gatherings of more than two people, will be strictly enforced.

The implication is that anti-Shah protestors should no longer expect the armed forces to hold back when breaking up demonstrations.

The disorder within Iran has also been exacerbated by widespread politically-motivated strikes.

Key personnel such as oil refinery workers, airline staff and central bank employees are among those who have withdrawn their labour.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In 1953 the Shah had briefly gone into exile before being returned to power after a military coup.

However, the military was unable to help him a second time and he went into exile again in January 1979.

He died of cancer in exile in Egypt the following year.

Iran became a strictly Islamic state led by the formerly exiled religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Anti-Western feeling reached fever pitch when militant students seized the US embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held the 63 staff hostage. The last embassy captive was eventually freed in 1981.

Following the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989, Iran has gradually become a more secular but still conservative Islamic society.

But rapprochement with the West was hindered by Ayatollah Khomeini's religious edict in 1989 ordering the death of British author Salman Rushdie for offending Islam in his novel, the Satanic Verses.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need more than work to achieve your financial goals...

Taurus April 20-May 20 What used to be easy is not harder than imaginable. Trying to earn a buck has become a huge struggle...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When you look in the mirror, do you even recognize yourself? Things change, but that doesn't mean you have to...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're feeling more emotional than ever. In fact, your nerves are raw. It might not be pleasant, but it's a definite improvement over the cold...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're tempted to limp through the day, but you should face it with enthusiasm instead. Remind yourself of what you really want...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If your regular way of doing things is mind bogglingly different than it was a year ago, stop thinking about how things were a year ago...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Things don't have to be all doom and gloom. There is still plenty of room in your budget for things that are fun, including romance...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 All you want is harmony. You can have it without spending a penny, or you can spend a fortune and live in discord...

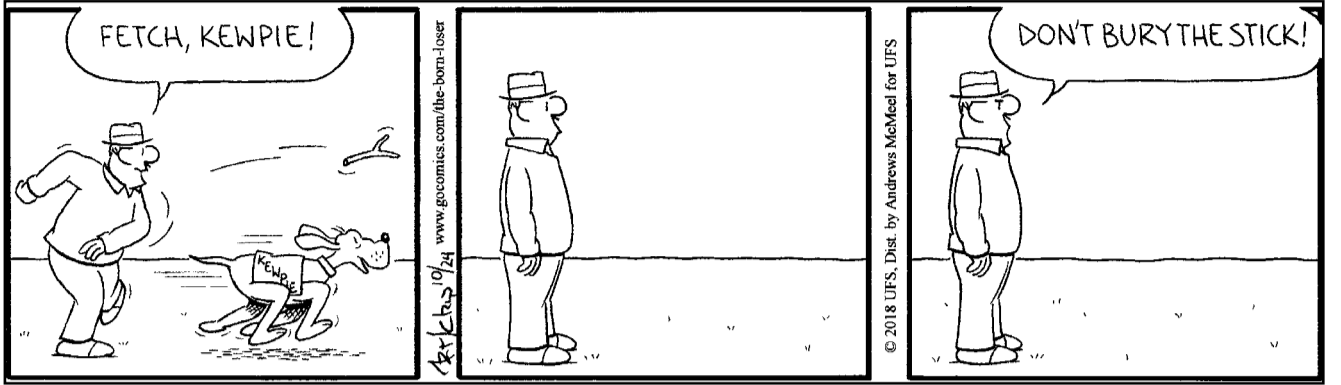
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your way of coping has been to contract. You're getting a bit sick of blocking out the rest of the world...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're not the only one immobilized. It's hard to even imagine the future, much less plan for it...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The high energy that used to be generated by money has returned, but what's its source? It's not extra cash, that's for sure...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's hard to focus on any one plan, and that's a good thing. The future has always been up in the air, but never more so than now...

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

CROSSWORDS ACROSS: 1- Sister of Osiris; 5- Harvest goddess; 10- May honorees; 14- Adam's third son; 15- Corpulent; 16- Arrow poison; 17- Zeno of ...; 18- Angry; 19- In ... land; 20- Tombstone name; 21- Vanguard; 23- Pole worker; 25- Narrow inlet; 26- Female ballet member; 31- Pulsate; 35- "Hold On Tight" band; 36- Like some vbs.; 38- Indian term of respect; 40- Young newts; 42- Dog-... (like some used books); 44- Othello villain; 45- Salivate; 47- Eliot's Marner; 49- Wood of the Rolling Stones; 50- Follow; 52- Guess; 54- Miracle-... (plant food); 56- Compass dir.; 57- Cascade; 62- Long tale; 66- Central part; 67- ... worse than death; 68- Place for a coin; 69- French evening; 70- Geeky guys; 71- First name in stunts; 72- First person; 73- Women's wear; 74- Indian wrap; DOWN: 1- Psychiatrist's response; 2- Actress Ward; 3- Anatomical passage; 4- Forms; 5- Hair style; 6- Spanish river; 7- Bring up; 8- Organic compound; 9- Deem appropriate; 10- Venus de ...; 11- ... even keel; 12- Thaw; 13- Where the buoys are; 22- Stadium cheers; 24- Kauai keepsake; 26- Notable exploit, legal document; 27- Actress Woodard; 28- ... your life!; 29- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 30- Strange and mysterious; 32- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 33- Butler's love; 34- Intolerant person; 37- Hair goops; 39- Osteoporosis victim; 41- Sea plea; 43- Undated; 46- Sled; 48- Sloth, e.g.; 51- Run chore; 53- Untidy states; 55- Bid; 57- Timber; 58- Met highlight; 59- Division of a school year; 60- Bern's river; 61- Old Fords; 63- Edison's middle name; 64- Attendee; 65- King of the Huns; 66- 1860s insignia;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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News At Hand



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Beckham adds star power to Thai football clinic

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Bangkok

FORMER Manchester United and Real Madrid football star David Beckham has made a brief appearance in Bangkok on Saturday where he conducted football drills and addressed a crowd of around one hundred young football fans as part of a sponsored promotional event.

Beckham's appearance was part of the "AIA Football Clinic for Youth with Leading Coaches" event that also featured coaches from English Premier League team Tottenham Hotspurs as well as Thai celebrities and football players.

"I'm very excited to be here with you all and to play a little bit of football," Beckham said to a group of young kids who sat and listened to one of football's biggest names on the astro-turf football pitch outside the SCG Muangthong Stadium in Bangkok where the event was conducted. "It's great to be back in Bangkok. I'm

excited and I'm hoping you are."

For about five minutes, Beckham conducted passing and dribbling drills with a group of prospective young football players.

"I have seen the determination of these kids while playing football during the training session," Beckham said in a statement. "They're all here because they love the sport and have a tremendous passion for it."

For most of the event, scores of young children ran around a seven-a-side pitch in an unorganized fashion. Passing footballs and playing amongst themselves, hoping to catch a glimpse or, better, take a pass from any celebrity present.

But some kids said they were too young to ever watch Beckham play and only knew of him through their parents.

"My dad introduced me to him [Beckham]," said nine-year old Pongpipat Tinthamwong. "When he told me about him, I started watching him on the internet." **AP**



Shanghai on brink of Chinese title after win at Guangzhou

Alate Hulk penalty gave Shanghai SIPG a 5-4 win over defending champion Guangzhou Evergrande on Saturday to put his team on the brink of a first Chinese Super League title.

The thrilling victory in front of a capacity crowd of over 45,000 in Guangzhou puts Shanghai five points clear of Guangzhou with just two games of the season remaining.

It also means that Guangzhou is faced with the prospect of missing out on the league title that the team has won every season since 2011.

Shanghai, which has finished second behind Guangzhou twice in the past three seasons, will be crowned champion with a win against Beijing Renhe at home on Wednesday.

"It was a great game and a great win for us," Hulk, the former Brazilian international who was signed for around USD70 million in 2016, said. "We still have work to do and we have to stay focused."

Guangzhou has won the last seven Chinese cham-

pionships. Fabio Cannavaro was appointed to succeed Luiz Felipe Scolari as head coach at the end of the 2017 season and told reporters that it has been a challenging season.

"I did not expect to concede five goals and now the situation is not looking good for us," Cannavaro, who captained Italy to the 2006 World Cup, said. "Now we have to wait and see what happens in the remaining two games. We no longer control our own destiny."

Long-serving Guangzhou captain Zheng Zhi had admitted that there is little hope of making that eight in a row.

"This is a bitter loss for us and I want to say sorry to all the fans who came to support us today," Zheng, formerly of Scottish giant Celtic, said. "We have won the championship for many years but this season we have made mistakes and we have gifted the title to our opponent."

"We have two games to play and we will give everything in those games." **AP**

Marc Marquez wins Malaysian MotoGP



HONDA rider Marc Marquez overcame a six-place grid penalty and took advantage of Yamaha rival Valentino Rossi's late crash to win the Malaysian MotoGP yesterday.

Rossi led from early in the race but crashed with four laps to go at the Sepang circuit to give Marquez a clear run to the finish for his ninth win of the season

and 70th of his career, and give the Honda team an unassailable lead in the constructors' championship.

Marquez, who claimed his fifth world championship in Japan two weeks ago, was demoted from pole position to seventh on the grid for impeding Suzuki's Andrea Iannone in Saturday's qualifying, but that didn't hinder him

for long as he quickly moved through the field to put pressure on Rossi and eventually forced the Italian into an error.

The 25-year-old Spaniard crossed the line in a time of 40 minutes, 32.372 seconds, 1.898 seconds ahead of Suzuki's Alex Rin. Yamaha's Johann Zarco was third, 2.474 seconds off the pace, for his first podium finish

since the Spanish MotoGP in May.

Maverick Vinales, who won in Australia last week, was fourth and Danny Pedrosa finished fifth.

Rossi finished in 18th place and fell to third in the championship standings behind Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso, who placed sixth, with one round remaining. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Max Nisen, Bloomberg

OBAMACARE HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE, BUT CAN IT THRIVE?

November is here, and in most U.S. states that means the start of open enrollment, the sign-up period for obtaining insurance via the U.S. Affordable Care Act's exchanges. It also means we're a few days away from an election where health care has taken center stage. One thing that's likely to be strengthened, rather than put in existential peril for once, is this key part of President Obama's signature law.

Enrollment is likely to decline modestly for the third year in a row after a GOP tax bill zeroed out the individual mandate, eliminating the financial penalty for those who didn't sign up for insurance. But if you look beyond the headline numbers, the individual market is increasingly stable, and, depending on how the midterm elections go, may only become more so under a friendlier Congress.

The market has survived years of Republican hostility. In addition to supporting an attempt at repeal, the Trump administration has slashed funding for supporting programs, helped kill the mandate, and is promoting skimpier short-term plans that could siphon healthy people from the market.

But the ACA's price-linked subsidies for low-income Americans have helped keep it alive. Even when insurers hike premiums, many can still afford insurance. Politically, the law's protections for pre-existing conditions have become so popular that they helped derail GOP efforts to repeal and replace the law. There's a reason why many Democrats are running on health care as their opponents dissemble. And while Obamacare still faces a legal threat from a Trump-backed lawsuit put forward by a number of red states, it has survived worse in the past.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, premiums for a popular set of plans went down in 17 states. If not for loosened rules around short-term insurance and the end of the mandate, premiums would likely be even lower.

On Wednesday, Molina Healthcare Inc., an insurer with a heavy presence in the individual market that bled money last year, announced third-quarter earnings results that trounced analysts' expectations. It's not alone in its success: This is set to be the most profitable year for insurers in the program since 2011, which is driving many of them to expand into new markets. That's a major contrast from previous years marked by losses, huge premium hikes, and insurers fleeing the market.

Stable doesn't mean healthy. There are now two very different individual markets. In one, participants are protected by scaling subsidies. In the other, people who make a bit too much money are exposed to years of compounded premium hikes. This places a cap on enrollment, and has priced many out of the market.

But the most likely outcome for the midterms — Democrats taking back the House but falling short in the Senate — can only help. Gridlock is better than attempted murder. There would be no further attempts to kill the law in that scenario, and more oversight of the administration.

A good result for Democrats would bode well for the other big part of the ACA, its expansion of Medicaid to more low-income Americans. Expansion is on the ballot in a number of red states, whether explicitly through a ballot initiative or implicitly through a close governor's race. And while Medicaid expansion will siphon off some patients from the individual market, they will tend to be more likely to have health problems, so the net effect would be further stabilization.

Freed of the question of whether it will continue to exist, the individual market is finally getting closer to finding a bottom and possibly even find a way to thrive.

THE AT LEAST 14 KILLED IN CHINA
BUZZ HIGHWAY PILE-UP

Authorities in China say at least 14 people have been killed and 27 injured in a highway pile-up. The accident Saturday night happened after a heavy truck lost control and crashed into a line of vehicles waiting at a toll station in the northwestern province of Gansu.

Last week, 15 people were killed after a bus plunged off a high bridge into China's Yangtze River in the western city of Chongqing.

In that previous crash, an eight-second surveillance video released by police showed the driver and a passenger arguing and grappling



with each other in the moments before the bus suddenly veered across oncoming traffic and off the bridge.

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

WORLD BRIEFS

OBITUARY

Raymond Chow, film producer behind Bruce Lee, dies at age 91

LEGENDARY Hong Kong film producer Raymond Chow, who introduced the world to Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan and even brought the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to the big screen, has died at age 91.

Hong Kong's secretary for commerce and economic development, Edward Yau, said in a statement Friday that Chow "helped nurture a pool of Hong Kong talents and brought them to the international stage."

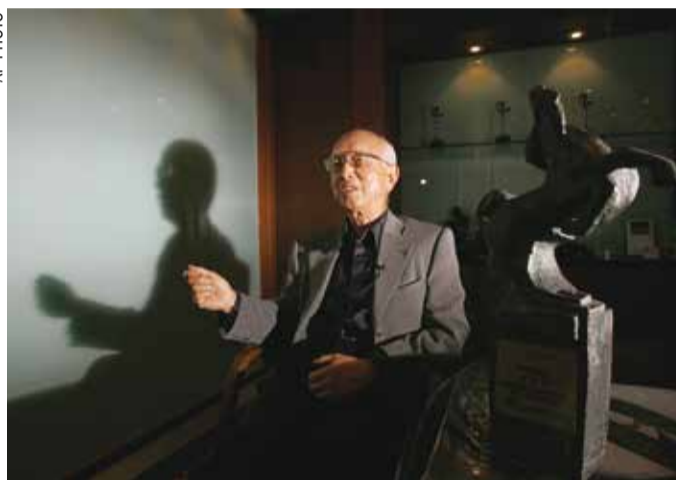
Chow was a journalist who became a publicist for Shaw Brothers Studios, which churned out hundreds of films and popularized the kung fu genre. Studio founder Run Run Shaw soon moved Chow to the production side of the business after Chow complained that the movies — made on low budgets and short schedules — weren't good enough.

"I said I did not think I could keep my job because the pictures were so bad," Chow told Asiaweek magazine in 1983. Frustrated with Shaw Brothers' assembly-line ethic, he created his own production company, Golden Harvest, in 1970.

He soon outmaneuvered his gigantic old employer to grab the actor who would become synonymous with kung fu movies. Chow signed Bruce Lee in 1971 after seeing him on a Hong Kong television variety show. "Facing you on the screen, you feel his presence is very strong, very powerful," Chow told The Associated Press in 2005.

Golden Harvest signed Lee to a three-picture deal, with each breaking all Hong Kong box office records. Those movies were followed by "Enter the Dragon," the first Chinese martial arts film to be produced by a major Hollywood studio, Warner Bros. It cost USD500,000 and earned \$40 million at the box office. Tragically, Lee died days before the film's release in 1973.

Lee's death left a void for kung fu heroes in Hong Kong's film industry that young performers were ea-



ger to fill. Chow signed one of them, a former stuntman named Jackie Chan, in 1979.

Chan's first taste of success in Hong Kong had come the year before with the film "Drunken Master." After signing with Chow, he made a number of increasingly popular Chinese-language action-comedy movies that made him a superstar in Asia.

Chow invested plenty of time and effort introducing Chan to Western audiences. He arranged for Chan to spend time in Los Angeles learning English and star in his first English-language film, 1980's "The Big Brawl," which flopped. A year later, Chow gave him a minor role alongside top Hollywood names in "The Cannonball Run." But it was 1995's "Rumble in the Bronx" that catapulted Chan to worldwide fame. The film was released on 1,700 screens in North America and grossed \$32.4 million, becoming the most successful Hong Kong film released in the U.S. Three years later, Chan teamed up with Chris Tucker in 1998's "Rush Hour," becoming a Hollywood A-list actor.

Chan acknowledged the debt he owed to Chow's grooming. "Mr. Chow gave me a chance to follow my dreams," he told Variety in 2000. "I think today that without Golden Harvest, there is no Jackie Chan."

Golden Harvest also helped bring to the silver screen another set of unlikely martial arts characters, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,

which began as a comic book and then became an animated kids' TV show with a cult following. Intrigued by the name, Chow agreed to produce a live-action movie based on the four crime-fighting, human-sized turtles after Hollywood rejected the idea.

The movie about the pizza-eating, surfer-lingo-spouting terrapins named after Renaissance artists became a worldwide smash. Chow said that he made his choice based on a "gut feeling."

"It's very weird, very unique and very interesting. [...] You have to be unique these days to be a big success."

Chow was born in Hong Kong to a nationalistic father skeptical of Western influences. Following his father's wishes, he completed his secondary and university studies in Shanghai.

As a journalist, Chow worked at English-language news outlets in Hong Kong, including United Press, which later became United Press International; The New York Times; and Voice of America.

Chow, an avid bridge player, told Forbes in 1990 about the business lessons he learned playing cards. "When you are fortunate, you try to take advantage. And when you get a bad hand, you just try to watch yourself, minimize your losses, so that you don't get killed."

Golden Harvest made its last film in 2003. Chow sold his controlling stake four years later to a Chinese businessman, who changed the name to Orange Sky Golden Harvest. **AP**



EGYPT Hundreds of Egyptian Christians attended a funeral service Saturday after seven people were killed in an ambush by Islamic State militants of buses carrying pilgrims to a remote desert monastery.

More on p14

TURKEY The order to kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi came from the highest level of the Saudi government, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said, adding that the international community had the responsibility to "reveal the puppet masters" behind the slaying.

ITALY Storms lashing Sicily have killed at least 12 people with torrential floods, Italian authorities said as the country's leader headed yesterday to the stricken Mediterranean island. Divers pulled out nine of those victims from a home flooded by a rapidly swelling river in the countryside near Palermo. More on p14



FRANCE A majority of voters in the South Pacific territory of New Caledonia chose to remain part of France instead of backing independence, election officials announced yesterday as French President Emmanuel Macron promised a full dialogue on the region's future. More on p13

BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May's office yesterday dismissed as speculation reports that Britain and the European Union were close to striking a divorce deal after reaching a compromise on the intractable issue of the Irish border.