



CTM TO HAVE ITS CONTRACT RENEWED

CTM will have its telecommunications services concession renewed for another five years after Dec 31

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TNR REACHES A RECORD NUMBER

According to the Labor Affairs Bureau, the total number of non-resident workers (TNR) in Macau is now 182,344

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FIRST MADE IN CHINA JETLINER MAKES DEBUT FLIGHT

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WORLD BRIEFS

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SINGAPORE A court sentenced the founder of a website that published anti-foreign content to eight months in jail after he pleaded guilty to sedition. Yang Kaiheng set up "The Real Singapore" website together with his Australian wife, Ai Takagi, and helped distribute accounts from visitors, some of which contained inaccuracies, the court said. **More on p13**

AP PHOTO



MONGOLIANS vote in parliamentary elections today with sentiment weighed by a sharp downturn in the landlocked Asian nation's crucial mining sector, rising unemployment and political disillusionment. **More on p13**

AP PHOTO



ITALY Bud Spencer, a burly comic actor dubbed the "good giant" for punching out bad guys on the screen, often in a long series of spaghetti westerns, has died in Italy. He was 86. Italian news agency ANSA quoted his son, Giuseppe Pedersoli, as saying without adding medical details that his father died peacefully Monday evening.

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AP PHOTO



ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL DATA

Pearl River Delta air quality improved

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Local mother criticizes police for 'traumatizing' her daughter

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Lawyers criticize 'excessive use' of preventive detention

LOCAL lawyers agree on the topic of detention, claiming that there is an excessive use of the preventive detention measures. The remark was made on the sidelines of the launch of a book by João Miguel Barros, "The Judiciary System (noted)" [Sistema Judiciário (Anotado) the original version].

This week's book launch at the Portuguese Consulate-General building was attended by a large number of professionals from the judicial sector.

"I think there are too many [people in preventive detention] and I think it is important to start with the idea in Macau that alternatives need to be found," said the lawyer and book author Barros to Lusa news agency commenting on the given current figures.

According to the figures provided to the same agency by the Correctional Service Bureau (DSC), 20.8 percent of the total number of people serving time are people who are preventively arrested.

In agreement with Barros, lawyer and legislator Leonel Alves told TDM that "the tri-



Leonel Alves

vialization of the use of the one heavier coercive measures," is censurable. He argued that the preventive detention is more understandable in cases when people involved in crime are non-residents and there is a serious concern that they might try to escape justice.

As for suggestions to review the measure Barros said that "in Portugal, the use of the electronic bracelet had a wide circulation and therefore I think it can be an interesting alternative."

Lawyer Maria Amélia António also voiced her disagreement with the alleged excessive use of preventive detention: "Macau has excellent conditions to use other control measures. What Portugal has implemented a number of years ago, the electronic bracelet, could be implemented here because Macau has a [limited geographical] size and a control over the borders, and hence there are optimal conditions for this system," she said, as cited by Ponto Final newspaper. **RM**

Orbis kicks off new campaign

ORBIS Macau, a non-profit organization that is part of an international group dedicated to saving eyesight, kicked off a new campaign on Saturday, called "Darkness To Go 2016."

The campaign is an initiative led by Orbis in partnership with local designers, multimedia producers, media organizations and local retailers in Macau, with the aim of supporting the work of the non-profit organization.

Running from June 25 to July 27, individuals can participate by buying selected "Darkness To Go" items at participating retailers; part or all of the item's sales revenue will go towards supporting Orbis' sight-saving work.

"The word 'darkness' often relates to unpleasant sensations such as fear, helplessness and despair. Darkness also reminds us about blindness," said Vivian Lo, Director of Development of Orbis Macau.

"There are 39 million blind people still living in the dark and 19 million children could not even see the faces of their



parents," she added.

In addition to hair salons, boutiques and restaurants, the 50 or so partners included toy stores, medical centers and florists, according to a statement from Orbis Macau.

"Such a wide variety means it is incredibly easy to help save sight as you go about your daily life," the statement continued.

Consumers may contribute further by using an OCBC Wing Hand Orbis credit card. For each purchase made with the card during the month-long period, the bank will double its usual 0.3 percent donation of the price of the purchase to 0.6 percent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'I was astonished at the constant stream of rubbish that our ferry passed by during the entire length of the journey'

Dear Editor,

The issues of litter in and around Macau, Hong Kong and the Pearl River Estuary seem to be in a constant distressing state as its unsightly presence is encroaching and affecting daily life.

On Monday, June 27, I was on the 11.30 a.m. ferry, departing from Macau Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal to Sheung Wan on one of Turbo Jet's older small jetfoils.

As we were crossing under the Taipa Friendship bridge, before we had entered into open water, the Ferry started to act very unusual. The Ferry captain announced over the speaker that rubbish had entered the intake and that they were attempting to flush it out.

After about 20 minutes turning about in the water just east of the bridge, the captain informed that the debris was unable to be flushed out and that we would be returning to the ferry terminal. Just looking around, one could see a great deal of debris and rubbish floating on the water. The amount



of rubbish now in the shipping canal is so thick that it seems impossible for any ship to avoid.

50 minutes after initially departing, we had returned to the Outer Harbor ferry terminal and were quickly transferred onto one of the larger Catamaran's to continue our departure for Sheung Wan.

Throughout this incident, no one was har-

med and we made it back to the terminal safely, albeit slowly, thanks to the professionalism and handling by the ferry crew. However, on the second attempt to get to Hong Kong, I paid closer attention to the water and was astonished at the constant stream of rubbish that our ferry passed by during the entire length of the journey.

We were fortunate the rubbish affected the intake at a time the vessel was traveling at a low speed, but in the past few years, others haven't been as lucky.

A quick Google search brings up an incident in November 2013 in which a Turbo Jet ferry struck an unknown object suspected to be floating debris (SCMP, Macau jetfoil passengers tell...) as well as a similar incident in October 2015 (MDT, "At Least 100 Injured as speeding jetfoil strikes unknown object"). These are no longer isolated incidents but are now leading to a disturbing trend in which we must ask not if, but when will the next accident occur in which a ferry strikes rubbish that could result in injuries.

All attempts to pressure local government officials to acknowledge this issue with litter and pollution of our water ways do not seem to be working, likely due to the fact that the problem is much larger than rubbish coming from Macau, but the whole region. Any action is going to require close cooperation by the mainland authorities jointly with Macau and Hong Kong authorities overseeing pollution, environmental concerns and travel safety across the Pearl River Estuary.

But given the complex nature of governmental decisions between all bodies, it may be more effective that private organizations and companies, such as Turbo Jet, voice their concerns or take some direct action as the rubbish growth will not only affect our view of the city but will eventually harm our health and economy.

Sincerely,
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Overseas tourist tax refund to expand to Guangdong

SOUTH China's Guangdong Province will start giving overseas tourists refunds of goods and services taxes from July 1.

According to the Guangdong Department of Finance, overseas tourists will be allowed to claim value-added tax (VAT) refunds of purchases made in specific shops, at certain ports of departure.

Tourists from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and foreign countries are entitled to an 11 percent rebate on goods bought at designated department stores, if they stay on the Chinese mainland for fewer than 183 days. Two percent of the VAT will be deducted as a handling charge, meaning this translates into a nine percent rebate.

The minimum purchase for the rebate is 500 yuan (75.20 U.S. dollars) at one store in one day. The refund is valid for purchases made within 90 days before departure.

The ports of departure covered by the refund scheme are Guangzhou Baiyun Airport, Guangzhou Nansha Port and Jiuzhou Port in Zhuhai City. The province plans to gradually increase the designated ports and stores.

A pilot tax refund program began on the southern island province of Hainan on January 1, 2011. Beijing and Shanghai rolled out the policy in July 2015. It has since expanded to more destinations nationwide.

Guangdong is a major destination for inbound tourists. Around 105 million tourists entered China through Guangdong ports in 2015, accounting for 78.5 percent of the figure nationwide.

Official data: Air quality improved in 2015

Renato Marques

AIR quality in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau area has registered improvements in 2015, as stated in the latest report of the Air Monitoring Network for the Pearl River Delta region.

A statement released by the Environmental Health Bureau (DSPA) yesterday, states that air quality "has been continuously improving."

The report comprises results obtained by 23 air monitoring stations located in Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau and which bases results on six major air pollutants: Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), inhalable particles (IP), ozone (O₃), fine particles and carbon monoxide (CO).



According to the findings, the annual average SO₂, NO₂ and IP observed in 2015 in the Pearl River Delta decreased by 19 percent, 11 percent and 13 percent respectively, when compared to 2014.

As for a 10-year comparison, the results are even more evident registering 72 percent, 28 percent and 34 percent respectively – numbers which are considered "a significant

declining trend," by the DSPA.

The results achieved show that "air quality has improved in general within this area, indicating the measures that have been promoted in recent years for an emission reduction in these three areas were successful," DSPA states.

On the other hand, the average annual 2015 figure for O₃ density recor-

ded a 10 percent increase when compared to 2006, but still it registered a decreased of 7 percent year-on-year when compared to 2014 results.

In order to further improve air quality, the MSAR government has established a 10-year action plan for the control of air pollution. The so-called "Environmental Protection Planning of Macau (2010-2020)" aims to provide "a series measures against air pollution," which will be implemented through legislation and measures. The measures will include a ban on the importation of highly polluting vehicles, the implementation of new and more restricted regulations regarding the emission of exhaust gases from motor vehicles as well as fixed sources of air pollutant emissions.

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EDUCATION

Gov't makes university pledge at IPM graduation

THE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) held its graduation ceremony for the 2015/16 academic year at its Sports Pavilion yesterday, where over 600 graduates were conferred their bachelor degrees or senior college diplomas.

The ceremony was officiated by Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, who stressed the MSAR government's dedication to prioritizing policies for education development.

A statement from IPM said that the government had made a pledge at the ceremony to reform its Regulation on Higher Education, and to speed up investments in mobilizing capabilities for the moderate adjustment of the local economy toward diversification.

Chui emphasized that IPM graduates should put what they have learned at MPI into practice and make contributions to the MSAR and to aid in the territory's economic diversification.



economic diversification.

Distinguished guests attending the ceremony included, among others the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, the deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central Government, members of the Legislative Council and representatives from government agencies and corporate organizations.

The president of IPM, Lei

Heong Iok, stated in his speech at the ceremony that the institution has witnessed the graduation of over 16,000 students in the last 17 years.

The institute was the first tertiary education institution in Asia to obtain the authoritative accreditation from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the U.K., according to the IPM statement.

MGM hosts third SME session

MGM China hosted its third quarterly small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) Business Matching Session last week, welcoming over 120 local SME vendors from the creative and food and beverage industries.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the gaming operator, representatives from other integrated resort operators attended the session, which was part of an attempt to share insights over how to "collectively support SMEs."

Moreover, four leading Macau banks participated in the Business Matching Sessions to provide one-stop financial services for SME vendors on-site.

As a follow up to its SME Food Safety Seminar held earlier this month, MGM's food and beverage teams also met with local vendors and took the opportunity to emphasize on practices of upholding international food safety standards and procurement procedures.

"We are delighted to be hosting our third SME Business Matching Session with an enthusiastic response and we would like to thank all [of] our partners," said MGM China's executive director



Grant Bowie, as cited in a statement from the company.

"Moving forward, we are eager to share our experience with the key players of the industry, as it takes a collaborative effort to foster a healthy environment for local SMEs to grow in a direction that will increase Macau's competitiveness. [...] We hope to help bring local brands beyond Macau," added Bowie.

Chui Yuk Lum, vice-president of the board of directors of Macau Chamber of Commerce said that the session gave SMEs "the opportunity to build confidence for themselves, build trust for the clients, and a channel to present their products, which are all important first steps for any business."

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CTM to have its contract renewed

THE Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said yesterday that CTM will automatically have its telecommunications services concession renewed for another five years after December 31, unless, before this date, the company incurs a serious breach of local regulations and laws. Alternatively, the concession renewal could be cancelled if the city finds strong reasons that support the revoking of the contract renewal, he said.

On the sidelines of a meeting with the Legislative Assembly (AL) Follow-up Committee for Public Administration, the secretary admitted that if the government does not renew the contract with CTM in view of ample public interests, then both parties will be involved in a dispute to settle due compensations. As indicated by Rosário, the government would be required to pay CTM 2.5 times the net profits the company would collect in one year before taxation. This amount would be calculated on the basis of average annual profits for the last three years.

In 2009, Macau granted CTM exclusivity in providing public telecommunications services, as well as the installment and management of all telecommunication systems and equipment in the city. The concession started on January 1 of 2012, and it will be renewed for another five years, until December 31 of 2021, if there is no serious breach of regulations or laws.

However, the concession is an unfair contract claimed



Raimundo do Rosário

lawmaker Chan Meng Kam yesterday, since residents must pay high prices for often sub-par services. Chan added that CTM's profit margins are exceptionally high, especially for its model of charging competitor services to use the CTM network.

"The government admitted that there are many unreasonable articles and problems in the contract," Chan added.

Local internet fiber access is additionally mainly managed by CTM. Other operators that intend to enter the market in the MSAR are currently required to make considerable payments in order to rent the service from CTM.

According to TDM, Chan also said that other service providers have confided in him that CTM takes in as much as MOP80 in immediate profit for each MOP100 it charges to other service providers using the company's infrastructure.

He also noted that greater problems in telecommunication services might afflict the territory if the government suddenly stops the contract at the very end of this year. Hence, Chan hopes that the local government can assume the responsibility of managing telecommunication infrastructure in the near future in order not to be too reliant on any one service provider. **Staff reporter**

GAMING

Sydney Crown resort gets green light

JAMES Packer's Crown casino and hotel in Sydney has been approved by the New South Wales Planning Assessment Commission, with the authority broadly accepting changes recommended by a critical independent planning entity.

Crown Resorts said in a statement that the approval came with "substantial modifications and conditions."

The resort, which will be built in Barangaroo, an inner-city suburb of Sydney, will be set back 30 meters from the harbor front, providing extra space for people to walk along the promenade by the edge of the casino. The proposed changes also include a larger park area near the planned Crown resort.

According to the Australian Broadcasting Company, the commission said that the accepted revisions meant "the public good has been given a more equal status with the private good."

A statement from the commission added they have "concluded that with design changes made [...] the proposed scale and

form of Crown Sydney will be a sculptural and elegant signature building on the foreshore."

The luxury "six-star" resort is said to accommodate more than 300 rooms and suites, with a variety of restaurants, bars, shops, conference facilities and VIP gaming rooms. It is expected to open by 2021.

The government expressed its support for the project back in 2013 but since then has mandated several changes to the plans, including the scrapping of an idea to have the development built on the water.

The approval comes as Macau's casinos yet again failed to restore growth to the city's gaming sector last month, registering a 9.6 percent year-on-year decrease in gross gaming revenue and marking 24 months of continual decline.

Crown's partly-owned project Studio City has been among the underperformers this year, in spite of hopes that the entertainment-focused resort would mark a new era for Macau. Packer sold down his stake in the partnership last month. **DB**



Artist's impression of the project

AD



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Mother criticizes police for 'traumatizing' her daughter

Lynzy Valles

A mother has criticized police authorities for forcing her 13-year-old daughter to get in their van after the teenager failed to present her Macau Resident Identity Card (BIR) during an ID inspection.

Julene Goitia Soares, who is a Portuguese citizen and a local resident, said that her daughter was traumatized after being stuck in the van with several detainees. She argues that this was a case of police abuse.

According to Soares, her daughter started crying after the officers forced her to get in the van; despite the minor explaining to them that she is a Macau resident but did not have her BIR with her.

"She called my husband [...] and while she was explaining, the police just grabbed her arms and just put her inside the police van," she stressed.

Soares rushed to Praça de Ferreira do Amaral where the authorities were waiting for her, and explained that she holds the minor's BIR as she was afraid that her daughter might misplace it.

"When I arrived, I just asked the police, who arrested my daughter? I just wanted to know names [but] no one answered me," she said.

However the authorities have threatened her saying they will not entertain her



Picture provided by Julene Soares

if she keeps shouting at them.

"Of course I'm angry," she told the Times. "I just received a call that my daughter is inside a police van, how could I react?"

When Soares asked them if they could leave, she claimed that one police stood at the door of the van, blocking her daughter to exit the vehicle.

"I asked them if someone can speak Portuguese. They said no. I told them if no one can speak Portuguese here, how can my daughter not be scared [when] no one

"Of course I'm angry. I just received a call that my daughter is inside a police van, how could I react?"

explained what's happening," she said.

The mother stressed that her daughter is unable to speak Cantonese. She also revealed that the policemen started laughing at the minor after she started to cry.

Although the authorities told her there is "no problem" with what they did, she says that it was wrong for them to hold the minor in the van with several strangers.

"They didn't even ask [for] her parents' phone numbers," she stressed. "They don't care!"

Soares has filed a complaint to the police authorities and reportedly will have to wait 45 days for a response.

She revealed to the Times that she plans to legally file a case against them if she is not pleased with the authorities' response.

"They need to apologize and they need to do something to the people [police-men]," she demanded.

Yao Jingming to head UM Department of Portuguese



Chinese scholar Yao Jingming will head University of Macau's (UM) Department of Portuguese. The scholar, poet and translator will replace Fernanda Gil Costa from September 1. Yao, who currently serves in the role of UM's translation master's coordinator, will head the Department of Portuguese for the second time. He was temporarily in this role to replace the Australian Alan Baxter between 2011 and 2012 academic year, before the arrival of Fernanda Gil Costa. After Baxter, Yao will be the second non-native Portuguese speaker in this role. Yao has been living in the territory for about 20 years. He is familiar with the language as he has translated many of the Portuguese poetry classics into the Chinese language.

Zhuhai to develop island park in the city

Zhuhai will spend over RMB80 million in the development of Yelidao (an island close to Zhuhai), as announced in a statement released by the Zhuhai Development and Reform Bureau. The city expects Yelidao to become the most thrilling island park within the city. The island of Yelidao has a total area of 501,447 square meters, and the Zhuhai government has saved an area of 250,000 square meters to build landscape projects. Along with the landscape, a new tourism center (2,648 square meters) will also be allocated. By building these facilities, Zhuhai expects to develop a unique coastal garden in China.

Trade association job matches far from satisfactory

In the first five months of 2016, the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) received a total of 659 applications from people who sought FAOM's help in finding a job. The applicants consist mainly of new immigrants, people who are changing careers and fresh university graduates. Wong Kuai Leng, vice director of FAOM, highlighted the fact that the association had organized 13 large-scale recruitment events in the recent months where over a thousand of job vacancies were being offered, mostly in non-gaming sectors. However, successful matches between the jobs and the candidates were scarce "because the initial proposed salaries are short of what the employees expect to earn," said Wong, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

TNR reaches a record number of 182,344 people

THE number of non-resident workers (TNR) in the territory reached a historical high in May this year, according to the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) who released official figures from the Public Security Police Force (PSP).

The figures presented from the bureau state that the total number of TNR is now 182,344 people.

This number represents a growth of 1.6 percent year-on-year and 0.5 percent when compared with the previous month (April 2016).

Mainland China continues to top the list of the countries from where these workers originate with a total of 117,858 people (64.6 percent), followed by the workers from the Philippines which now totals 25,059 people (13.7 percent) and Vietnam, which accounts for 14,524 non-resident workers.

About 26 percent of the TNR are employed in hospitality sectors such as hotels and restaurants, followed by the construction sector, which is responsible for another 24.5 percent with domestic work coming third with only 13 percent.

On the other hand, the numbers of TNR arriving from Hong Kong and Thailand is decreasing year-on-year, declining 19.2 percent in May to 8,177 workers. **RM**

TOURISM

MGTO concludes Annual Marketing Meeting 2016

MACAO Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is in the midst of its three-day Annual Marketing Meeting 2016, which started on Monday, gathering some 50 participants including the MSAR's delegations from different regions.

The meeting, also attended by MGTO's market representatives and PR consultants, features discussions on the bureau's marketing plans to be carried out in 2017.

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes updated the representatives on the territory's latest tourism situation and presented the major local events lined up for the second half of 2016.

The tourism office also presented key projects including the Macau Tourism Industry Development Master Plan.

Meanwhile, Secretary for Social Affairs and



Culture, Alexis Tam, conducted a work meeting on the first day for the overall planning marketing strategies in the future, according to a statement from MGTO.

Tam claimed that the local government has combined the elements of tourism, culture and sports to create a synergistic effect by staging three signature events last December, namely Macau International Marathon, Parade through Macau, Latin City and the first edition of the Macau Light Festival.

The secretary also stressed that the region is developing new projects including "Anim'Arte Nam

Van;" "International Film Festival & Awards Macau;" "Wushu Masters Challenge" and the revitalization project of Taipa Houses-Museum.

Market representatives will inspect the "Anim'Arte Nam Van," which was launched early this month, as well as other new tourism attractions today.

According to the statement, MGTO's various market representatives have been branding Macau as an ideal destination to visit for leisure through joining travel fairs and organizing various road shows, travel marts and familiarization trips.

Singapore Air's India unit to challenge Gulf carriers' dominance

Anurag Kotoky

WITHIN weeks of India easing aviation rules, Singapore Airlines Ltd.'s local venture is charting a course to take on carriers from the Middle East. It's counting on a surge in international traffic from the world's fastest growing major air-travel market.

Vistara, in which the city-state's flag carrier owns 49 percent, is considering buying or leasing wide-bodied aircraft for long-haul routes and will seek funds from its owners to finance the purchase, the company's Chief Executive Officer Phee Teik Yeoh said in an interview June 24. Vistara, which has 11 planes in its fleet and is co-owned by India's Tata Sons Ltd., needs at least nine more to fly abroad under the relaxed policy.

The number of international travelers from India is poised to grow 10-fold to 500 million by 2050, according to a CAPA Centre of Aviation study that was commissioned by Vistara. The carrier's plans may be the start of a fresh challenge for Emirates Airline and Etihad Airways PJSC that have long been the biggest foreign carriers in India and have, along with Air India Ltd. and Jet Airways India Ltd., dominated the market for offshore travel.

"We believe Vistara may pull out all stops to get to the 20 number and fly overseas," said Amber Dubey, the New Delhi-based India head for aerospace at KPMG. "Being an Indian carrier they will have



Phee Teik Yeoh

the advantage of providing non-stop flights from India to the European Union and U.S., something that Gulf carriers can't do."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet ratified its policy changes in aviation on June 15, permitting domestic

airlines to fly overseas, provided they deploy 20 planes or 20 percent of capacity, whichever is higher, on local routes. Earlier, carriers needed to have a minimum of 20 aircraft in their fleet and five years of domestic services.

"The world is our oyster now, we are spoiled for choice," Vistara's Yeoh said. "We can be East-bound, West-bound, we can be short-haul or long-haul from New Delhi."

The wide-bodied planes Vistara is considering would be in addition to the 20 it would have by June 2018 after leasing company BOC Aviation Ltd. delivers nine more jets from Airbus Group SE's A320 family, Yeoh said.

Vistara is "seriously looking" at advancing the delivery schedule of those nine aircraft to enable overseas flights soo-

At least 81 foreign carriers vie for passengers flying to and out of India, with Emirates and Etihad in the lead

ner, he said.

Singapore Air remains open to all options on funding Vistara, the carrier said in an e-mailed response, without elaborating. Tata Sons referred queries to Vistara. Emirates didn't respond to a request seeking comments, while Etihad and Qatar declined to comment.

At least 81 foreign carriers vie for passengers flying to and out of India, with Emirates and Etihad in the lead, followed by others including Qatar Airways Ltd., Singapore Air and Deutsche Lufthansa AG.

Etihad and its local partner Jet Airways together carried 2.4 million passengers to and from India during the first three months of this year, while state-run former monopoly Air India carried 2.1 million, data from the aviation regulator showed.

"It will be a mammoth task taking on the Middle East carriers now or in the near future," said Shukor Yusof, founder of aviation consultant

Endau Analytics in Malaysia. "As it stands, the Middle East airlines are peerless in terms of money and products."

Still, the size of the Indian market and its potential growth may offer room for more operators. Just 1 percent to 2 percent of India's population flies now, compared with 40 percent of the global population, according to the Sydney-based CAPA Centre study.

Air travel in the South Asian country grew more than 20 percent last year, according to the International Air Transport Association. In comparison, passenger traffic in China rose about 10 percent and that in the U.S. grew by less than 5 percent, IATA said in a December presentation.

Tata Sons, the holding company of India's biggest conglomerate, set up Vistara with Singapore Airlines after an earlier attempt by the two partners in the mid-1990s failed. The carrier, which started flying in January 2015, now offers 18 domestic destinations with 487 daily flights.

Vistara is drawing up a 10-year plan for its growth in India, Yeoh said. The wide-bodied planes it plans to acquire could be bought directly from manufacturers, bought and then sold to lessors to be leased back, or leased outright, he said, without elaborating on which option was preferred.

"International is not going to be a walk in the park," Yeoh said. "We are not in a hurry to grow old, we'd like to be nimble but we have big ambitions."

Bloomberg

We can be East-bound, West-bound, we can be short-haul or long-haul from New Delhi.

PHEE TEIK YEOH

corporate bits

DIET PEPSI WITH ASPARTAME RETURNING TO SHELVES IN US

Diet Pepsi made with aspartame is returning to shelves in the U.S., after PepsiCo saw sales plummet following its reformulation of the drink last summer to remove the artificial sweetener.

PepsiCo says it will offer "Diet Pepsi Classic Sweetener Blend" made with aspartame starting in September, in 12-ounce cans, 2-liter bottles and 20-ounce bottles. The move is intended to appease fans who don't like the taste of the reformulated drink, which is made with the artificial sweetener sucralose.

But PepsiCo Inc. said Diet Pepsi made with sucralose, commonly known by the brand name Splenda, will remain its primary diet soda offering. Those cans will be silver, while

AP PHOTO



the "classic" Diet Pepsi with aspartame will be come in light blue packaging.

When PepsiCo removed aspartame from Diet Pepsi in August, it said the change was the No. 1 request by customers. Industry executives have blamed the declining sale of diet sodas on concerns people have about the ingredient. Several years ago, Coca-Cola Co. tested ads in select newspapers defending the safety of the sweetener. PepsiCo's replacement of

the sweetener from Diet Pepsi tested the theory that it was to blame for fleeing customers, but the plan seems to have backfired.

In the first quarter of this year, sales volume for Diet Pepsi sank 10.6 percent, according to industry tracker Beverage Digest.

Diet Coke, which stuck with aspartame, saw volume decline a more moderate 5.7 percent.

Aspartame had been linked to cancer in lab mice, but it is approved for use and the Food and Drug Administration says more than 100 studies support its safety. PepsiCo's decision to bring back Diet Pepsi with aspartame was first reported by the publication Beverage Digest.

FIAT CHRYSLER GEARSHIFT PROBE FINDS 266 CRASHES, 68 INJURIES

A government investigation into confusing gear shifters like the one in the SUV that crushed and killed Star Trek actor Anton Yelchin found 266 crashes that injured 68 people.

The numbers are in documents posted yesterday on the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website. The agency closed the investigation last Friday after Fiat Chrysler agreed to recall 1.1 million vehicles.

Investigators also found 686 consumer complaints about the shifters and said that Fiat Chrysler received negative customer feedback shortly after the vehicles went on sale. The company also appeared to violate basic design guidelines for vehicle controls with the shifters, according to the

AP PHOTO



agency.

Yelchin, 27, known for playing Chekov in the rebooted series, died June 19 after his 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee pinned him against a mailbox pillar and fence at his home in Los Angeles. His

Jeep was among vehicles recalled in April due to complaints from drivers who had trouble telling if they put the transmission in "park" after stopping. Many reported the vehicles rolled off after the driver exited.

Ambassador encourages Chinese companies to invest in Portugal



A Portuguese national flag flies above the parliament building in Lisbon

CHINA'S ambassador to Portugal said in Lisbon that the Portuguese government is waiting for Chinese companies to get involved in the country's energy, services, financial, insurance, medical, health, maritime business, agricultural and infrastructure sectors.

Cai Run was speaking in the Portuguese capital to an economic delegation from the Pan Pearl River Delta (9+2) region, which includes nine Chinese provinces (Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan) and the Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong, which visited Belgium and Portugal from 19 to 24 June.

According to a statement from the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the diplomat said Portugal was a "land of marvels, with an excellent geographic location" and added that Chinese companies should make use of local advantages and explore existing business opportunities.

On the trip to Portugal IPIM organized a seminar in Lisbon to promote and expand Macau's role as a platform for trade and economic cooperation between the Pan Pearl River Delta (9+2) region and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

At the meeting, which brought together dozens of participants, the president of IPIM, Jackson Chang, said that the city of Beijing and Portugal had been invited to be "Partner City" and "Partner Country" of the 21st Macau International Fair (MIF) held from 20 to 23 October.

During the seminar Gu Wanjun, member of the Commission for Development and Reform of Guangdong province and director of the Office for Planning of the Secretariat of the Joint Executive Conference of the Pan Pearl River Delta (9+2) region, discussed the region's economic potential.

The Pan Pearl River Delta (9+2) region accounts for one fifth of China's area, one third of its population and a third of its GDP.
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Rotary Year 2015-2016 "Be a Gift to the World" is approaching its end and each Rotary Club of Area One (Macao) would like to take this opportunity to share their highlight of this year. At the same time, Rotarians of Macao would like to thank all those who have supported and contributed to us in your special ways to make the world a better place. You are truly the "Gift to the World."



Rotary Club of Macau "Happy Garden – Horticulture Therapy for Mentally-ill Rehabilitation Patients"

- Trained therapist led service users to do gardening activities and landscape:
 - To promote well-being of mind & body and green living
 - For sustainable living means
 - To engage in group-based gardening activities to strengthen community relationship



Rotary Club of Hou Kuong "Visit to Macau Teen Challenge Centre"

- To understand the effect of drug usage on teens
- To support the Social Welfare Bureau on the efforts against drug usage



Rotary Club of Macau Central "Happy Farming Workshop"

- Fellowship program to provide Rotarians and families of RC Macau Central the opportunities to get in touch with and learn more about the natural environment as well as promote healthy lifestyle



Rotary Club of Guia "Rotary Teens' Smile"

- Dental Service Project "Train the Trainer" for students
- Training of students by professional dentist on oral hygiene followed by them training their own peers



Rotary Club of Amizade, Macao "Supporting Students of Guangxi Province"

- Provided water storage tank for primary school
- Promoted the message of "Saving Water"

Paul Traynor, Shanghai

THE first regional jet produced in China's initiative to compete in the commercial aircraft market made its debut flight yesterday carrying 70 passengers.

The ARJ21-700 jet is one of a series of initiatives launched by the ruling Communist Party to transform China from the world's low-cost factory into a creator of profitable technology in aviation, clean energy and other fields.

The plane operated by Chengdu Airlines took its passengers from the western city of Chengdu to Shanghai in two hours.

China is one of the biggest aviation markets but relies on foreign-made aircraft. Beijing wants to capture more of those sales. Its major airlines are state-owned, which gives the ruling party a captive pool of potential customers that can be ordered to buy Chinese-made aircraft.

The ARJ21 — or Asian Regional Jet for the 21st Century — is intended to make its state-owned manufacturer, Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China, a competitor to Bombardier Inc. of Canada and Brazil's Embraer SA.

"The first flight of the ARJ21 marks the beginning of commercial, or passenger, operations for the ARJ21 and signifies the first time a domestically made regional jet has been used by a Chinese air-

First made-in-China jetliner makes debut commercial flight

AP PHOTO



People in panda costumes pose in front of a Chengdu Airlines ARJ21-700 plane before its first commercial flight at Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport

line," said the COMAC chairman, Jin Zhuanglong.

The ARJ21 initiative was launched in 2002. It was scheduled to deliver its first plane in 2007 but that was pushed back due to technical problems.

■ The ARJ21 initiative was launched in 2002. It was scheduled to deliver its first plane in 2007

A full-size jetliner under development by another state-owned company, the C919, is aimed at competing with Boeing Co. and Airbus. After delays blamed on manufacturing problems, the C919 is due to fly this year and enter service in about 2019.

Boeing forecasts China's total demand for civilian jetliners over the next two decades at 5,580 planes worth a total of USD780 billion. **AP**

Adidas extends PRC sports push in agreement with billionaire

Aaron Ricadela

ADIDAS AG signed an agreement with billionaire Wang Jianlin's Dalian Wanda Group Co. to help develop soccer and basketball in China as the German company seeks to capitalize on increasing interest in sports and fitness in the world's most populous nation.

The sneaker maker will also sponsor two of Wanda's Ironman triathlon events in China this year, according to a joint statement. It's joining forces with a company that this year signed a partnership agreement with soccer's governing body FIFA, and in 2015 bought a 20 percent stake in Spanish team Atletico Madrid.

Adidas is making an increasingly rare commitment to China by a consumer brand at a time

when food companies, drinks makers and luxury labels are struggling there. China's government has pledged to build a 5 trillion-yuan (USD752

Chinese people are becoming more health-conscious and participation rates in many sports are increasing.

CEDRIC ROSSI

billion) sports industry by 2025, including laying down soccer pitches and training kids across the country. President Xi Jinping has said China should host and win a World Cup in the coming decades.

"We see more of our mass consumer segment actually wanting to buy Adidas products," said Colin Currie, Adidas's managing director for China. "Chinese consumers want to trade up and buy international sports brands like Adidas and they're willing to spend on it."

Adidas on Monday opened its first worldwide dedicated soccer store, in the southern city of Guangzhou, and said it's doubling to 20 million the number of Chinese children it's training in the sport through a gover-

nement partnership.

Chinese consumers with rising disposable income are increasingly shifting from local sneaker brands to the cache of Adidas and main rival Nike Inc. That comes at a time when many consumer companies and apparel brands are retrenching amid slower consumer spending and a government clampdown on excessive gift-giving by public employees that's stung apparel and alcohol makers.

"Chinese people are becoming more health-conscious and participation rates in many sports are increasing," said Cedric Rossi, an analyst at Bryan Garnier & Co. In addition to performance shoes, Adidas' fashion-oriented Originals and Neo brands are resonating. "They are fully bene-

BLOOMBERG



fitting from this athleisure trend," Rossi said.

Performance and sports-inspired shoe sales in China are forecast to grow from a combined \$12.9 billion this year to \$18.5 billion in 2020, according to Euromonitor International.

Greater China, which includes the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan, contributed more than a quarter of Adidas's earnings before overhead costs last year and it's the company's most profitable market, Currie said. Sales in local currency grew 18 percent to 2.47 billion euros (\$2.7 billion). Adidas's revenue in Shanghai is nearly as much as Po-

land and Portugal combined, the company said.

"We will continue to grow in a double-digit manner for the remainder of this year," he said.

The soccer store opening was marked by an appearance by former Manchester United and Real Madrid star David Beckham. Adidas plans to add 500 stores over and above any closures this year in the Greater China region, on top of a base of 9,000, Currie said. That's part of a broader plan to open 3,000 stores in China by 2020.

"China wants to be a powerhouse in sport, wants to be on the world stage," he said. **Bloomberg**

Grace Brown, Ulaanbaatar

MONGOLIANS vote in parliamentary elections today with sentiment weighed by a sharp downturn in the landlocked Asian nation's crucial mining sector, rising unemployment and political disillusionment.

The Democratic Party could lose its majority in parliament, known as the State Great Khural, to the opposition Mongolian People's Party a year ahead of the 2017 presidential election. But with no major policy offerings on the table and an economy pummeled by the global slump in commodity prices, it's unclear what options Mongolia has for reviving its fortunes.

The parliamentary elections are the seventh since the country made a peaceful transition to democracy in 1990. Yet disillusionment with the political process in the country — recently dubbed “an oasis of democracy” by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry — is growing among younger voters, whose turnout has steadily declined in recent years.

Amgalan Sukh-Ochir, 30, who works in marketing, said he plans to boycott the elections.

“In the last elections when the DP made all these great promises for prospering, I decided to support them, but look where we are now. I don't think they've achieved much,” he said.

Mongolia's mining- and animal herding-dependent economy has been dragged down by weak domestic demand and a sharp decline in exports, impoverishing thousands of former herders who had moved to its few cities looking for jobs. Economic growth has slipped from 17.5 percent in 2011 to just 2.3 percent last year in the resource-rich nation of 3 million people, one-fifth of whom live in poverty.

Sluggish economy casts shadow over Mongolians elections



Mongolian children play near a statue of a Mongolian warrior on horseback in front of the Mongolian Parliament House in Ulaanbaatar

Both the ruling Democratic Party and its main rival have campaigned on the promise of more jobs.

“The main issue is, No. 1, to revive the economy,” said Bulgantuya Khurelbaatar, secretary of the opposition Mongolian People's Party. She said the party aims to build 100 factories in 21 provinces that would create about 40,000 new jobs, though she didn't say how.

It's unclear what measures or resources are available to stimulate the flagging economy.

Coal, copper and other mineral resources make up 94 percent of Mongolia's exports. But

with demand in China weakening as its economy cools, Mongolia's own growth is forecast to fall below 1 percent this year.

Foreign investment in the country has slowed to a trickle, though mining giant Rio Tinto announced in May the launch of the next stage of a multi-billion-dollar gold and copper mine. Still, critics of government agreements with mining companies complain that too little of Mongolia's mineral wealth benefits the general public.

Some observers see recent changes to the electoral process as handicapping smaller

parties and female candidates.

“They have closed some space for smaller political parties, as majoritarian systems do tend to benefit two main political parties,” said Ashleigh Whelan, country director for the International Republican Institute, a U.S.-based group with the stated aim of promoting democracy globally.

“This can reduce the opportunity for lesser-known candidates, new candidates, youth, women and those candidates who may not be a guarantee in terms of winning,” Whelan said. Her organization does not expect either party to secure an

■ The parliamentary elections are the seventh since the country made a peaceful transition to democracy in 1990

overwhelming majority.

In its latest National Human Development Report, the United Nations Development Program found that only about 45 percent of Mongolians aged 18-34 have voted in recent elections, compared to an overall turnout of 65 percent in 2012.

Skepticism has grown after the ruling party recently offered citizens 300,000 tugriks (USD155) to sell 30 percent of their promised shares in the state-owned coal mine, Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi. So far 1.2 million of 1.65 million shareholders have applied to sell their shares to the government.

“I think it's illegal to tell you the truth,” said Khurelbaatar of the opposition party. “This is right before elections. It seems to all political parties that they're actually trying to buy off votes.”

The Democratic Party did not respond to requests for comment. **AP**

HERITAGE

Cambodia says tests confirm Angkor boat 8 centuries old

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

TESTS have confirmed that a wooden boat found buried in a dry riverbed near Cambodia's famous Angkor Wat temple complex is from the early 13th century, an official at the agency overseeing the archaeological site said Monday.

Apsara Authority spokesman Long Kosal said tests by a research institute in New Zealand confirmed the age of the 12.8-meter-long boat, which was carved from a single tree trunk. He said

■ It is the oldest boat ever found in Cambodia

it is the oldest boat ever found in Cambodia, and its discovery will be useful for scholars of the Angkor era, when the Khmer empire dominated the region from the 9th to 15th centuries.

A farmer discovered the boat in April while digging mud from the riverbed, several kilometers from the temple complex.

The boat has been sunk in a pond in front of the temple to keep it preserved pending restoration for public viewing.

An Australian archaeologist announced earlier this month that he and colleagues have found evidence of previously undiscovered medieval urban and agricultural networks surrounding the ancient city of Angkor Wat.

Using high-tech lasers to scan the Cambodian jungle, Damian Evans and colleagues said they found traces of extensive networks surrounding the monumental stone



Tourists look at the view of the Angkor Wat temples at sunrise, outside Siem Reap

temple complex at Angkor Wat. Evans said their findings could fur-

ther our understanding of Khmer culture and throw into question traditional

assumptions about the decline of the empire.

For years, experts have proposed a variety of reasons for the collapse of the Khmer civilization in the 15th century, including invasions by Thai armies, social and religious change, internal power struggles, and overpopulation and prolonged drought which forced populations to relocate to southern Cambodia. But Evans said their laser maps showed no evidence of relocated, dense cities in the south and that it wasn't clear there was any such mass migration. **AP**

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Youkyung Lee, Seoul

South Korea cuts outlook, plans stimulus package

SOUTH Korea's government slowed growth outlook for Asia's fourth-largest economy and planned a supplementary budget for a second year in a row as the global economy faces heightened uncertainty.

The Finance Ministry said yesterday that the economy will likely expand 2.8 percent this year, down from its December prediction of 3.1 percent. That would mark a slight improvement from last year but slower growth than 2014.

Jobs would be a primary goal as the government plans a 10 trillion won (USD8.5 billion) supplementary budget during the second half of this year. The additional budget, pending parliamentary approval, would be used to support big projects that create jobs. In addition to the extra budget, the government would prepare a stimulus package that would total more than 20 trillion won, it said.

Regarding lowering its growth forecast, the government cited a deterioration in global conditions for exports, South Korea's key growth engine. The International Monetary Fund cut in April its outlook for the world economy and trade.

South Korea's government estimated that the direct impact



Visitors walk by signs displaying foreign currency exchange rates in downtown Seoul

from the result of Britain's vote to leave the European Union is expected to be limited. But there are concerns about negative repercussions from the increased uncertainty in the global economy and financial markets, it said.

"We will beef up our efforts to improve domestic spending in response to Brexit and other worsening conditions overseas," Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho told a briefing.

Global financial markets were rattled by Britain's vote to leave the union. South Korean stocks and currency also fell sharply along with other emerging market stocks and currencies. The main stock index in Seoul recovered this week and the government said it will monitor any fallout from Britain's vote.

During a meeting with economic policymakers earlier yesterday, South Korea's president said the result of Britain's vote was "unexpected."

"As external uncertainty increased due to Brexit, we ou-

ght to step up managing risks in our economy's weak areas," Park Geun-hye said according to a South Korean press pool report. "As Brexit may ignite an enormous change in the future, we need to read the big picture for the mid to long term and review our economic strategies."

South Korea also faces other economic headwinds at home. The government expects that companies will sharply lower their capital expenditures as sluggish exports continue. Corporate restructuring at cash-strapped shipbuilding and other industries could hurt job markets and corporate spending, it said.

The government said consumption may be dampened by an anti-corruption law that is set to take effect in the fall. The law to fight corruption bans government employees, school teachers and journalists from taking expensive gifts, which some worry will dent sales of agricultural products and other popular gifts. **AP**

Singapore website founder jailed for anti-foreign content

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

A court in Singapore yesterday sentenced the founder of a website that published anti-foreign content to eight months in jail after he pleaded guilty to sedition.

Yang Kaiheng, 27, set up "The Real Singapore" website together with his Australian wife, Ai Takagi, and helped distribute accounts from visitors, some of which contained inaccuracies, the court said.

One post alleged that foreigners in a multinational corporation were favoring their countrymen for jobs over Singaporeans. Another contribution detailed how a husband's affair with a Chinese citizen broke up a family.

Although these posts were not viewed as inaccurate, the court said they violated the Sedition Act, used to deter inhabitants from promoting hostility in the multicultural city-state.

Takagi was convicted of similar charges and started serving a 10-month sentence from April, the harshest ever imposed under the act. She admitted to the role of editor and using a false male identity to post fictitious stories of obnoxious foreigners.

Yang distanced himself from the website's content during much of the trial, saying he was not involved in editing or approving it before abruptly pleading guilty to six counts of sedition last Friday.



Yang Kaiheng, 27, co-founder of "The Real Singapore" website

District Judge Chay Yuen Fatt said the website was the "exploitation of such [nationalistic] feelings, purely for financial gain and not for noble ideologies, misguided or otherwise."

It was "the brainchild of the accused" and he encouraged Takagi to "kick up a storm on the internet so as to generate more revenue," the judge said.

The website had close to 13 million views a month and its readership reacted with anger, with some calling for harsh curbs on foreigners, court documents said. From December 2013 to April 2015, the website reportedly had revenue, mostly from advertising, of close to 474,600 Australian dollars (USD351,750).

Yang, who owns two ramen shops with Takagi, was expressionless and looked straight ahead as the sentence was dealt. He is expected to start serving his jail term next month. **AP**

INDONESIA

Court to proceed with trial in cyanide murder



Jessica Kumala Wongso (center)

An Indonesian court decided yesterday to proceed with the trial of a former resident of Australia accused of murdering a friend by lacing her coffee with cyanide.

The 27-year-old defendant, Jessica Kumala Wongso, was charged with plotting the Jan. 6 poisoning of Wayan Mirna Salihin because of the victim's advice that she sever her relationship with her troublesome boyfriend. The two were former classmates in Australia.

"The indictment submitted by the state prosecutors has clearly, accurately and comprehensively explained the murder," said presiding judge

Kisworo. "Therefore the objections of the defense lawyers could not be accepted."

Wongso's lawyers have ridiculed the prosecution's contention that Salihin's advice that Wongso end her relationship led to the murder. They said the explanation "could not be accepted by common sense."

Salihin collapsed and died after drinking coffee at a Jakarta cafe where the two met along with another friend. Police say laboratory tests showed the drink contained cyanide.

The case has riveted Indonesia for months and attracted attention in Australia because Wongso was a permanent resident and

studied in Sydney.

Police have struggled to bring the case to trial as prosecutors deferred it several times due to insufficient evidence. It was accepted after Indonesian investigators gained additional information from the Australian Federal Police.

■ The case has riveted Indonesia for months and attracted attention in Australia because Wongso studied in Sydney

Wongso is charged with premeditated murder, a capital crime in Indonesia, but Indonesia has promised not impose the death penalty in exchange for the help from Australia, which opposes the death penalty.

The trial is to resume July 12 with the testimony of witnesses presented by prosecutors. **AP**

Raf Casert, Lorne Cook

EUROPEAN Union leaders began plotting a future without Britain yesterday, urging the island nation and economic powerhouse to disentangle itself as fast as possible from the other 27 nations in the bloc to avoid extending the turmoil that has been roiling European and global markets.

EU Council President Donald Tusk said he was planning a special meeting of the EU leaders minus Cameron in Bratislava in September to chart a way ahead, after last week's referendum made abundantly clear that a business-as-usual approach to Britain leaving could possibly threaten the unity of the entire bloc.

Yesterday, Prime Minister David Cameron held talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker hours ahead of an EU summit in Brussels where the outgoing British leader is expected to say that exit talks might not be launched before October. There has been talk that Britain wants informal negotiations on what the U.K.'s future relations with Europe might look like before that happens — a notion many in the bloc have rejected.

Juncker and other European leaders insist they won't begin any talks until Britain invokes the Article 50 of the EU's Treaty of Lisbon, which sets in motion a two-year process to split away from the group designed to unify Europe after the horrors of World War II.

In an unprecedented emergency session of the EU parliament, called after Britain voted last week to leave the union, Juncker demanded that Britain

EU leaders plot a future without Britain, demand answers

AP PHOTO



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

clarify its future.

"I want the U.K. to clarify its position. Not today, not tomorrow at 9 a.m., but soon," he told lawmakers. "We cannot allow ourselves to remain in a prolonged period of uncertainty."

Juncker said he had banned his policy commissioners from holding any secret talks with Britain on its future until London triggers the exit clause.

"No notification. No negotiation," he said to resounding applause.

Tusk was already looking further ahead. He said the 27

EU heads and state and government — minus Cameron — would hold a special meeting in September to discuss "the new process of deeper reflection, a new impulse for Europe, a new future for Europe."

"We need a few weeks to prepare this process," Tusk said.

The immediate reaction to the British departure — also called the Brexit — in the EU parliament was emotional yesterday. Nigel Farage, a British member of the European Parliament and a leader in Britain's "leave" movement, was booed and

jeered when he urged Europe to give Britain a good trade deal when it leaves, saying jobs in Germany's auto sector might be at stake if it doesn't.

"Why don't we just be pragmatic, sensible, grown-up, reasonable [...] and cut a sensible tariff-free deal?" he asked.

In a speech interrupted several times, Farage warned: "The UK will not be the last member state to leave the European Union."

Bearing out his words, French far-right leader Marine Le Pen called the British vote "an

extraordinary victory for democracy — a slap for a European system based more and more on fear, blackmail and lies."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, meanwhile, said yesterday she will use "all her strength" to prevent the EU from drifting apart. At the EU summit, she and other leaders hoped to hear Cameron's position and chart the way forward. Cameron, head of the failed "remain" side, has said he will not be the leader to invoke Article 50, leaving that for his predecessor, who is to be chosen by October.

Britain's "leave" leaders hope the nation can still enjoy many perks of the EU internal market for business, while being able to deny EU citizens entry to the U.K. to address concerns about unlimited EU immigration. Merkel, head of the EU's biggest economy, made clear that isn't an option.

In an address to the German Parliament before heading to Brussels, Merkel said she expects that Britain will want to maintain "close relations" with the EU once it leaves, but warned it cannot expect a business-as-usual approach.

"Whoever wants to leave this family cannot expect to have no more obligations but to keep privileges," she said. "We will ensure that the negotiations are not carried out with the principle of cherry-picking." AP

Kremlin says it will take time to mend ties with Turkey

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Moscow

THE spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday it will take time to mend ties with Turkey after the November downing of a Russian military jet.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan sent a letter of formal apology to Putin on Monday, seven months after Turkey shot down the Russian jet on a mission in Syria, triggering a slew of Russian sanctions that have dealt a severe blow to the Turkish economy.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov yesterday called the apology "a very important" step but added that the ties between the two countries would not go back to where they were overnight.

"Together we will have

AP PHOTO



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

to take more than one step to meet each other," Peskov said. "One shouldn't think that everything will be mended overnight. We will keep up our work in that direction."

Putin will talk to Erdogan by telephone today, which will be their first one-to-one chat since the

jet was shot down, Peskov said.

Putin denounced the downing of the Russian warplane at the Syrian border on Nov. 24 as a "treacherous stab in the back." Russia rejected the Turkish claim that the plane had violated its airspace, and responded



Vladimir Putin

by deploying long-range air defense missiles to its base in Syria, warning that they would destroy any target posing a threat to Russian aircraft.

The plane's downing came amid a rift between Moscow and Ankara over Syria, where they backed the opposing sides in the

conflict.

Moscow moved swiftly to ban the sales of package tours to Turkey, which had depended heavily on the Russian tourist flow; banned most of Turkey's food exports; and introduced restrictions against Turkish construction companies, which had

won a sizable niche of the Russian market.

In contrast to Peskov Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said yesterday that the ties are already getting better: "We can say that the ice has melted and that the process of normalization has started."

Along with the formal apology Moscow said it expected Ankara to pay compensation to the family of the killed pilot.

Asked about the possible compensation, Yildirim said in comments carried by the Anadolu news agency yesterday that "there is no such thing. We only expressed our regrets, we shared their grief." He added that Turkey will go ahead with the prosecution of the men responsible for the pilot's death. AP

France opens manslaughter inquiry into EgyptAir crash

Angela Charlton, Paris

FRENCH authorities opened a manslaughter inquiry Monday into the May crash of an EgyptAir plane that killed 66 people, saying there is no evidence so far to link it to terrorism.

Prosecutor's office spokesman Agnes Thibault-Lecluire said the inquiry was launched as an accident investigation, not a terrorism investigation. She said French authorities are "not at all" favoring the theory that the plane was downed deliberately, though the status of the inquiry could eventually change if evidence emerges to that effect.

Investigators decided to start the probe before waiting to analyze the plane's flight data and voice recorders, based on evidence gathered so far, she said, without elaborating.

AP PHOTO



EgyptAir Flight 804, an Airbus A320 en route from Paris to Cairo, slammed into the Mediterranean on May 19. The reason for the crash remains unclear. The pilots made no distress call and no group has claimed to have brought down the aircraft.

An Egyptian official at the ministry of civil aviation said Egyptian authorities

haven't been notified of the French prosecutor's decision and that all scenarios remain on the table.

"There is no evidence that backs up or rules out any of the possible scenarios of what caused the crash, including whether it is a terrorist act or technical problems," he said.

The Egyptian investigation committee is in charge

of issuing a final report, but France can also investigate because the plane was manufactured by France-based Airbus and French citizens were among those killed.

Search teams have recovered its two flight recorders, but they suffered damage and Egyptian investigators were unable to download information from the black boxes. The recorders' memory cards arrived Monday in Paris, Egyptian investigators said.

Technicians at France's air accident investigation agency, the BEA, will attempt to clean and repair the boxes and then send them back to Egypt for analysis, BEA spokesman Sebastien Barthe said.

In a statement issued yesterday [Macau time], the Egyptian investigation committee said that the flight data recorder has been fully repaired. **AP**

Supporters say detained Bahrain activist taken to hospital

AP PHOTO



Nabeel Rajab

Supporters of an activist detained in Bahrain as part of an intensifying crackdown on dissent say he's been taken to the hospital with an

irregular heartbeat. Sayed Alwadaei, of the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy, said yesterday that activist Nabeel Rajab was at the cardiac care clinic of an unidentified hospital after being "in isolation for 15 days." Rajab is the president of the Bahrain Center for Human Rights. He helped lead protests during Bahrain's 2011 demonstrations as the island's majority Shiite population and others demanded more political freedoms from its Sunni rulers.

Israel bans access to Jerusalem holy site

Israeli police yesterday banned non-Muslims from a contentious Jerusalem holy site until the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan following two days of clashes with Palestinian rioters at the site. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said rocks and other objects were hurled toward police forces and Jewish worshippers in a nearby plaza. A 73-year-old woman was lightly wounded and police arrested 16 suspects in the disturbances that have been going on for three days, Rosenfeld said.

AD

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what's ON



AUGUSTE BORGET: A PAINTER-TRAVELLER ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

REMINISCENT - PORTUGAL. MACAU
TIME: 10am-6:30pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
UNTIL: July 22, 2016
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Dare to Dream Gallery, Calçada Da Barra,
 No. 16 R/C LJ A, Edif. San Chak
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 2820

MACAU ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION 2016 – WESTERN MEDIA CATEGORY
TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 7, 2016
VENUE: Old Court Building
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

“MEMORIES OF MOMENTS – MACAO AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS” EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-6pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 4, 2016
VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

EXHIBITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAN TIANHENG
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 7, 2106
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (free admission on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

GERMAN COURT RESTARTS TRIAL AFTER JUDGE REPEATEDLY NODS OFF

A German court had to restart the trial of two men suspected of robbing a grocery store because a judge kept nodding off during the proceedings.

The Muenster state court told the dpa news agency yesterday that the presiding judge decided it was better to start things over than provide immediate grounds for an appeal.

German trials are typically heard by a panel of five judges — three professionals and two lay judges. In this case, it was one of the lay judges who couldn't stay awake on Monday.

Fortunately, it was the first day of the trial and it was able to start again from scratch after an alternate judge took his place.

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | RTPi Live |
| 18:00 | Helena's Shadow (Repeated) |
| 18:50 | TDM Entrevue (Repeated) |
| 19:20 | Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:30 | Soap Opera |
| 20:10 | Sports |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Montra do Lilau |
| 21:30 | Criminal Minds S9 |
| 22:10 | Helena's Shadow |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Drama |
| 00:20 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:50 | Sports (Repeated) |
| 01:10 | RTPi Live |

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 JUN - 29 JUN



INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE_

ROOM 1

(2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm

(3D) 7.30 pm

Director: James Bobin

Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp,

Helena Bonham Carter

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 113min

KIDNAP DING DING DON_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Wilson Chin

Starring: Ivana Wong, Alex Fong, Kabby Hui,

Bill Chan

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 98min

NOW YOU SEE ME 2_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Jon M. Chu

Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo,

Woody Harrelson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 129min

MACAU TOWER

23 JUN - 07 JUL

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich

Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,

Bill Pullman

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 120min

this day in history



2001 DIANA FOUNTAIN GIVEN GO-AHEAD

A memorial in honour of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to be built in London's Hyde Park, the government has announced.

The £3m fountain will be built on the site of a derelict pump house and chlorination plant on the banks of the Serpentine - the 40-acre artificial lake in the royal park.

The princess, who would have been 40 this year, was killed in a high-speed car crash in Paris almost four years ago.

Teams of architects will now be invited to tender designs for the memorial, which will be paid for by public funds.

Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, has given his blessing to the project, and Prince Charles and his two sons are also understood to be happy with the plans.

Her friend, Rosa Monckton, said the princess used to run and walk along the banks of the lake and would have been very happy with the location.

Ms Monckton also told the BBC why the Diana Memorial Committee had decided against commissioning a statue.

“One could never have captured her in stone... I think the playfulness and movement of water is probably the best way to capture her rather extraordinary spirit,” she said.

It is expected the fountain will be completed in two years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The design competition was launched in September 2001 and a shortlist was chosen two months later.

The committee ended up deadlocked over the modernist design submitted by Bombay-born British artist Anish Kapoor and the more “restrained” plan by American landscape architect Kathryn Gustafson.

The final decision was taken by Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell, who announced in July 2002 the Gustafson proposal, incorporating a 50 x 80 m ring of water, had been chosen.

The £5.2m monument first opened in July 2004 - £2.2m over budget. It closed within two weeks after three members of the public slipped and injured themselves whilst paddling.

It re-opened in May 2005. The Royal Parks Agency, which manages the fountain, now pays £250,000 a year to maintain the site.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The day moves at a glacier's pace and you may get bored or impatient as you try to figure out what to do next. It's a good day to just let the world do its own thing and focus on personal business.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your passionate nature is making life a new adventure today — for you and for those around you! You may be taking a romantic stand or maybe you're getting more politically involved.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Your emotions are all over the map right now, but that's okay — you don't mind wandering. As long as your closest friends and family don't worry, you should be just fine in the long run.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're too focused on your emotional and spiritual sides to care much about mundane business dealings, so try not to sign anything or get involved in any legal wrangling. Save that for tomorrow.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Beware of plotters within your organization. That's not to say you are in serious danger, just that someone or some small group is trying to make a power play. It may actually be kind of amusing.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Your hackles rise when someone new starts speaking — but try to check your innate skepticism for just a few moments. They've got a good idea buried beneath all the jargon or doublespeak.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Changes are coming — so embrace them before the rest of the crowd gets a clue. If you resist, you're likely to waste a lot of time and energy. This should be positive in the long run.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

People are coming your way — things are great nearby you, and that could mean that you're a hot commodity. Now is a good time to rethink your value and to start to ask for what you're worth.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Try to figure out what's going on — things may be weirder than you realize. It's especially important for you to figure out what's going on down deep in your subconscious. This is a turning point!



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It's important to you that you appear fair, and today offers a challenge. Make sure that you're dealing with people in the right way — and vice versa. Stand up for what you think is right!



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You're slowing down a bit — enough that you may find it easier to just sit back and let the day go by at its own pace. If you can get away with that, so much the better, but sometimes you've got to move.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You are feeling that you're in a bit over your head, but it's all illusory. Even that major threat that seems to be coming your way is nothing more than a creation of your inner doubts.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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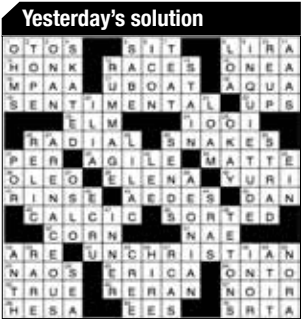
Hard

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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Wings; 5- Steel girder; 10- Rind; 14- Banister; 15- Kama ____; 16- ____ breve; 17- Camp for children; 19- Went through, as the paper; 20- Ox tail?; 21- Santa Fe Trail town; 22- Brawn; 24- Boil; 26- What you do to a joint, prior to a heist; 27- Capital of Utah; 33- Kyoto's country; 36- Fermented grape juices; 37- Howe'er; 38- Banned orchard spray; 39- Rod used to reinforce concrete; 40- Answered a charge; 41- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 42- Later, dude!; 43- Alabama city; 44- Stripper; 47- Comrade in arms; 48- Wide street; 52- Hoi ____; 55- Regal address; 57- Be off; 58- Nautically sheltered; 59- Person who owns a plant nursery; 62- The Tower of Pisa does this; 63- Kett and James; 64- Slippery fish; 65- Shed feathers; 66- Some horses; 67- Political cartoonist Thomas;

DOWN: 1- Upbeat, in music; 2- Diploma word; 3- Anouk of "La Dolce Vita"; 4- "Slippery" tree; 5- Sharon's land; 6- Osso ____; 7- LAX guesstimates; 8- Upper limb; 9- Cartographer; 10- 3.26 light-years; 11- Util. bill; 12- Airline since 1948; 13- Stow, as cargo; 18- Patriot Allen; 23- Manipulates; 25- Russian ruler; 26- The land of promise; 28- Like a professor's jacket; 29- Tripoli's country; 30- ____ never work!; 31- Not us; 32- Weird Al! Yankovic's parody of "Lola; 33- Green stone; 34- "Roots" author Haley; 35- ____ Alto, CA; 39- Easy chair; 40- Dijon dad; 42- Structure for storing grain; 43- Cut off; 45- Aptitude; 46- Fondle; 49- Where Hercules slew the lion; 50- Russian range; 51- Dadaist Max; 52- Inner surface of the hand; 53- Margarine; 54- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 55- Mex. miss; 56- This ____ outrage!; 60- ____-Aztec languages; 61- Hankering;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

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

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HKD 5,833sq ft
Great Location & Investment
Ref: 16065486

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Macau
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HKD 7,030sq ft
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Ref: 14105421

Bauhinia Court
Ocean Gardens, Taipa
2 Bedrooms Apartment
Convenient Location
HKD 9,500 / 1,262 sq ft
Ref: 16060594

Modern Apartment
Central Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Newly Renovated
HKD 11,500 / 820 sq ft
Ref: 16020564

Tou Un
Taipa
Studio Apartment
Fully Furnished
HKD 9,000 / 686 sq ft
Ref: 16050003

Houston Court
Coloane Village
2 Bedroom Apartment
Lovely Roof Terrace
HKD 11,000 / 740 sq ft
Ref: 15110549



EURO 2016 | ROUNDUP

Tiny Iceland's dream competition rolls onto quarterfinals

Mike Corder, Nice

ICELAND has become the darling of the European Championship thanks to its underdog status and an uncompromising 4-4-2 formation that has made the team unbeatable so far in France. Don't expect any changes when the smallest country in the tournament takes on the host nation at the Stade de France on Sunday

[Monday 03:00].

"We didn't have so much problems defending [against] the English, and also in ball possession we created a lot of good chances," the team's co-coach Heimir Hallgrímsson said after his team came back from an early deficit to stun England 2-1 in Nice. "If the players play with the same attitude, we can beat anyone."

In qualification and now in

France, the collection of unheralded Icelandic players has forged into a tight-knit formation that gives away almost no chances and has proved clinical when it has broken out to swiftly turn defense into attack. Two 1-1 draws against Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal and then Hungary followed by a 2-1 defeat of Austria ensured Iceland qualified for the knockout stage in its first appearance at a major tournament.

Then came Monday night's round-of-16 clash with England and another victory that sent the remote island nation of 330,000 people into ecstasy.

"Whoever's not out celebrating is probably trying to get a ticket to France for the next game," Thorir Gudmundsson, a charity worker from Reykjavik, said after the win.

The fever pitch in Iceland is matched by the team's traveling fans in France.

After the game at the Stade de Nice, the Iceland players led thousands of their supporters in a traditional Viking chant called the "Huh!" — repeating the guttural-sounding title over and over in an effort to terrify opponents.

The chant also echoed through the streets of Nice, where fans wandered through the city deep into the night looking for one more beer to celebrate, while many England fans trudged back to their hotels.

"They were amazing, the boys on the pitch were fantastic but the fans were amazing," said Hallgrímsson, a dentist when he

AP PHOTO



An Iceland supporter smiles prior to the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between England and Iceland, at the Allianz Riviera stadium in Nice

Who next for the 'impossible job' as England coach?

WANTED: Someone to turn around the fortunes of soccer's most consistently underperforming international team.

England was beginning its search for a new coach yesterday after Roy Hodgson's departure following the team's latest embarrassing exit from a major tournament, this time at the hands of tiny Iceland at the European Championship.

And there aren't too many obvious candidates for a role often labeled "The Impossible Job."

Gareth Southgate, the coach of England's under-21 team, is an early if underwhelming favorite to succeed Hodgson. There's talk of Sam Allardyce, Alan Pardew and Eddie Howe — all current Premier League managers and all from different parts of the age spectrum.

But the list of genuine contenders is short, considering that being the manager of England is usually the highest-paid coaching role in the international game.

Hodgson's legacy with the national team will be his two major failures at international tournaments — the 2014 World Cup and now Euro 2016 — but also how he brought many young players into the squad. The average age of England's squad was the second youngest at Euro 2016.

The FA will look to have its new man in place well in advance of England's next match, a World Cup qualifier away to Slovakia on Sept. 4. **MDT/AP**

is not coaching his country. "Hopefully in Stade de France we will have more tickets and we can import a lot of Icelanders."

Kari Arnason's pairing with Ragnar Sigurdsson at the heart of Iceland's four-man defense is a key platform for the team and will have to be at its best against the likes of Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann at the Stade de France.

"Me and Ragnar have got such a good cooperation now," Arnason said. "We felt we had it under control the whole game."

And if their opponents do get

past the back four, there is always goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson to stop them.

Halldorsson, a film director when he is not keeping for Iceland or Norwegian club Bodo/Glimt, has saved a tournament-leading 23 shots.

He may well be among Icelanders able to pick up a lucrative new club contract after the team's showing in France.

"Some of these players [...] deserve to get contracts at higher levels than they are playing now," co-coach Lars Lagerbaeck said. **AP**

LATEST RESULTS

| | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Switzerland | 1 (4) | 1 (5) | Poland |
| Wales | 1 | 0 | N. Ireland |
| Croatia | 0 | 1 | Portugal |
| France | 2 | 1 | Ireland |
| Germany | 3 | 0 | Slovakia |
| Hungary | 0 | 4 | Belgium |
| Italy | 2 | 0 | Spain |
| England | 1 | 2 | Iceland |

AP PHOTO



Spain's Gerard Pique (front left)

Time to rebuild for Spain after another early elimination

AT least Spain leaves the European Championship knowing exactly what it needs to do. Rebuild a team that's beginning to look frayed at the edges.

After two consecutive European Championship titles in 2008 and 2012 and an intervening World Cup, Spain was dumped out of Euro 2016 at the round of 16-stage by a resilient and well-drilled Italy.

The 2-0 score-line did not in any way flatter the Italians, who pressed from the get-go and denied the Spaniards the opportunity to impose their passing dominance on the game.

It's the second straight major tourna-

ment that Spain has failed to reach its previous heights. At the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, La Roja failed to even get out of its group in what ranks as one of the least impressive title defenses.

The latest failure clearly highlights Spain's need to replace a successful — but aging — generation of players. For starters, Sergio Ramos, Andres Iniesta and David Silva are all more than 30 years of age.

"We are not favorites anymore," Spain defender Gerard Pique said. "We are a team that can win matches, because of our name and our past, but we are not the best team. We showed against Italy, and also against Croatia [in the group

stage], that we are a team with very good players but we are not in position to win tournaments right now."

The 29-year-old Pique, who was an integral part of the teams that won the 2010 World Cup as well as Euro 2012, said Spain must have a big rethink.

"It's not only about the level of the players," he said. "The style of game, even though we want to keep playing the same way, has not been effective. It's a little bit of everything. We all need to reflect about our style and our level to try to qualify [for the World Cup] in these next two years. If we really want to win major tournaments again we will have to reach another level." **MDT/AP**

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

EURO 2016 | PREVIEW

Fathoming France's true level is a difficult task

FATHOMING the true ability of tournament host France at the European Championship is difficult because the team is something of a paradox.

The defense has been heavily criticized yet it has conceded only two goals and none from open play. Germany, with four clean sheets, is the only other side yet to concede from open play. While France never scores in the first half, it always steps up after the break and has a winning team's aura with its knack for late goals.

"We do have a team capable of winning the tournament, but it's not going to come just like that by clicking our fingers," said forward Antoine Griezmann, highlighting the danger of complacency. "The way we start games is bad, even very bad."

An 89th-minute winner from Dimitri Payet secured a 2-1 win against Romania and Griezmann's 90th-minute goal helped seal a scrappy 2-0 win against Albania, with Payet adding the second in injury time.

Last weekend, Griezmann's two second-half goals rescued France as it rallied to beat Ireland 2-1, avoiding embarrassing early elimination in the last 16.

"None of our first half [performances] have been good," Griezmann said. "But with regards to [the Ireland game] it's not possible to do worse."

France coach Didier Deschamps will demand a stronger start against Iceland in the quarterfinal on Sunday, but home fans may take comfort in the fact that successful France teams did it the hard way.

When France won the Euro in 1984, Michel Platini's winner at the end of extra time helped beat Portugal 3-2 in the semifinal.

Although France crushed Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 World Cup



France's Antoine Griezmann (left) celebrates with his teammate Olivier Giroud after scoring his side's first goal, during the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between France and Ireland

final, the route to it was laborious.

Les Bleus needed a Golden Goal winner late in extra time to beat Paraguay in the last 16, scraped past Italy on penalty kicks in the quarters and needed two second-half strikes from right back Lilian Thuram - his only goals in 142 international games - to seal a comeback 2-1 win against Croatia in the semis.

At Euro 2000, Zinedine Zidane's penalty with three minutes left in extra time downed Portugal in the semis. Forward Sylvain Wiltord equalized with the

last kick of injury time in the final against Italy, setting the platform for David Trezeguet's Golden Goal winner.

Not dominant, yet effective.

At this tournament, Deschamps has appeared unsure, experimenting with players and oscillating between a 4-3-3 and a 4-2-3-1 formation.

He has two enforced changes to make against Iceland, with center half Adil Rami and midfielder N'Golo Kante suspended.

Kante's energy will be missed against an extremely hard-working, well-drilled Iceland

side, but Deschamps can count on Yohan Cabaye.

Playing in his third major tournament, Cabaye was one of France's best players in the 0-0 draw against Switzerland - with Deschamps resting Kante.

The defensive situation, however, is worrying.

Nervous-looking Rami is a weak link, and his early slip led to Ireland scoring a penalty in the second minute. Thick-set Rami's lack of pace, allied to a tendency to hesitate and also to get caught out of position, heaps the pressure on center half Laurent Koscielny.

Their partnership was largely untried before Euro 2016 and it shows. But with many defenders out through injury, Deschamps has few options for Sunday.

Lyon's Samuel Umtiti has no international experience, while Manchester City's Eliaquim Mangala has seven international caps, and did not play in any pre-tournament friendlies.

Deschamps may also re-focus his attack by moving Griezmann from the right flank into a more central position alongside striker Olivier Giroud.

France looked better against Ireland when they linked up in the second half, with Giroud setting up Griezmann's second goal with a headed layoff and then putting him clean through late on.

"I was closer to the penalty area, where the danger is," said Griezmann, whose plays centrally for Spanish side Atletico Madrid. **AP**

QUARTERFINAL MATCHES Oddschecker.com

| | | | | |
|-----|------|---------|----------|-----------------------|
| Fri | 3:00 | Poland | Portugal | H 4.05, D 3.08, A 2.3 |
| Sat | 3:00 | Wales | Belgium | H 6, D 3.68, A 1.75 |
| Sun | 3:00 | Germany | Italy | H 2.25, D 3.1, A 4.15 |
| Mon | 3:00 | France | Iceland | H 1.46, D 4.75, A 10 |

Hazard misses training but Belgium coach not concerned

BELGIUM captain Eden Hazard was a noticeable absentee from yesterday's training session as his team prepared for its quarterfinal match against Wales at the European Championship.

Coach Marc Wilmots said that Hazard, who inspired Belgium to its 4-0 victory over Hungary on Sunday [Monday], had a muscle problem.

"Eden felt a slight spasm in the quadriceps at half-time against Hungary," Wilmots said. "He is now

following an individual program [...] and will be back again the day after tomorrow. He will be 100 percent, no problem."

Defender Thomas Vermaelen was also absent but he is suspended for Friday's match.

After a slow start to the tournament, Belgium is finally living up to its favorites tag. The manner in which it swept aside Hungary in the round of 16 has put the team firmly back to the top of the list of contenders.

Belgium reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup two years ago, losing to Argentina, and is keen to go even further in this tournament.

"I don't want to belong to any category, we simply play each match to win it," Wilmots said. "We've had two quarterfinals in four years, that's already not bad. And now we have just one obsession, to reach the final."

"But between what you want and what you dream [...] We've seen in the past

few days that there is no easy match. Will France beat Iceland? I'm not so sure. You have to be wary of everyone."

First up for Belgium is Wales and star forward Gareth Bale, who has scored three goals in the tournament.

"He has a free role, we will have to play compact," Wilmots said. "But it's not just one player we have to worry about. Everyone knows his role well and his growth in power."



Belgium's Eden Hazard (left) walks off the pitch with his coach, Marc Wilmots, at half-time during the Euro 2016 soccer match between Hungary and Belgium

Against Hungary, Belgium missed several chances before scoring a late flurry of goals. Wilmots made it clear that his players "need to be more clinical, so they can

be at ease quicker."

Belgium's forwards have lightning pace, but Wilmots insists his side will not sit back and wait to hit Wales on the counter-attack. **MDT/AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE JOYS OF TRAIN TRAVEL

I like trains and recommend them as a great way to travel!

I recently took a train from Seattle to Chicago, travelling over the Rocky Mountains and across the rest of Washington State, then Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and finishing in Illinois, a total of 44 hours on the train. I was told that these are some of the “flyover states”, so-called by Americans that live on the East and West coasts but I found them interesting. I had a good time, and the trip was well worth it. Seattle and Chicago are also both well worth a visit.

The sleeper cabin ticket initially seemed quite expensive, but became good value when you factored in that two days of (surprisingly good) meals and a reasonable place to sleep for two nights were included. The scenery through the Rockies was amazing and across the plains was also quite interesting. The train staff were also very friendly and attentive. At meals and other times I had several very interesting conversations with other passengers (mostly older Americans, but a few younger people from other places), and they had volunteers from the US “Trains & Trails” organization to explain the history and other aspects of the countryside we were passing through. I also had plenty of time to relax, read and stare out the window – which I very happily did for several hours.

Being Australian, I was very surprised by the amount of water and large navigable rivers with tugs and barges. We passed through many towns that mostly looked very manicured and prosperous and through a lot of countryside that was also clearly very productive. I should have expected it from my experiences with Europe, but I was surprised to see many very large modern factories in relatively small towns. Also, interestingly, I only saw a few large wind electricity generators, and very, very few photovoltaic panels. All in all, it was an excellent way to spend a relaxing few days and get a good feel for the American “heartland”, although maybe not a trip to take young children on.

Previously I have taken much shorter high speed train trips in Japan (Tokyo-Hiroshima), Italy (Florence-Venice), France (Nantes-Paris) and the UK (Paris-London) and I think that they are the best way to travel for trips up to 1,000km. For this length of trip, cars are too slow. Planes are also no faster, once you factor in the time taken to get to and from airports and the need for a long check-in time before flights. Trains are city-center to city-center and in my experience you only need to check-in 10+ minutes before departure.

I very much like these high speed trains for their comfort and convenience and because you can get real work done while travelling – the seats are big and you have tables to sit a laptop computer on and there is wifi and electricity to keep devices charged.

They have been talking about building a high speed train line between Melbourne and Sydney in Australia for 50+ years but it still has not happened! They say it is too expensive, but I say that this is rubbish once you factor in the development in towns at intermediate stations and productivity improvements that the train would enable.

In 1993 I also spent 12 very unpleasant hours in a slow, dilapidated train travelling from Ho Chi Min City to Na Trang in Vietnam. It is not an experience I would recommend, but at the time travellers were actively discouraged from taking internal plane flights in Vietnam because the airplanes were very old and very poorly maintained. Also, the train trip was actually much better than the subsequent 20 hour bus trip back to Ho Chi Min City.

THE WRECKAGE OF LOST THAI AIR FORCE
BUZZ HELICOPTER FOUND WITH 3 DEAD

Searchers in Thailand have found the wreckage of an air force helicopter missing since Saturday and the bodies of the three crewmen who were on board.

Air Chief Marshal Suttipong Inseeyong said the wreckage was found yesterday by searchers on a mountainside in a national park straddling the eastern provinces of Rayong and Chanthaburi.

The Bell UH-1helicopter was on a mission to supply a radar station near where the wreckage was found. The cause of the crash has not been determined.

Rainy weather in the heavily forested area hindered the search, which involved other helicopters and a drone as well as personnel on the ground.

UN report: Tackle inequality to prevent children from dying

Edith M. Lederer

THE U.N. children’s agency warned that 69 million youngsters under the age of five will die from preventable causes between now and 2030 if all countries don’t accelerate action to improve health and education for the most disadvantaged.

UNICEF said in its annual report that based on recent trends and projected population growth, 167 million children will also live in extreme poverty, 60 million won’t be attending primary school, and 750 million women will have been married as children by 2030 unless inequality is tackled now.

UNICEF’s Deputy Executive Director Justin Forsyth said at the report’s launch that the agency is “broadcasting our message into a world that is more hostile,” especially to migrants and refugees, including millions of children.

Many are fleeing because of poverty and inequality, he said, and these root causes must be addressed “if you’re going to stop some of these forces overwhelming particular countries and polarizing the political debate.”

“Our job in UNICEF is to



be there on the ground and helping children survive,” Forsyth said, but the agency also needs to ensure that there is “a factually fueled debate about these tough issues of our times,” and the message gets out that focusing on the most disadvantaged is crucial.

UNICEF Program Director Ted Chaiban said in addition to youngsters fleeing poverty and inequality, there are also more children living in conflict areas – 250 million, and 30 million are displaced.

Inequality exists in every country, he said, and globally children in the poorest 20 percent of the population are twice as likely

to die before age five than children in the richest 20 percent.

Chaiban said “80 percent of preventable deaths now occur in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, with almost half occurring in India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Congo and Ethiopia.”

UNICEF called on all 193 U.N. member states to develop national plans that put the most disadvantaged and left behind children first and set specific goals to close gaps between the richest and poorest.

Forsyth said up to 147 million children between one- and five-years-old could be saved from preventable death “just with a 2 percent increase in expenditure in 74 countries.”

UNICEF also has evidence that every dollar spent on vaccinations for the most disadvantaged children “can generate \$16 dollars in terms of economic returns,” he said.

According to “The State of the World’s Children Report 2016,” cash transfers have helped children stay in school longer – and on average, each additional year of education a child receives increases his or her adult earnings by about 10 percent. AP

| Station | Air quality | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Roadside | 10-30 Good | |
| High Density Residential Area | 20-40 Good | |
| Ambient | 20-40 Good | |

SOURCE: D5MSG

WORLD BRIEFS



UK Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn lost a no-confidence vote, deepening the crisis that’s enveloped Britain’s main opposition party in the wake of the Brexit referendum. Labour lawmakers backed the no-confidence motion by 172 votes to 40. Corbyn responded by pledging to carry on as leader, despite the resignation of more than 50 of his team in the past three days. The vote is advisory rather than binding.



SWITZERLAND Nestle has selected health care executive Ulf Mark Schneider as its new CEO, the first chief executive brought in from outside the company since 1922 as the food and drinks giant seeks to evolve into a nutrition, health and wellness business.

SYRIAN rebels aided by U.S.-led airstrikes launched an offensive against an Islamic State stronghold near the Iraqi border yesterday, hoping to sever one of the extremists’ main transit links between the two countries, a rebel spokesman said.

SOUTH SUDAN A new rebel group has formed against the government months after a peace deal was signed with another rebel group to end a deadly civil war. The new group led by veteran politician Ali Tamim Fartak has fought with government troops in the remote Wau region, leading to the reported deaths of about 39 civilians and four police.



USA Volkswagen AG has agreed to spend more than USD15 billion to get hundreds of thousands of emissions-cheating diesel vehicles off U.S. roads and placate regulators, in settlements that set a U.S. auto-industry record but still leave VW facing criminal and civil complaints on three continents.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Mao Siqian



An attendant waits for passengers at Futian Station of newly-opened subway line 11 which directly links Shenzhen Airport with Futian station on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.