

## FAMILY HOSTELS UNDER PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Government Tourism Office is seeking to know if locals still support the idea of setting up family hostels in town



FM HANDS OUT MOP211.5M The Macao Foundation revealed the financial support it provided to individuals and institutions during the second quarter



SENDS HK JOURNALISTS TO PRISON



## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** Shares plunged yesterday, with a gauge of smaller companies sinking 5.5 percent, as people familiar with the matter said the China Banking **Regulatory Commission** is discussing stricter curbs on wealth-management products. The market's exaggerated response shows what's at stake for China's watchdogs as they attempt to reduce risk in the financial system while avoiding going too far and provoking another crash. More on p11



**PHILIPPINES** The top U.S. diplomat shared a working lunch yesterday with the new Philippine president, who has criticized U.S. security policies and publicly made friendly overtures to China. President **Rodrigo Duterte and** U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry discussed a range of issues, including the South China Sea disputes, battling terrorism and personal interests like motorcycles and

# CECUTE ASSEMBLY CHUISALON



#### hunting.

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SYRIA A twin bombing struck a crowd in a predominantly Kurdish town in northern Syria yesterday, killing 44 people and wounding dozens more. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attack. More on p15



## Pioneering singer Elvis Costello to play solo concert in Macau ...



## Correctional Service Bureau director to leave post

Lee Kam Cheong, director of the Correctional Services Bureau, will step down from his position on July 31, the Office of the Secretary for Security announced in a statement yesterday. Lee began working for the public service in 1995, and has been the director of Macao Prison since January of 2000. He was appointed as director of the Correctional Services Bureau on January 1 of this year, when the department was established. After leaving, Lee will continue to work in the correctional services department. His post will be temporarily occupied by the Deputy Director of the department, Loi Kam Wan.

## Survey on public service satisfaction ongoing

The University of Macau yesterday started conducting a survey on the quality of the Macau government's public service, according to a statement released by the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP). The survey will collect feedback from Macau residents about their opinions on the topic, as well as asking for the reasons for these evaluations. Every day from yesterday until September 6, interviewers carrying a valid working certification will visit homes to conduct the research with a questionnaire; 3,000 homes will be visited in total. The government will use the information collected when establishing future policies.

## Animal protection law to take effect in September

The city's first animal protection law was published this week at the Official Gazette. The law will come into force on September 1. Animal cruelty, animal abandonment, in addition to other animal-related offences, are listed as prohibited. The law also regulates issues concerning animal management, such as vaccinations. Matters pertaining to animal licensing are also detailed in the articles, including licenses for racing animals. According to the law, any parties who have the intention to cause animals pain, make them lose important organs, or even to cause their death will be punished with imprisonment for up to one year or fined.

## Public consultation concerning family hostels launched

**THE** Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is kicking off its tracking study today to solicit public opinion and learn about residents' current views regarding the opening of family hostels on the peninsula.

The MGTO said in a statement that arranged personnel will be interviewing residents in different districts in the region in street interviews. Until August 29, the survey will also be conducted through an online questionnaire. The study is only targeting residents who are above 18 years of age and have lived in the city for the past 12 months.

The MGTO already carried out a feasibility study on family hostels in 2014. At that time, the bureau collected a total of 2,243 samples through street surveys and online questionnaires.

Over 60 percent of the surveyed residents supported the idea of family hostels, provided that a range of conditions are met,



Helena de Senna Fernandes

such as the criteria for the development of family hostels, as well as overall planning and effective regulation by the Government.

However, the MGTO concluded that a high proportion of interviewees were not

in favor of family hostel operation in their own community districts, and in general they expressed concerns about public security, hygienic conditions, traffic, housing prices and other issues. As a result, it was concluded that society had not reached a general consensus on the widely discussed topic.

Back in 2014, MGTO director Helena de Senna Fernandes said that the idea of having bed-and-breakfasts in the region had become increasingly popular, which prompted the Office to consider introducing family hostels.

She said that after the 2014 study on the issue, they would then "establish whether it would be appropriate to allow family hostels to become one of the accommodation options in Macau." At that time, the MGTO was studying whether it had the "ability to transform whole buildings, or buildings with a few separate entrances for residents, into family hostels."

## STATISTICS

## Employment stable, newcomers to labor force up

**THE** unemployment rate and the underemployment rate for the April-June period of 2016 remained stable in comparison to the rates in the March-May period, according to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), at 1.9 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

DSEC found that the total labor force stood at 397,800, equating to a labor force participation rate of 72.3 percent. Total employment increased by 1,800 from the March-May period, reaching 390,400, while the number of the unemployed reduced by 200 to 7,400. People new to the labor force and searching for their first job accounted for 9 percent of the total unemployed, up by 3.9 percentage points.

In the second quarter of 2016, the general unemployment rate (1.9 percent) remained unchanged compared to the previous quarter (January-March), while the unemployment rate of local residents (2.6 percent) decreased by 0.1 percentage points.

Total employment increased by 1,400 quarter-toquarter, with those aged 35-44 rising by 1,200. Analyzed by industry, employment in gaming and junket activities (83,600) rose by 3,000, while those in res-

# EUAP-M holds annual study trip to Europe

**THE** European Union Academic Programme in Macao (EUAP-M) recently organized an annual study trip to Europe for a group of 20 university students and faculty members. The trip, which was mostly attended by students from the University

of Macau (UM), was an opportunity for students to learn about the culture of Belgium and Ireland and to acquaint themselves with the European Union's main functions and institutions.

According to UM's press release, the highlights of the trip included meetings in Brussels, one with a representative of the European Commission on the role, functions and legislative process of the EU, and the other with officials of the

European External Action Service on its role and functions as well as EU-China and EU-Macau relations.

In addition to a visit to the Macau Economic and Trade Office to the EU, the delegation also visited the "Parlamentarium" (the European Parliament's visitors' centre), where students were informed how decisions are made between the European Council and the European Parliament. Students discussed the possible impact of Brexit on the EU, Ireland, and Sino-European relations with the professors of the Trinity College in



Dublin, when they attended a master class on the EU-Ireland relations in the oldest university in Ireland. They also went to the College's library, where the Book of Kells, a world-famous medieval manuscript, is housed.

Moreover the group took a trip to Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and met with researchers from the Institute of International and European Affairs in Dublin.

The statement also mentioned that the students participated in a workshop at the Free University of Brussels titled "EU-China Research and Teaching Cooperation," which

was co-organized by the Institute for European Studies, ULB, and the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM).

Established in 2012, the EUAP-M is a partnership between UM and IEEM, co-financed by the EU. It aims to help the general public in the region, particularly students at all levels, to understand more about the EU. taurants and similar activities (26,200) dropped by 1,500.

Median monthly employment earnings held stable as in the previous quarter, at MOP15,000 in the second quarter. Those employed in the gaming and junket activities and construction sectors earned an average of MOP19,000 and MOP15,000 respectively. Moreover, median earnings of employed residents remained unchanged from the previous quarter, at MOP18,000.

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## CHUI SAI ON AT THE AL

# **CE urges youth to be more proactive**

**Paulo Barbosa** 

**HE** Chief Executive yesterday called on the local youth to be "more committed" to investing in their education in order to find good jobs. Given the conditions offered to them in Macau, "where university education, up to a certain degree, can be free," Chui Sai On revealed that he finds it strange that "some local youth don't like people that come from outside to work here." He pointed out "all developed cities hire foreign executives."

Most of the questions put to Chui were uncontroversial and the CE avoided answering tough queries

Chui was at the Legislative Assembly plenary meeting yesterday to answer lawmakers' questions on government policy. During a three-hour Q&A session, he mentioned several times that the government is acting "according to the law." Often he looked to his notes, a likely indication that he was reading pre-drafted responses. Most of the questions put to the CE were uncontroversial and Chui avoided answering tough queries (such as one about the University of Jinan donation made by Ng Kuok Cheong, stating only that "all was done according to the procedures") and spent a lot of time discussing issues that may seem secondary to many observers, like ways to promote competitive sport in Macau.



Chui Sai On pictured yesterday at the AL

tion as the third candidate on Chan's card. Song said that "the central issues of governance, like health, housing and food supply, remain to be solved" and that the residents have "stopped trusting the government's actions."

More mildly, Chan Meng Kam, who is the leader of the Fujian community in Macau, pointed out that the public administration is more bureaucratic than before and that the licensing process takes longer to be approved.

Chui Sai On had a different opinion, stating that the government has been improving the efficiency of its administrative procedures. However, he admitted that more interdepartmental coordination is needed.

"There are problems and we are trying to fix them. However, the government must safeguard safety and legality," he said. of major events, like the upcoming film festival and the wushu international meeting, are appropriate given the current financial situation of the MSAR.

Chui assured the audience that the organization of those events would not impact the government's social welfare policies. He said that assessments of the benefits brought by those events would be made in due time.

The CE admitted that the local economy is "under profound adjustment," but showed optimism, saving that the public revenue is within the expected range and financial growth is expected to continue. "The gaming sector continues to be important. Macau gaming revenue is still the biggest in the world. [...] We hope to create more interaction between gaming and non-gaming elements and to create job opportunities for residents, particularly for managerial jobs." Kwan Tsui Hang returned the discussion to what seems to be her favorite topic, accusing the influx of non-resident workers of causing "a lack of space for residents to find jobs." Chui Sai On reiterated that "priority work to residents has been one of the key government policies," adding that the executive is now focused on "avoiding the import of non-resident workers to managerial posts."

The CE was also questioned about the Land Law by several lawmakers. Zheng Anting said that the implementation of the law is threatening investments and wanted to know "what circumstances are non-imputable to the [land] concessionaires." Chui responded that whenever the land is not being used within the timeframe established in the contract, the government can claim the land back and the concessio-

## CE PRESSURED ON 'LAND LAW INTERPRETATION'

**THE CHIEF** Executive's Office has received a letter signed by some members of the legal sector – commenting on the current Land Law and a proposal by lawmaker Gabriel Tong for an interpretation of the law. The letter has collected a total of 88 signatures, some of them from lawyers. According to a Government Information Bureau statement issued yesterday, "at this stage, the government has no plans to propose further amendments to the Land Law. The government has always closely adhered - since their respective enactment - to the Land Law, the Cultural Heritage Law and

There were some critics among the participants, like Chan Meng Kam, the winner of the 2013 AL election, and Song Pek Kei, who was surprisingly elected at that elec-

Regarding economic diversification, another recurrent topic, lawmaker Cheung Lup Kwan inquired if the expenses related to the organization naire can request the extension of the contract.

Chui seemed to relate the new Land Law and the works on the new reclamation Zone A (where 28,000 public housing units will be provided) to the availability of land. "The works in Zone A are the Urban Planning Law, in relation to planning and development matters."

advanced in spite of the problem with sand supply. [...] In the past there was a huge land shortage. Without land, where can we build anything? But now we have a reserve of land plots and the public housing policy will be implemented," he said.

However, this land supply doesn't come without a price. During yesterday's debate, the CE revealed that the public administration 'owes' private interests an area of around 89,000 square meters because of land swap deals.

## 200 translators needed for the 'platform'

**POINTING** out that Beijing has given Macau the role of facilitating communication between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Chan Chi Keong wanted to know the CE's assessment of the steps being taken to achieve that goal.

"We have a solid foundation. Our role

as a platform has been recognized by the participating countries. Since 2013, three ministerial forums were held in Macau and we strengthened cooperation in different areas," said the CE. Chui added that cooperation will be strengthened through events like the ministerial conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries that will take place in October. He also hinted that in order to organize the event and help fulfill the communicative role asked of Macau by the Central Government, 200 more translators are needed.

## Taipa Houses-Museum to be renovated



The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will be carrying out renovation and conservation works at the Taipa Houses-Museum from today. According to the bureau, the works will include the partial digging of the ground surrounding the houses in order to place electrical wires and install lighting equipment, so as to improve the outdoor lighting system. The renovation will also include the conservation of the façades of the Macanese House, the House of the Islands and the House of the Portugal Regions. The works will not affect the Taipa Houses-Museum and it will remain open to the public. The project is estimated to be completed by September.

## Jinan Uni donation not listed in **Macao Foundation Q2 report**

## **Daniel Beitler**

THE Macao Foundation (FM) L has published in the Official Gazette a list of the financial support it provided to individuals and institutions during the second quarter of 2016. The publically available data was provided by the FM on July 21, but does not include any of the payments relating to the controversial Jinan University donation, despite the fact that the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) found them "legal" last month.

During the second quarter, the total amount distributed to various beneficiaries slightly exceeded MOP211.5 million, down from the MOP300 million donated in the first quarter of the year. The two largest beneficiaries of the foundation in this period were the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association and the City University of Macau, according to the report. The organizations were collectively granted MOP74.5 million.

The Kiang Wu Hospital received MOP38.5 million for the acquisition of medical and com-



puter equipment and the refurbishment of the facility.

The City University of Macau, the second largest beneficiary on the list, was awarded MOP36 million by the foundation for a total of 25 items relating to "financial support to fund studies, academic publications, teaching activities, equipment and grants to students of the university, [all] for the academic year 2015/2016."

Other significant bodies and associations that received substantial sums from the Macao Foundation were the Women's General Association of Macau (MOP12 million), the Macau University of Science and Technology (MOP11 million), the United Association of Food and Beverage Merchants of Macao (MOP10 million), Caritas Macau (5.25 million), House of Portugal in Macau (5 million) and the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (4.1 million).

A notable absence from the published list of FM beneficiaries is Jinan University, to which a RMB100 million (MOP120 million) donation has been promised. Early reports suggested that the first payment of RMB50 million is due at some unspecified point this year for the construction of a media studies center.

The donation came under fire earlier this year after it was alleged that the agreement had

been compromised as a result of a conflict of interest by the Chief Executive Chui Sai On, who serves as both the president of the Board of Trustees of the Macao Foundation as well as a vice chairman of the Jinan University Council. However, the matter was cleared after a brief CCAC investigation in late-June, which found the donation not to be in breach of the law.

If the RMB50 million (MOP60 million) were included in the report for this quarter, it would easily outstrip the sums donated to the next two largest beneficiaries, Kiang Wu Hospital (MOP38.5 million) and the City University of Macau (MOP36 million). The donation is also considered to be the single largest donation to Jinan University since its reopening in 1978.

During the second quarter of 2016, the Macao Foundation separately organized a MOP80,000 donation to the Jinan University Alumni Association, as the final installment of ongoing financial assistance to "support the expenses of drafting a 2015 business plan."

Additionally, the Association of Students of the Faculty of Life Sciences and Technology, Jinan University of Macau received MOP30,000 during the quarter, to "partially cover the expenses of drafting a 2016 business plan.'



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# Elvis Costello to perform solo concert in town

THE Macao Cultural Centre **L** (CCM) is set to present the renowned singer-songwriter Elvis Costello in a concert at the Centre's Grand Auditorium on September 9.

Costello will perform a combination of his best songs and new hits with the backing of piano and guitars, CCM revealed yesterday.

Inspired by a myriad of different genres, Costello, also a record producer, has recently stepped into the classical and jazz music sphere with collaborations with the Brodsky Quartet, the Mingus Orchestra and Swedish mezzo-soprano Anne Sofie von Otter.

The English musician has also partnered with music giants, from Paul McCartney and Tony Bennett, to trumpet legend Chet Baker and country music icon Johnny Cash.

Costello is widely known for his interpretation of "She" on the soundtrack to the movie "Notting Hill", almost two decades ago in 1999. Costello shot to stardom two decades earlier, thrust by the thrill of new wave and punk movements.



**Elvis Costello** 

After he recorded his critically acclaimed debut album "My Aim Is True" in 1977, the singer formed "The Attractions" as his backing band.

His second album, "This Year's Model," was released in 1978, and was ranked number 11 by Rolling Stone on its list of the best albums from 1967–1987.

By 1979, he had released his third album "Armed Forces", which featured his most successful song, "Oliver's Army." As a result, his first three albums all appeared on the Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Al-

Costello's first three albums all appeared on the Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time

bums of All Time.

The English icon, who is set to hit the stage in Macau with his 90-minute solo concert, has won several prestigious awards in his career, from the Grammys to the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. He has been nominated for the Brit Award for Best British Male Singer and, in 2003, Costello and the Attractions were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Costello was also featured in the magazine Rolling Stone, which named him one of the 100 greatest artists of all time in 2004.

## DSI self-service kiosks launch new services

**THE** Identification Servi-L ces Bureau (DSI) has expanded the utility of its integrated self-service kiosks by adding options for "Contact Information Modification" and "Enrollment for using the HK e-Channel."

In addition to the existing functions at the DSI self-service kiosks, local residents can now modify their address and contact number information and also enroll in advance to use the Automated Passenger Clearance System (e-Channel) in Hong Kong via the kiosks.

DSI said in a statement vesterday that the process of modifying contact information is simple, as electronic MSAR Resident Identity Card holders who are aged 18 or above are only required to insert their electronic identity card into the kiosks and verify their fingerprints. Users can then access and modify their current address and contact number information at the kiosks.

Applicants can also lodge an application to modify their contact information in person at the DSI or through the "DSI Service Station" mobile application.

In addition, permanent residents who are aged 18 or above can voluntarily enroll in advance to use the Hong Kong e-Channel. Upon successful enrollment, they will be able to enter and exit Hong Kong using their valid electronic Permanent Resident Identity Card.

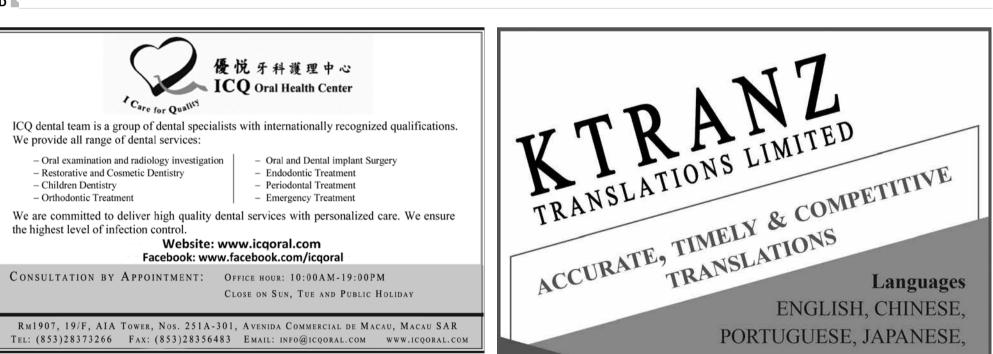
Currently, integrated selfservice kiosks have been installed in 36 locations throughout the region. The kiosks provide 20 different services from eight government departments.



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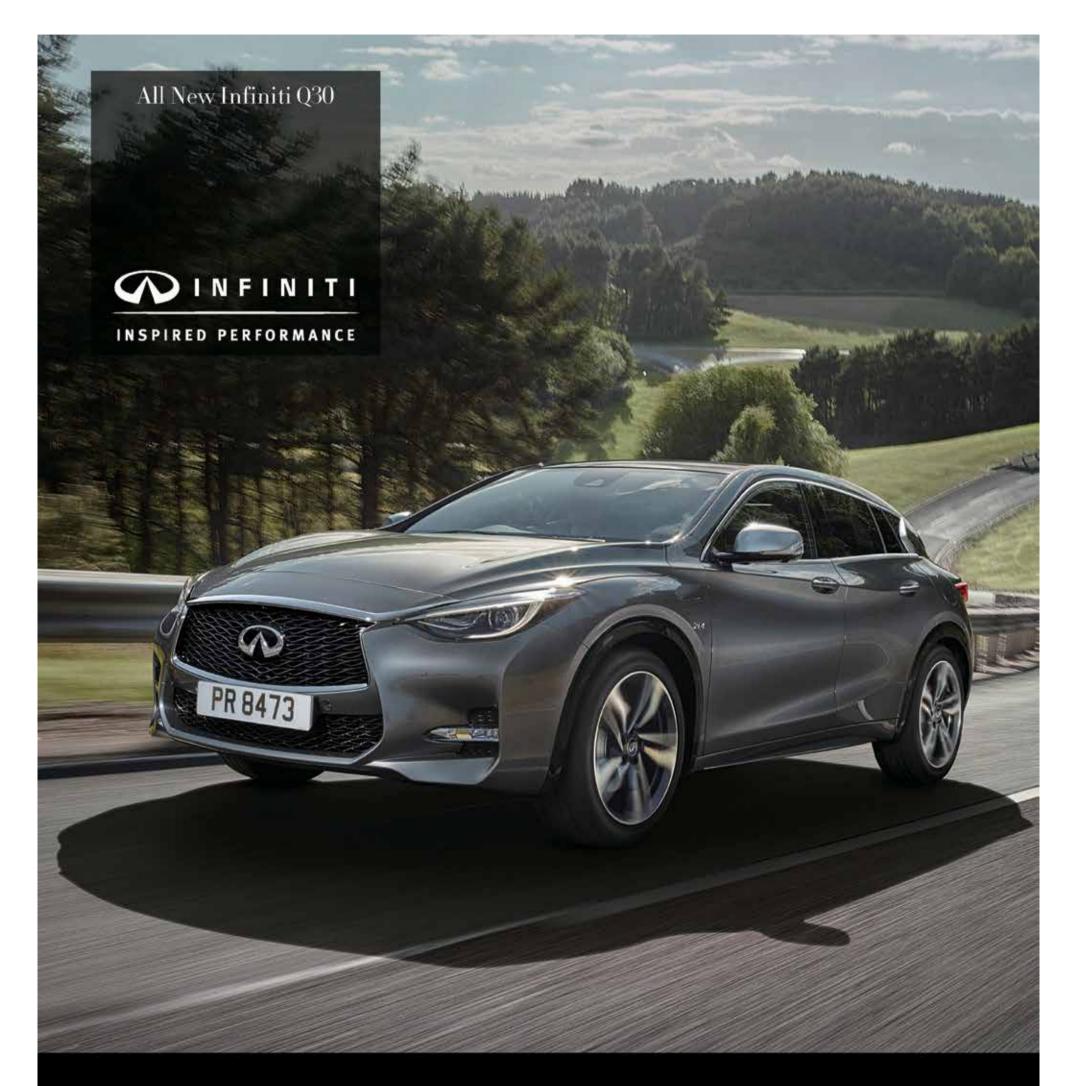
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## BUSINESS

# Boeing wins USD4.13b aircraft orders from **Asian carriers**

#### **Kyunghee Park**

Co. OEING picked up USD4.13 billion of orders from Asian carriers, underscoring growing demand in the region even after the aviation industry's biggest annual show at Farnborough earlier this month racked up the lowest tally in six years.

Malaysia Airlines Bhd. bought 25 737 Max 8 planes at a list price of \$2.75 billion and took options for a similar number in a combined deal valued at \$5.5 billion. China Southern Airlines Co., Asia's biggest by number of passengers, said unit Xiamen Airlines will buy six 787-9 Dreamliners at \$230 million apiece.

The orders came on the back of about \$34 billion of contracts Asian customers signed at this year's Farnborough Air Show. Spurred by demand for new routes and extra frequencies, Asian carriers are expanding their fleets while the emergence of budget carriers have made air travel more affordable. In China and India, traffic expanded at double-digit rates in 2015, according to data provided by the Inter-



Crewman tow in a Boeing Co. Max 737 jet after landing at King County International Airport in Seattle, U.S., on January 29, 2016

national Air Transport battling a slew of regio-Association.

Malaysia Air Chief Executive Officer Peter Bellew told reporters vesterday that he sees new growth markets in China, India and Pakistan as he seeks to steer the airline toward profitability amid a 6 billionringgit (\$1.5 billion) turnaround plan.

The new planes may help cut Malaysia Air's operating expenditure by about 15 percent, Bellew said. After passenger confidence took a dive two years ago after Flight MH370 vanished on March 8, 2014 and another was shot down over Ukraine four months later, the carrier is

nal discount airlines to win back business.

The carrier has options to buy a mix of 737 Max 8 and 9 models, which, according to Boeing, have a list price of \$110 million and \$116.6 million each. Discounts are customary for large purchases.

This month, Boeing raised its long-term forecast for aircraft orders, saying the rise of discount carriers and growth in developing countries will fuel purchases despite recent economic turmoil from Brexit and a commodities slump. Airlines worldwide will order new planes valued at \$5.9 trillion over the next

two decades, it said July 11, up 4.1 percent from a year earlier. That would represent a total of 39,620 jetliners across the industry.

At the Farnborough show, deals for about 400 jets were worth \$50 billion, less than half the value of the contracts unveiled at last year's marquee event in Paris. The orders were propped up by Asian operators, while major American, European and Gulf carriers were mostly absent. Xiamen Air's latest deal comes after it agreed to buy 30 737 Max 200s worth \$3.39 billion at list price during the Farnborough Air Show. Bloomberg

## Nintendo sinks into loss despite 'Pokemon Go' global success

#### Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

**JAPANESE** video game maker Nintendo Co. sagged into a loss of 24.53 billion yen (USD232 million) for the fiscal first quarter through June, despite the global success of the "Pokemon Go" augmented reality game.

The result yesterday was worse than the 673 million yen (\$6.4 million) profit forecast by analysts surveyed by FactSet. The manufacturer of Super Mario games and the Wii U console had an 8.3 billion yen profit the same quarter a year ago.

The Kyoto-based company's quarterly sales fell 31 percent to 61.97 billion yen (\$586 million).

Nintendo has warned the "Pokemon Go" perk will be limited. The Pokemon Co., a Nintendo affiliate, will get licensing fees and other compensation for the mobile game distributed by Niantic Inc., but that won't have much impact on Nintendo income, according to a company statement last week.

In one disappointment for "Pokemon Go" fans, Nintendo and Pokemon said yesterday that the release of "Pokemon Go Plus" is being delayed by two months until September. "Pokemon Go Plus" is a device that can be used when playing "Pokemon Go," which lets players know when Pokemon are around.

The "Pokemon Go" game became available after the first quarter ended, anyway, and to play it basically is all free. But some investors are expecting a boost for Nintendo as the Pokemon craze encourages other types of sales, such as games and other content of not just Pokemon but other Nintendo products.

Nintendo's shares have see-sawed since the game's release earlier this month, as markets flip-flopped between hope and disappointment for the biggest hit in games in years. It closed at 22,305 yen, down 5.5 percent in Tokyo.

Nintendo's earnings have suffered from lagging sales of its game consoles, including the Wii U and the 3DS handheld. The new console it has promised, codenamed NX, hasn't gone on sale yet.

After years of scoffing at the threat from smartphones, Nintendo did an about face last year and entered that sector.

Pokemon Go is definitely the first success it has scored since that decision, and it underlines Nintendo's potential. The game, which has players looking for Pokemon creatures in their real-life wanderings, is a good match for the classic Pokemon story.

Nintendo kept its full year forecast unchanged at a 35 billion yen (\$331 million) profit. AP

#### THE PARISIAN LAUNCHES ITS GRAND OPENING PACKAGE



The Parisian Macao, which is set to officially open on September 13, is currently allowing guests to book and enjoy a special promotional rate as part of its Grand Opening Package.

The Parisian Macao - Grand Opening Package is available from now until January 27, 2017 for stays from September 14 to January 27, 2017, according to a press release by Sands China.

The package rates start from HKD1,398, which includes accommodation for two in a Deluxe King Room; daily breakfast or lunch for two; Eiffel Tower admission tickets for two; and a Parisian Macao limited edition opening souvenir.

According to the statement, guests who book two nights will receive extra benefits including Macau to Hong Kong Cotai Water Jet Class one-way ferry tickets for two, amongst others.

The soon-to-open resort will offer a full array of integrated facilities including approximately 3,000 guestrooms and suites, of which at least onethird of the rooms will have views of the Eiffel Tower.

#### FADO RESTAURANT PRESENTS "SUMMER DUO



#### Pavlova with "Creme brulee" and Cinnamon

The Fado restaurant of the Hotel Royal Macau is offering a "Summer Duo", a sweet pai-

ring of "Pavlova with a special Royal Port & Tonic cocktail." Luís Américo, executive

chef of Fado, has incorporated different ingredients into his four variations on a traditional Pavlova: Egg Cream, Crème Brulee, Serradura and Port Wine Chocolate.

According to the hotel's press release, the "Pavlova with Classic Egg Cream and Roasted Almonds." is a must-try for egg-yolk dessert lovers, as it is an innovative mix-and-match of egg custard and crunchy meringue.

Hotel Royal is also introducing a special cocktail, "Royal Port & Tonic." The cocktail is a combination of white port wine with tonic water, topped up with ice and fresh mint leaves, to perfectly complement the sweetness of the pavlova. The "Summer Duo" is available at the restaurant from now until September 30.

## China is top destination for Angolan exports in Q1



thu 28.07.2016

**CHINA** was the main destination for exports from Angola, mainly oil, in the first quarter of 2016, according to Angolan Finance Ministry figures.

In the first three months of the year, Angolan exports to China totaled USD1.16 billion, or a decrease of 50 percent over the amount recorded in the same period of 2015. China was also the second largest supplier of Angola in the same period. The value of imported products reached \$418 million, an annual contraction of 47 percent.

Meanwhile, Angola's diamond production continued to demonstrate growth.

In June of this year Angola produced and marketed more than 760,000 carats of diamonds, valued at about \$80 million, according to the Ministry of Geology and Mines (MGM).

According to a statement from the Ministry, production increased 2.28 percent and sales increased 5.35 percent compared to May.

The increase in volume was due to the fact that production at the Catoca mine registered a slight increase of 0.82 percent compared to the same period of 2015.

Production at Catoca accounted for 82 percent of the volume by carats and 56 percent by sales value.

The diamonds sold, at an average price of \$150 per carat, were also from the Lulo, Somiluana, Camutué and Luo projects.

From January to March Angolan imports totaled \$2.963 billion, an annual reduction of 41 percent and exports reached \$2.741 billion, 51 percent less year-on-year.

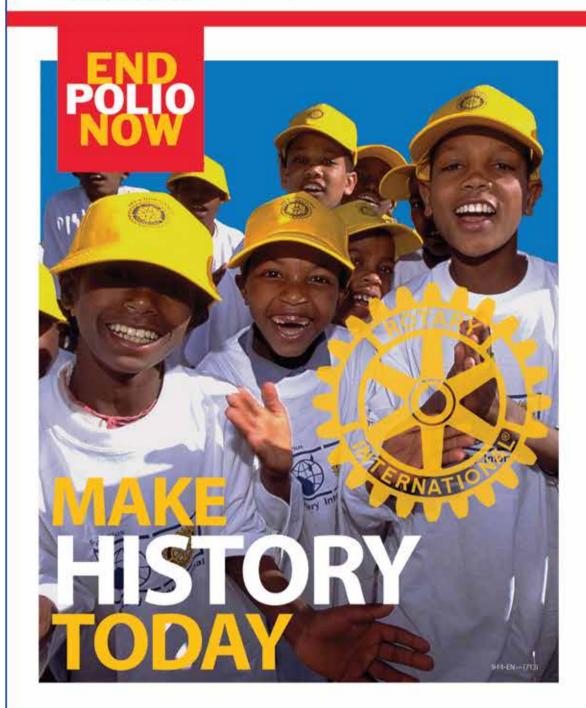
In the first quarter of the year the United States was Angola's main supplier, overtaking China and pushing Portugal into third place, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

In the period US companies exported goods and services to Angola worth \$485 million, mainly turbojets, turbopropellers and other gas turbines purchased by state power production company Prodel. **MDT/Macauhub**  ADVERTORIAL



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中葡論壇



 Since the global polio eradication initiative began more than 25 years ago, Rotary and its partners have reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide.

 There are only three countries where the wild poliovirus has never been stopped: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

 In early 2014, we celebrated one of the world's greatest achievements in global health: India being declared polio-free. India was once considered the hardest place on earth to stop polio. Now, India's success proves polio can be stopped in even the most challenging conditions.

The remaining 1 percent of polio cases are most

## arranges flights to Portugal via S. Africa

Sao Tome and Principe

**SAO** Tome and Principe travel agency JBC Travel and Tours On August 30 is due to start flights between São Tomé and Lisbon, Portugal, via Johannesburg, South Africa, the company's managing director, Bilssen Coelho said this week.

The flights, which will be offered three times a week, Coelho said, will use an Airbus aircraft with a capacity of up to 150 passengers.

In addition to the São Tomé/Johannesburg/Lisbon connection and return flights, "where ticket prices are affordable, especially for tourists," the company plans in a second phase to start flying to Accra (Ghana), Douala (Cameroon) and Lagos (Nigeria).

This project involves travel agency JBC Travel and Tours, a company based in Sao Tome and other foreign companies in direct partnership with the government of Sao Tome and Principe as part of the process of "tourism recovery and opening of the archipelago to the world." **MDT/Macauhub**  difficult to prevent, die to factors such as geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict, and cultural barriers.

 Rotary's chief role is fundraising, advocacy, and mobilizing volunteers. Other partners in the Global Polio Eradication initiative are the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers foraDisease Control and Prevention, UN Foundation, and UNICEF, along with world governments.

• Every dollar Rotary raises (up to \$35 million/year) will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for polio eradication efforts through 2018.

 We can end polio now! Don't miss this moment in history. Learn how you can do your part at endpolio.org.





#### Vijay Joshi, Vientiane

## ANALYSIS

**D**ARING to take on China in a territorial dispute in the South China Sea, the Philippines went to an international tribunal for justice, and won big. But it turned out to be a pyrrhic victory.

Beijing came back with such ferocity and manipulative diplomacy that other Southeast Asian countries that have similar disputes with it are apparently backing down.

One by one, their positions became clear at meetings this week of Asia-Pacific and Southeast Asian nations, a gathering that was supposed to unanimously call out China for a host of actions in the resource-rich South China Sea — building artificial islands and military airstrips, sending warships, staging live-firing exercises and shooing away fishermen from other countries.

And so, the four-day conclave in Vientiane, the Laotian capital, ended Tuesday with China's muscles bulging more than ever, and the vaunted unity of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in disarray.

"Neither China nor ASEAN emerged from the Vientiane meetings with honor," said Ian Storey, a senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, a Singapore-based think tank. "It's a sad state of affairs when expectations of ASEAN being able to do anything to lower tensions in the South China Sea are zero, and instead the focus is on whether it can get its act together."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. sought to put a positive spin on the developments.

"Whether or not you will say that this is a triumph of China or a triumph of the Philippines, or a defeat of China or a defeat of the Philippines, the fact is clear," he told reporters in Manila yesterday. "This is a victory for ASEAN for upholding the very principles of international law and [...] more importantly, pursuing our negotiations in the dispute in a peaceful manner."

"Be that as it may, the actual resolution of this dispute be-

## Beijing emerges more muscular after ASEAN meetings



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, attends the 23rd ASEAN regional retreat meeting in Vientiane

the Philippines," he said, reflecting a position that suits China perfectly.

The first coup de grace China dealt was at an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, where it successfully prevented a joint communique from mentioning the July 12 ruling by the Hague-based arbitration panel in favor of the Philippines. While the communique did express concerns about the tensions in the South China Sea, it did so without naming China.

A millstone around the neck of ASEAN — Southeast Asia's main grouping — is that it can issue statements only when there is consensus among all 10 members. China leveraged that by ensuring that Cambodia and Laos would not provide that consensus. Both countries receive massive aid from China, which recently announced a USD600 million package to Cambodia.

"As an association, ASEAN loses power and relevance when it punts on the most important regional issues," said John Ciorciari, a Southeast Asia expert at the University of Michigan. "Yet

ASEAN operates by consensus, and when push comes to shove, national interests tend to trump regional solidarity."

"Aid has won China some close friends in Southeast Asia, and Cambodia in particular has been quite willing to cast vetoes on communique language inimical to Chinese interests," he said.

China does not accept the arbitration panel's ruling, and says all disputes should be settled bilaterally through negotiations. It did not participate in the panel's hearings, and insists that almost all of the South China Sea, which is ringed by claimants China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan, belongs to it historically.

It also accuses outside parties — the United States, Japan and Australia — of needling ASEAN countries and raising tensions. After ASEAN's failure to rebuke China, those three countries issued a joint statement in Vientiane saying they strongly oppose "any coercive unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions." Wang Yi saying in a statement that the three countries were "fanning the flames" of regional tension.

"Now it is the time to test whether you are peacekeepers or troublemakers," he said.

Diplomats who attended the Laos meetings said it was interesting to see that claimant countries appeared less enthusiastic than others in wanting to rebuke China. Even the Philippines was not too forceful in asking for strong language in the joint ASEAN statement. It repeatedly pointed out that the ruling by the arbitration panel was the result of its "unilateral" lawsuit, implying that ASEAN should not get involved.

Malaysia's foreign minister didn't even show up for the meetings. At a later meeting of ASEAN and Asia-Pacific nations, Brunei took pains to praise China's leadership, according to diplomats who attended the meeting.

And on Tuesday, Vietnam's deputy foreign minister, Le Hoai Trung, told The Associated Press that his country prefers bilateral dialogue with China, which Beijing wants.

The Philippines is in a tight spot because even though it went to the tribunal and won, that was under the previous government of Benigno Aquino III. President Rodrigo Duterte, Aquino's successor, has made friendly overtures to Beijing and is leaning toward bilateral negotiations.

But the bottom line is that the tribunal's decision, although legally binding, is non-enforceable. The arbitration panel didn't take a position on who owns the disputed territories, which include reefs and rocky outcroppings in the vast sea. It concluded only that many of them are legally rocks, even if they've national rights to develop the surrounding waters.

Now it is up to China to decide what concessions it wants to make, and how much pressure the smaller countries can take.

"At this point, it [the ruling] is not a magic stick [...] it's not a solution to everything, but rather it needs to be combined with other measures," said Tran Viet Thai, deputy director of the Institute of Strategic Studies, a Vietnamese government think tank.

China is showing no signs of slowing down its efforts to exert control over the South China Sea. State-run companies are joining forces to offer luxury cruises in the waters. Three companies dealing in shipping, tourism and construction will contribute to running as many as eight cruise liners by June 2017 to service a region through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade passes each year. They're also building four docks, which will be able to handle 2 million passengers a year.

One of China's main cellphone carriers, China Telecommunications Corp., has extended 4G service to several disputed South China Sea islands. Its competitor China Mobile Communications Corp. already offers similar services.

Along with creating new islands by piling sand on top of coral reefs, China has built airstrips, harbors and lighthouses that is says will benefit fishermen and ship owners who transit the strategic waterway.

Clearly, China is not giving up the sea — tribunal or no tribunal — yet the ruling will continue to hang over it like a dagger.

"It's impossible for [the ruling] to be irrelevant," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters in Manila, where he made a stop after the Laos meetings.

But "we are not trying to create

tween China and the Philippines is a matter between China and China lashed out at them yesterday, with Foreign Minister

been built into islands, and therefore do not include the intera confrontation. We are trying to create a solution," he said. **AP** 

## Billionaire Wang wins Glass Lewis backing for Wanda buyout

#### **Prudence Ho**

## **BILLIONAIRE** Wang Jianlin's USD4.4

Jianlin's USD4.4 billion plan to buy out his Dalian Wanda Commercial Properties Co. unit drew support from influential proxy advisory firm Glass Lewis & Co., increasing the likelihood that investors will approve Hong Kong's biggest-ever privatization deal next month.

"The financial terms of the offer are ultimately fair and reasonable for independent shareholders," Glass Lewis said in a report seen by Bloomberg. The HKD52.80-ashare bid is the best option for minority public shareholders amid the challenging conditions in the Chinese economy and property market, ac-

cording to the report. Glass Lewis's backing matters as it provides vote recommendations to more than 1,200 clients who collectively manage more than \$25 trillion in assets. It's one of two major global proxy advisory firms providing such services. The other is Institutional Shareholder Services Inc., which is planning to issue its verdict in the coming days ahead of the Aug. 15 shareholder vote.

Wanda Commercial, a unit of Wang's flagship Dalian Wanda Group Co., climbed as much as 1.8 percent in Hong Kong trading after the Glass Lewis endorsement was reported yesterday. The shares had been underperforming the Hang Seng Index

since late June after APG fueled concern that investors would shoot down the deal.

Wang has said the property unit, which trades in Hong Kong at about 9.7 times estimated earnings, is undervalued and should be privatized as a precursor to relisting the stock in exchanges in mainland China, where companies then to fetch higher valuations. The offer still isn't a done deal. Opponents of the proposal only need 10 percent of votes cast to kill it, while supporters need more than 75 percent for approval under the terms. If the plan is turned down, Wang won't be able to try again for 12 months, under rules governing such sales. **Bloomberg** 

# China's stock calm shatters as regulatory curb talk spooks traders

HINA'S stock market calm has been shattered. Shares plunged yesterday, with a gauge of smaller companies sinking 5.5 percent, as people familiar with the matter said the China Banking Regulatory Commission is discussing stricter curbs on wealth-management products. A measure of the Shanghai Composite Index's short-term volatility doubled, after sinking to a twoyear low on Monday.

The market's exaggerated response shows what's at stake for China's watchdogs as they attempt to reduce risk in the financial system while avoiding going too far and provoking another crash in the USD6.4 trillion stock market. The Shanghai Composite is down 15 percent this year, among the world's worst performers.

"Many banks have been investing in WMPs to funnel money into the stock market," said Francis Cheung, head of China and Hong Kong strategy at CLSA Ltd. in Hong Kong. "It's non-transparent, so I understand why regulators would try to act. But if this causes too much correction, then they will get worried. The No. 1 priority is to maintain a relatively stable stock market."

The CBRC's proposed crackdown on the \$3.5 trillion WMP market was first reported by the 21st Century Business Herald, which said that all lenders may face caps on the investment of proceeds in stocks. Draft rules state that cash from "mass



In this file photo, dated January 4, 2016, a woman takes a nap as a man looks at an electronic board displaying stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing

market" wealth products can only be invested in money or bond markets, not domesticallylisted shares, a person with direct knowledge of the matter told Bloomberg. The rules are pending feedback from banks, the person said.

China's securities regulator has already restricted the use of leverage by structured asset management plans, and was said to warn brokerages to do better due diligence when raising money for companies. The Shenzhen Stock Exchange will demand better disclosure and limit speculation on stocks in popular industries such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence, according to a statement in the Securities Daily on Tuesday. China will curb asset bubbles, the official Xinhua News Agency reported the same day, citing a government statement after a Politburo meeting chaired by President Xi Jinping.

Yesterday, that all added up to a bad day for stock investors. The ChiNext Index of small-company shares sank by the most since June 13, the Shanghai Composite Index fell 1.9 percent and the Shenzhen Composite Index lost 4.5 percent.

Trading volume in Shanghai surged to the highest since April, while a gauge of 10-day price swings doubled. The Shanghai gauge trades at 12.8 times projected 12-month earnings, compared with more than 31 times for the ChiNext.

"There's an obvious trend of regulators wanting to strengthen market monitoring and lower the use of leverage in financial markets to control risks," said Dai Ming, a fund manager at Hengsheng Asset Management Co. "Under such circumstances, ChiNext is especially vulnerable, given its high valuations."

China has been tightening rules on WMPs since late 2014. The products are a key reason behind the growth in the shadow-banking industry, which Moody's Investors Service estimates is worth more than 50 trillion yuan, and have been used by some financial institutions as a way to extend funds to risky borrowers and evade capital requirements. WMPs are sold by banks but often stay off their balance sheets.

The latest CBRC draft imposes restrictions on banks with less than 5 billion yuan of net capital or fewer than three years of experience with wealth products, the person said. Larger, better-capitalized lenders would be allowed to conduct "comprehensive" wealth business, and allowed to put the money into equities and other riskier "non-standard assets" such as loans, the person said.

"The government thinks tighter regulation is needed because investments from WMPs helped fuel the stocks bubble last year and then contributed to the crash," said Larry Hu, head of China economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd. in Hong Kong. "Some of them are just like black boxes, and neither the government nor the investors know for sure which products the banks invest the money in." **Bloomberg** 

## Hong Kong journalists sentenced to up to 5 years in prison

Dida di cara di

#### Gerry Shih, Beijing

A southern Chinese court has sentenced four people, including at least two Hong Kong journalists, to prison on charges of running an illegal business after they reportedly sent copies of their sensitive political magazines to mainland China.

A court in Shenzhen said yesterday the four received prison sentences of up to five years each. The sentencing, following the high-profile temporary disappearance of five Hong Kong booksellers, raises questions about

the semiautonomous territory's status as a free press haven for material banned on the mainland. Two of those convicted in Shenzhen included Hong Kong magazine publisher Wang Jianmin and editor Guo Zhongxiao, who were arrested in 2014 in the border city, according to Hong Kong media. The two men published New Way Monthly and Faces, two journals that often delved into high-level Communist Party power struggles. It's unclear whether the two other convicted people were Hong Kong residents, or what role

they played at the publications.

Reports cited Wang's lawyers as saying their clients were not running a mail-order business and had sent only eight copies of the magazines to friends in China. Wang was also convicted on collusion and bribery charges.

Hong Kong has served for decades as a clearing house for information about sensitive mainland topics, and publishers once considered themselves beyond Beijing's reach.

But the free-wheeling scene has been chilled by

a series of run-ins with mainland authorities in the past year, including the disappearance of the booksellers from the Causeway Bay firm Mighty Current. Publishers at an annual Hong Kong book fair, the largest of its kind in Asia, said this month that printers and distributors were increasingly unwilling to handle sensitive titles for fear of political repercussions.

The booksellers went missing one after the other, only to turn up months later under the control of mainland Chinese authorities. Four of the men have been relea-



A copy of Time Magazine which features portraits of Chinese leader Xi Jinping and former leader Mao Zedong is on display at an annual book fair in Hong Kong

sed and a fifth is still detained.

The Independent Commenters Association and the Hong Kong Journalists Association voiced concern in a joint statement and said Beijing has selectively targeted Wang and Guo, as well as Mighty Current and a third publisher called Morning Bell Press, to "clean the origin" of mainland political gossip in Hong Kong. The groups urged mainland authorities to "respect the rule of law and the principal of 'one country two systems," the agreement that outlines the former British colony's relationship with Beijing. **AP** 

## KOREA

## North floats propaganda leaflets in river for first time

#### Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

**South** Korea yesterday accused rival North Korea of floating propaganda leaflets down a river in the first such incident.

South Korea's military discovered dozens of plastic bags, each carrying about 20 leaflets, near the estuary of Seoul's Han River close to the tense Korean border last Friday, according to the South's Defense Ministry. Seoul is only an hour's drive from the border.

The leaflets contained threats to launch missile attacks and a repeat of the North's long-running propaganda such as that the North won the 1950-53 Korean War, a ministry official said, requesting anonymity because of department rules.

The war ended with no one's victory. An armistice that stopped the fighting has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula split along the world's most heavily fortified border and at a technical state of war. Yesterday marked the 63rd anniversary of the armistice's signing.

North Korean recently warned of



South Korea's Prime Minister Hwang Kyoahn (center) pays a silent tribute during a commemorative ceremony marking the 63rd anniversary of the Armistice Agreement and UN Forces Participation in the Korean War in Seoul yesterday

unspecified "physical" measures in response to a U.S. plan to deploy an advanced missile defense system in South Korea by the end of next year. North Korea last week fired three ballistic missiles into the sea, according to Seoul defense officials.

The rival Koreas resumed oldfashioned, Cold War-era psychological warfare in the wake of North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January.

Seoul began blasting anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers in retaliation for the North's atomic detonation. Pyongyang quickly matched Seoul's campaign with its own border broadcasts and launches of balloons carrying anti-South leaflets across the border.

The latest discovery of propaganda leaflets marks the first time for North Korea to use a river to send leaflets, according to the South Korean defense official. He said North Korea is believed to have used a river because the direction of wind isn't favorable in the summer to fly propaganda balloons from north to south.

Many in South Korea believe their broadcasts could sting in Pyongyang because the rigidly controlled, authoritarian country worries that the broadcasts will demoralize front-line troops and residents and eventually weaken the grip of absolute leader Kim Jong Un.

Nearly 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea since the end of the Korean War, mostly for political and economic reasons. South Koreans defecting to the impoverished, authoritarian North is highly unusual. **AP** 

## Prostitution allegations investigated against Samsung boss

**South** Korean prosecutors said yesterday that they have started investigating allegations that ailing Samsung Group chairman Lee Kun-hee bought sex from prostitutes several times between 2011 and 2013.

An official from the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said the case is being handled by a division specializing in crimes against women and children. He refused to be named, citing office rules.

The allegations were raised last week after internet news outlet Newstapa released footage purportedly showing a man who appeared to be Lee interacting with women who might have been prostitutes on several occasions.

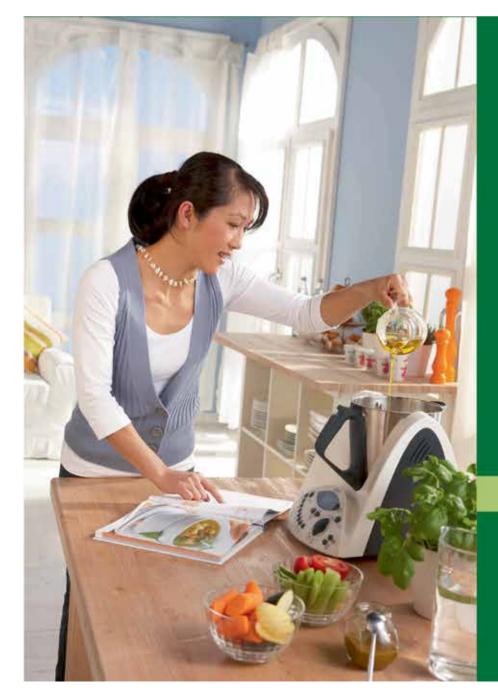
Newstapa didn't reveal how it obtained the videos, but said they were filmed secretly by at least one of the women who allegedly served Lee. It also reported that the creators of the videos likely tried to use them to blackmail Lee or the Samsung Group before they were leaked to journalists.

Samsung said yesterday that it had no comment on what it described as a "personal matter" of Lee.

Selling or buying sex is a crime punishable by up to a year in prison or a fine of 3 million won (USD2,600) in South Korea.

Lee, 74, credited by some for his role in helping South Korea's largest business group grow into a global technology giant, has been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack in May 2014 and is reportedly in a coma. **AP** 





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## EXE ASIA-PACIFIC D

#### Stephen Wright, Jakarta

## **INDONESIA**

NDONESIAN President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo announced a new Cabinet vesterday that puts a retired general linked to human rights abuses in charge of security and returns a popular reformist to the finance ministry.

Sri Mulyani Indrawati, who was finance minister from 2005-2010, is returning to the role from her current position as managing director at the World Bank, Jokowi said. In her first stint as finance minister, she was praised for overhauling a corrupt taxation department and guiding the economy through the 2008 global financial crisis.

The appointment is a coup for Jokowi and his efforts to reinvigorate the economy, but was overshadowed by a controversial military figure also joining the Cabinet.

Wiranto, head of the Indonesian military in 1999 when it committed atrocities in East Timor after Timorese voted for independence, was named the minister for security, political

# **New Cabinet includes** reformer, rights abuser



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (right) congratulates the Coordinating Minister for Legal, Politics and Security Affairs Wiranto after the inauguration ceremony for the new cabinet members at the State Palace in Jakarta

## Prison island readied for drug convict executions

**NDONESIA** has beefed up security at Nusa Kambangan prison island as authorities prepare to execute people convicted of drug crimes for the third time since President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo was elected in 2014.

The head of prisons in Central Java province said Tuesday that about 1,000 police have been sent to Cilacap, the town nearest the maximum security island, and that the prison is waiting for the attorney general's order to carry out the executions.

The government hasn't announced a date for the executions or the number of people. An official familiar with the plans said 13 people would be executed by firing squad shortly after midnight tomorrow. The official requested anonymity because he wasn't permitted to speak publicly about the matter.

It would be the third set of executions under

Jokowi, who campaigned on promises to improve human rights in Indonesia. His two-year-old administration has executed almost as many people as were executed in the previous decade.

The government says the death penalty is necessary for drug crimes because Indonesia is facing a drug epidemic, particularly affecting young people.

Lawyers and groups opposed to capital punishment have criticized plans for more executions. They say that the death penalty is not preventing the spread of drug use, and that some of the convictions are questionable because of police corruption and flawed courts.

Generally, executions for drug crimes enjoy wide public support in Indonesia, though about 20 people staged an anti-death penalty protest on Tuesday outside the presidential palace in Jakarta, the capital. MDT/AP

and legal affairs. Wiranto and other military men were indicted for crimes against humanity in 2003 by a U.N. tribunal, but successive Indonesian governments have ignored its findings. Andreas Harsono, Indonesia researcher at Human Rights Watch, said Wiranto's entry into the Cabinet shows a conservative backlash against Jokowi's efforts to address Indonesia's poor human rights record, including abuses in Papua, which has a long-running separatist movement, as well as investigating the military's anti-communist massacres in 1965.

"Wiranto has a lot of baggage," Harsono said. "I think it is a setback for Jokowi and human rights."

Wiranto replaced Luhut Binsar Pandiaitan, an ally of Jokowi who, though a former general, had opened a landmark symposium earlier this year into the 1965 atrocities that historians estimate killed half a million people. He had been ordered by Jokowi to investigate mass graves that survivors say are scattered throughout Indonesia.

Pandjaitan becomes the chief minister for maritime issues at a time when Southeast Asian nations are at odds with China over its territorial ambitions in the South China Sea.

It is the second reorganization of Jokowi's Cabinet since the maverick politician became president in 2014, after defeating an establishment candidate in a national election.

A total of 13 ministries were changed and nine of the ministers are new to the Cabinet. Many of the new appointments were in economy-related ministries, reflecting Jokowi's focus on developing an economy that is one of the largest in Asia but suffers from weak infrastructure and entrenched poverty.

"We have to resolve the poverty problem. We have to reduce the economic gap between the rich and the poor, the gap among regions," Jokowi said. "We have to strengthen the national economy, we have to open job opportunities as wide as possible for the people."

Tobias Basuki, a political analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, said the new Cabinet is a "very mixed bag" reflecting crisscrossing priorities that included giving ministries to political parties that have joined Jokowi's coalition in parliament.

Some of the more progressive and younger politicians were taken out of the Cabinet, he said, but the reshuffle also removed poorer performing ministers.

"Jokowi is a pragmatic president and politician, so it's not that he ignores human rights but at the same time it's not a paramount principle for him, he has other pragmatic calculations," said Basuki. AP

### INDIA

## Activist to end her nearly 16-year hunger strike

## Muneeza Nagvi, New Delhi

44-year-old activist Awho has been on a hunger strike for nearly 16 years to protest alleged brutality by India's military said on Tuesday that she will end her fast and run in state elections.

Irom Sharmila told a court in the northeastern state of Manipur that she'll give up her fast on Aug. 9 and stand as an independent candidate in elections early next year.

Sharmila has not eaten



In this Nov. 3, 2014 file photo, Irom Sharmila, cries by her bed at the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital where she is kept on charges of attempted suicide

any food voluntarily since Nov. 5, 2000, when she began her protest against an Indian law that suspends many human rights protections in areas of conflict. Three days earlier, 10 civilians were killed by paramilitary troops in Malom, a small town on the

outskirts of Imphal, the Manipur state capital. Three days after she started her hunger strike, she was arrested on charges of attempting suicide – a crime in India – and prison officials at a government hospital in Manipur have since force fed her through a tube in her nose.

"The only way to bring change is electoral process. I will stand as an independent candidate from Malom constituency," Sharmila told reporters outside the court on Tuesday, according to a statement from Amnesty International.

She said the single issue on her agenda would be the removal of the law that allows the military to act with impunity.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act is in effect in Indian-ruled Kashmir and northeastern areas wracked by separatist insurgencies. The law says troops have the right to shoot to kill suspected rebels without fear of possible prosecution and to arrest suspected militants without a warrant. It also gives police wide-ranging powers of search and seizure.

It prohibits soldiers from being prosecuted for alleged rights violations unless granted express permission from the federal government. Such prosecutions are rare.

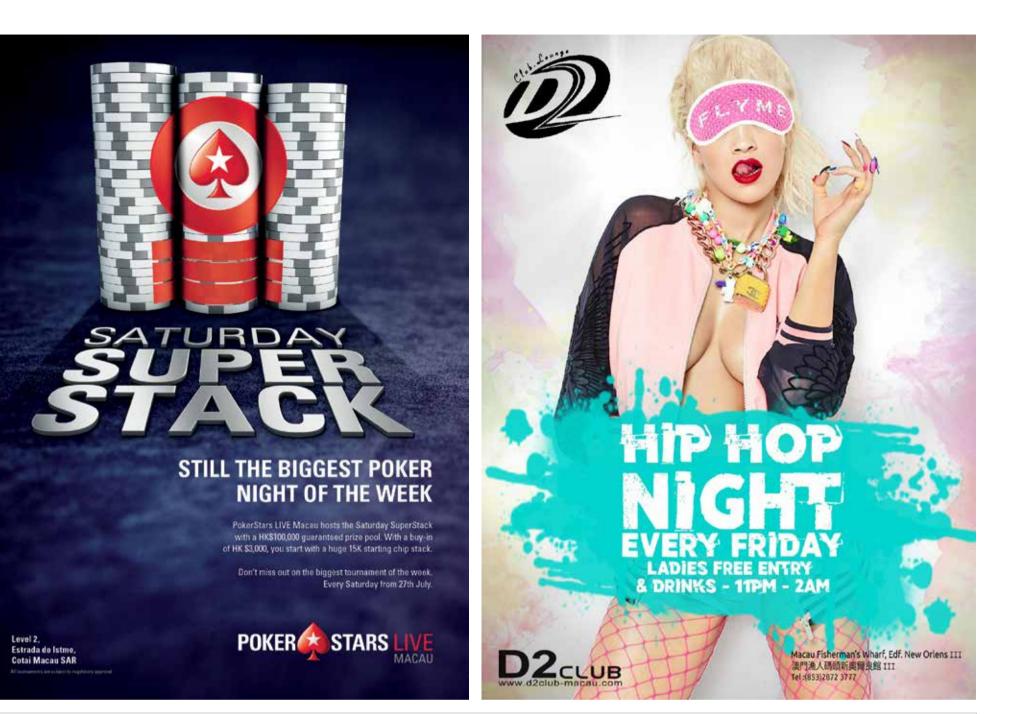
Sharmila's long hunger strike has garnered her support from across the world, and Amnesty International has called her a prisoner of conscience. AP

## 28.07.2016 thu

Times

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## fr WORLD 15

### POLAND

# Pope Francis: The world's at war, but not a war of religions

#### Monika Scislowska, Krakow

**HE** world is at war, but it is not a war of religions, Pope Francis said yesterday as he traveled to Poland on his first visit to Central and Eastern Europe in the shadow of the slaying of a priest in France.

The killing of an 85-year-old priest in a Normandy church on Tuesday added to security fears surrounding Francis' fiveday visit for the World Youth Day celebrations, which were already high due to a string of violent attacks in France and Germany. Polish officials say they have deployed tens of thousands of security officials to cover the event.

Francis spoke to reporters on the papal plane en route from Rome to Poland. Asked about the slaying of the priest, Francis replied: "It's war, we don't have to be afraid to say this."

After greeting reporters on his papal plane he returned to the topic to clarify that when he speaks of war, he is speaking of "a war of interests, for money, resources. [...] I am not speaking of a war of religions. Religions don't want war. The others want war."

Upon arrival at Krakow airport a pensive Francis was greeted by Poland's President Andrzej Duda, First Lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda and other state officials, and hundreds of faithful who had waited for hours to see him.

The Polish Army band played the anthems of the Vatican and of Poland.

The main welcoming ceremony with speeches is to be held later in the day at the Wawel Castle in Krakow.



Pope Francis meets reporters during his flight to Poland yesterday

In the evening Francis is to appear in the window of the residence of Krakow bishops, where he will be staying, and chat with some among the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world gathered for the World Youth Day celebrations that will run through Sunday.

"Let's live WYD [World Youth Day] in Krakow together!" the pontiff tweeted before departing from Rome for Krakow, southern Poland, yesterday afternoon. Just hours before Francis' arrival for the major Catholic event, groups of cheerful young pilgrims were seen in the streets of Krakow.

Relics of St. Mary Magdalene came to the church from France, for the duration of World Youth Day, and were displayed in a case by the altar.

"Their presence helps us concentrate on our prayers and brings us closer to God," said Nounella Blanchedent, 22, from the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

She was one of the volunteers helping with security and logistics at the packed St. Casimir Church, where a Mass was being held in French for pilgrims from France, Belgium and other countries.

Poland, a predominantly Catholic country is still proud of the late pontiff, St. John Paul II, who served as priest and archbishop in Krakow before becoming pope.

The sense of expectation was apparent in sunny Krakow on Wednesday with papal white-and-yellow flags and images of Francis and John Paul II decorating the streets. Stages were put up at many locations for concerts and other activities that are being held by and for the pilgrims in Krakow.

There was a heavy presence of police and other security forces across the city, as crowds were increasing everywhere.

"I have never seen so many people in Krakow, it's difficult to move around even though offices have closed [for the event] and many people have left the city," said Anna Gazda, 43, owner of a souvenir shop. **AP** 

## German bomber may have detonated inadvertently

Bavaria's top security official says it's unclear whether the man who blew himself up at a bar in the town of Ansbach meant to detonate it at the moment he did. State Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann, who also says the assailant was in an online chat with a still-unidentified person immediately before the explosion, said yesterday that further investigation is needed. Herrmann said: "Because of witness testimony on what happened and also the course of the chat, there are indeed questions about whether he intended to set off the bomb at that moment." Attacker Mohammad Daleel, a Syrian asylum-seeker, died and 15 people were wounded when the bomb exploded in a wine bar on Sunday night.

## Moroccans arrested in Spain for financing IS

Spain's Interior Ministry says police have arrested two Moroccan brothers suspected of sending money to finance the armed Islamic State group. A ministry statement said the two sent unspecified amounts of money to the Islamic State group's financial managers using false identities linked to the organization. It said the group used the remittances to transport militants from different locations. The ministry said the brothers, aged 33 and 22, were arrested yesterday in the northeastern city of Girona. It said a third brother had formed part of the cell but is believed to have died after traveling with his wife and two children to join IS in Syria.

## Shiite lawmaker sentenced for Saudi 'insults'

# IS says it's behind attack that killed 44

#### Albert Aji, Damascus

Acrowd in a predominantly Kurdish town in northern Syria



been heavily damaged because of the strength of the blast," he said.

The Islamic State group, in a statement published by the

yesterday, killing 44 people and wounding dozens more, Syria's state-run news agency and Kurdish media reported. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Media reports said a truck loaded with large quantities of explosives blew up on the western edge of the town of Qamishli, followed by an explosives-packed motorcycle a few minutes later in the same area. The blasts caused massive damage in the area and rescue teams were working to recover victims from under the rubble, the SANA news agency said.

Qamishli, near the Turkish border, is mainly controlled by Kurds but Syrian government forces are present and control

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrians gather at the scene where twin bombings struck Kurdish town of Qamishli, yesterday

the town's airport.

Syrian state TV broadcast footage showing people running away from a mushroom of gray smoke rising over the town and others running amid wrecked or burnt cars.

Qamishli resident Suleiman Youssef, a writer, told The Associated Press by telephone that he heard the first explosion from few miles away. He said the blasts leveled several buildings to the ground and many people were trapped under the rubble.

"Most of the buildings at the scene of the explosion have

IS-linked Aamaq news agency, said it carried out the attack in Qamishli, describing it as a truck bombing that struck a complex of Kurdish offices. The extremist group has carried out several bombings in Kurdish areas in Syria in the past.

The predominantly Kurdish U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces have been the main force fighting IS in northern Syria, capturing significant territory from the extremists over the past two years.

Yesterday's explosion came as U.S.-backed Kurdish forces pressed ahead with their offensive to take the IS-held town of Manbij, also in northern Syria but further to the east of Qamishli. **AP** 

A lawyer in Kuwait says a criminal court there has sentenced an outspoken Shiite lawmaker to more than 14 years prison for insulting the governments of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Duaim al-Mouaizri, the lawyer who filed the lawsuit against parliament member Abudlhamid Dashti, said yesterday that the lawmaker was sentenced to 11 years and six months in prison for insulting the Saudi royal family, criticizing religion and insulting the judiciary. He was sentenced to an additional three years prison for insulting the Bahraini government. Dashti, whose parliamentary immunity was stripped earlier this year, was tried in absentia.

28.07.2016 **thu** 

## what's ON

NEIGHBOURHOOD – PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS BY LAURA CHE TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays) UNTIL: August 20, 2016 VENUE: Creative Macau - Centre for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue, Macau ADMISSION: free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

EDGAR DEGAS: FIGURES IN MOTION - A COLLECTION OF 74 BRONZE SCULPTURES TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, except public holidays) UNTIL: November 20, 2106 VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

THE CHARMS OF FLOWERS – EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Mondays, open on public holidays) UNTIL: July 31, 2016 VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

#### MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day) VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane ADMISSION: MOP10 ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

## Offbeat

## US MARINE CORPS HORSE HONORED FOR KOREAN WAR VALOR



rine Corps horse who served during some of the bloodiest fighting of the Korean War has been posthumously decorated for bravery. Medal during

A U.S. Ma-

Sgt. Reckless was awarded the Dickin Medal during a ceremony at the Korean War Memorial in London on

## **TV canal macau**

13:00 TDM News (Repeated) News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast 13:30 RTPi Live 14:45 19:00 Helena's Shadow (Repeated) 19:50 Soap Opera 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report 21:00 TDM Talk Show 21:40 The Toque 12 22:10 Helena's Shadow 23:00 **TDM News** 23:30 Variety 00:05 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) **RTPi** Live 00:40



## 

28 Jul - 03 Aug



ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE ROOM 1

(2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm (3D) 5.45 pm Director: Mike Thurmeier, Galen Chu Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 97min

#### **BOUNTY HUNTERS**

ROOM 1 9.30 pm Director: Shin Terra Starring: Lee Min Ho, Chung Hon Leung, Tang Yan, Karena Ng Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 110min

FINDING DORY\_ ROOM 2 2.30, 4.30 pm Director: Andrew Stanton Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 97min

START TRECK BEYOND

ROOM 2 (2D) 7.15 pm Director: Justin Lin Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg Language: English (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 120min

ONE PIECE FILM GOLD\_ ROOM 2

## this day in history



## 2000 LAST PRISONERS LEAVE THE MAZE

Nearly 80 men imprisoned for terrorist offences have been freed from the Maze prison in Northern Ireland.

The release of the 52 republican and 26 loyalist paramilitaries from the County Antrim jail marks the final phase of the Good Friday peace accord scheme to set free 428 inmates early.

Some of the most prolific bombers and gunmen involved in the Troubles have been imprisoned in the Maze - originally called Long Kesh - since it opened in 1971.

One of the freed republicans, Sean Lynch, described what he saw as the real and symbolic importance of the Maze.

"We had achieved the status of political prisoners even if the British Government never admitted it. The prison struggle was a microcosm of the larger struggle," he said.

Founder member of the Ulster Defence Association Thomas McKeown - released in 1990 - was one of over 10,000 loyalists sent to the jail.

He reflected: "We had it pretty easy. We made replica weapons and instruments from wood and conducted military parades and drill every morning. There were also political classes and other sorts of education."

After the H-block hunger strikes of the 1980s there were numerous escape attempts and by 1994 the authorities had given in to many of the prisoners' demands for freedom of association and high levels of autonomy.

A total of 2,700 incidents of officers being threatened or attacked have been reported.

A granite memorial outside the gates bears the names of the 29 prison guards murdered over the past 30 years.

The British and Irish Governments want the 130acre site closed by January 2001 when the remaining 16 inmates will be moved to nearby Maghaberry Prison. Redundancy packages have been arranged for staff. These were accepted by 300 who left in June. The future of the buildings is uncertain, but some republicans want it to be turned into a museum to commemorate their struggle.

Wednesday, the 63rd anniversary of the end of the war.

A serving British Army horse stood in for the late Reckless at the ceremony.

The chestnut Mongolian mare served as an ammunitions carrier for the marines' anti-tank division. She made repeated strips to supply ammunition and retrieve wounded troops under heavy bombardment during the battle for Outpost Vegas in March 1953.

After the war, Reckless retired to the United States and died in 1968 at age 20. She was nominated by a historian who wrote a biography about her.

Reckless is the 68th recipient of the medal, awarded by the PDSA veterinary charity and billed as the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross — Britain's top award for military valor.

Since 1943, the medal has recognized gallantry by animals serving with the military, police or rescue services.

Almost half the recipients have been dogs, including a World War II commando collie who made more than 20 parachute jumps. The medal has also gone to police horses, carrier pigeons and, once, to a cat -aRoyal Navy ship's mascot who carried on rat-catching while the vessel was shelled and besieged in China in 1949.

#### 9.30 pm Director: Eiichiro Edo Language: Japonese (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 120min

GHOSTBUSTERS\_ ROOM 3 (2D) 2.30, 4.45,9.30 pm (3D) 7.15 pm Director: Paul Feig Starring: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones Language: English (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 116min

#### MACAU TOWER

**21 J**ui **- 03 A**ug

START TRECK BEYOND\_ 2.30,4.30,7.30, 9.30 pm Director: Justin Lin Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg Language: English (Cantonese/ English) Duration: 120min Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Maze was closed in September 2000.

In July 2002 the Patten Report on police reform in Northern Ireland recommended the Maze as a training centre for the Northern Ireland Policing Board. A decision - resting with the Northern Ireland Secretary - has still not been made. Despite the Good Friday peace agreement, sectarian violence continued throughout Northern Ireland. In July 2005 the IRA finally announced it was ending the armed struggle and would devote itself to resolving the conflict through peaceful means.



#### YOUR STARS

## Aries

#### Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You need to seize this big opportunity - or create one, if you don't see anything likely to be a hit. It's one of those days when almost anything is possible, but you have to act to create change.



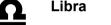
### May 21-Jun. 21

Interpersonal business is trickier than it ought to be today - you may want to go it alone for a bit. Things should start to settle down by tomorrow, so it's not like you're heading into exile.



#### Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You are all fired up over something new and exciting - so share it with the class! Not everyone is on the same page, but that's okay. In fact, you may form a splinter group of your own.



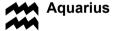
### Sep.23-Oct. 22

You aren't quite up to the stresses of the day – and that's fine! Sometimes you get to be sad or cranky, and as long as you're honest with yourself and your people, things should slip back into place soon.



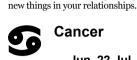
#### Nov. 22-Dec. 21

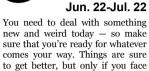
Your way of seeing the world is clear, forceful and direct. Today brings a new chance to convert others to your cause, as long as you go about it plainly. Subterfuge just isn't your style!



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Make sure you can enforce a bit of discipline on yourself today otherwise, things are sure to fall apart by nightfall. The good news is that you should be able to get work done without distraction.





Taurus

You feel more connected to your

people today, and it's easier

than ever before to have difficult discussions when they're needed.

Make sure that you're pushing for

April 20-May 20

sure that you're ready for whatever comes your way. Things are sure to get better, but only if you face today's troubles.



It's time to ask out that new hottie - or to step up your current relationship. Your personal energy can easily be channeled into romance, so find the right person and turn on the charm!

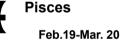
## Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Sure, you're ambitious — and that's okay! It's one of those days when you can make solid plans to boost your career goals – or anything else you want! It's easier than you'd think.



## Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Good news is coming your way - maybe from several different sources. You should get ready to act, because things are just about to change for the better. You may feel obliged to make a big move.



Things are going your way today, even if you feel a bit troubled by your latest setback. That's less significant than you may think, so don't worry too much about it. Face forward as much as you can!



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## VEATHER

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Harbin	18	30	cloudy
Tianjin	26	34	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	24	35	clear
Xi'an	24	37	clear
Lhasa	12	21	moderate rain
Chengdu	22	32	cloudy
Chongqing	26	35	shower/overcast
Kunming	17	24	shower
Nanjing	30	38	cloudy
Shanghai	30	39	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	27	37	clear
Hangzhou	28	39	clear/cloudy
Taipei	27	33	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	27	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
WORLD			
Moscow	15	27	clear/cloudy
Frankfurt	16	22	drizzle
Paris	15	20	drizzle
London	12	16	drizzle
New York	20	29	cloudy/drizzle

#### CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Persian fairy; 5- Food thickener; 9- \_\_\_ of Two Cities; 14- Level; 15-Campbell of "Scream"; 16- More tender; 17- Gambling haver; 18- Belinda Carlisle's "Should \_\_\_\_\_ You In?"; 19- Nick of "Lorenzo's Oil"; 20- Beyond the sea; 23- CIA predecessor; 24- Floor covering; 25- Bugs, clunkers, and rides, e.g.; 27- Secret organization; 31- Frozen treats; 33- Soccer star Mia; 37- Bikini tryouts; 39- SASE, \_ mind reader?; 41- In spite of; 44- Swing around; 45- Decompose; e.g.; 40- What \_ 46- Land, as a fish, 47- Joy Adamson's lioness; 48- Colorful Apple; 50- Accumulation of fluids; 51- Travel on; 53- Suffix for human; 55- Magazine fillers; 58- Journalism; 64- Bottom line; 66- Weary comment; 67- Slouan tribe; 68- Gaucho's rope; 69-Horse color; 70- In a minute; 71- Shaft shot from a bow; 72- Completed; 73- Unit of loudness:

DOWN: 1- Llama land; 2- First name in stunts; 3- Lease; 4- Are you \_\_\_\_ out?; 5- Inner self, to Jung; 6- Trattoria treats; 7- Affirm;

8- Reserved; 9- Moore's TV boss; 10-Overly; 11- Woody's boy; 12- Permits; 13-Tu" ('70s hit); 21- Stradivari's teacher; 22- Winston Cup org.; 26- Protected from the sun: 27- Parsonage: 28- Wake Island

esterday's solution

## **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Emergency calls 999** Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993 PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 PSP 28 573 333 Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

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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e.a.: 29- Unborn child; 30- Honest!; 32-Jai alai basket; 34- Miss by \_\_\_; 35- Brit's half-note; 36- \_\_\_ Carta; 38- Walk with half-note: 36long steps; 42- Directed toward home; 43say more?; 49- Rancher; 52- Relative by marriage; 54- Goodnight girl of song; 55- Gillette razor; 56- Active one; 57-Celestial body; 59- Drive off; 60- Throw; 61- Langston Hughes poem; 62- Midday; 63- Basic unit of heredity; 65- From \_\_\_ Z

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**Commission Against** 

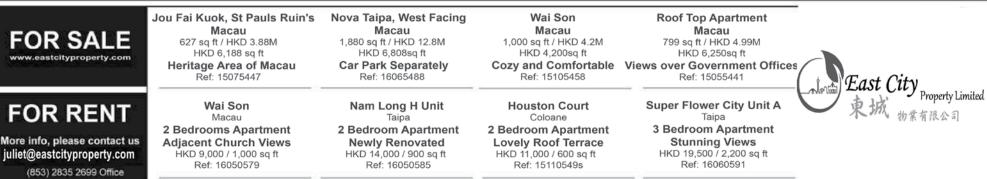
Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88



AD 🔊

## CRICKET Sri Lanka 6-1 at stumps after dismissing Australia for 203

## **Krishan Francis, Pallekele**

**FACING** a deficit of 86 runs, Sri Lanka reached 6-1 in its second innings in the first test against Australia before persistent rain brought play to an early close yesterday.

Australia made an early breakthrough when Kusal Perera, promoted to opener in place of regular Dimuth Karunaratne, was trapped lbw by fast bowler Mitchell Starc for four.

An early tea was taken shortly

after, but no more play was possible — meaning that more than two full sessions of the match have already been lost due to rain.

Earlier, spinners Rangana Herath and Lakshan Sandakan took four wickets each as Sri Lanka — having scored a lowly 117 after electing to bat first dismissed Australia for 203 in its first innings.

Adam Voges, who top scored for Australia with a watchful 47 off 115 balls featuring only three

## AUSTRALIAN STREAKER JAILED FOR ONE WEEK IN SRI LANKA

A SRI Lankan judge has jailed for one week an Australian cricket fan who ran naked onto the field during the first test match between Sri Lanka and Australia. The man ran onto the covered field when play had been interrupted by rain during the opening day's play on Tuesday. After running around

naked for a brief period, he put his clothes back on before leaving the field. Police later arrested him and a judge ordered him to pay a fine of 3,000 rupees (USD20) and spend a week in jail. The man's name was not immediately available. Exposing oneself publicly is an offense under Sri Lankan law. boundaries, thinks Australia fell a bit short.

"We felt if we had one or two good partnerships we would have probably got a 100-plus lead," Voges said. "A little bit of missed opportunity there. We know in these conditions you need to get bigger scores and big partnerships."

But Australia could not get on top for long enough spells against Sri Lanka's new-look spin attack.

Having bowled out opener Joe Burns for three runs on the first day, Herath continued his good form yesterday by claiming the prize wickets of captain Steve Smith (30) and Usman Khawaja (26) before snaring Peter Nevill (2) to finish with 4-49.

Sandakan clean bowled Mitchell Marsh for his first test wicket and had an impressive return of 4-58 from 21.2 overs on his debut.

"Any bowler's confidence improves when the batsmen continue to get beaten," the 25-yearold Sandakan said. "That's



Sri Lanka bowler Rangana Herath (left) celebrates the dismissal of Australia's batsman Usman Khawaja during the second day of the first test cricket match

when I felt that I could do my part as a pair with Rangana."

On a difficult pitch, and with Australia resuming on the second morning at 66-2, Herath had Smith stumped and then trapped Khawaja lbw as Australia slipped to 70-4.

But Australia recovered thanks to 60-run partnership between Voges and Mitchell Marsh, which was broken when left-arm wrist spinner Sandakan bowled right-hander Marsh with a straighter delivery for 31.

Herath struck again shortly

after by having Nevill caught by Kusal Perera to leave Australia on 137-6.

Voges continued to defy Sri Lanka but his resistance ended when he was caught at slip by Kusal Mendis off seamer Nuwan Pradeep — who had removed opener David Warner for a duck on the first day — leaving the visitors on 160-7.

Sandakan cleaned up the tail, but met resistance from fellow spinner Nathan Lyon, who scored a breezy 17 before Sandakan got him lbw. **AP** 

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Rob Harris, Moscow

**USSIAN** President Vladimir Putin hit out "discrimination" against the country's banned track and field athletes at a Kremlin send-off ceremony yesterday for its depleted Olympic team.

Fencers became the latest team of Russians to be cleared to compete in the Olympics by their sport's governing body ahead of the Moscow ceremony, but the IAAF rejected a bid by the bulk of the track and field team to be reinstated.

More than 100 Russians from the 387-strong Olympic team have been banned so far from going to Rio de Janeiro.

"We can't accept indiscriminate disqualification of our athletes with an absolutely clean doping history," Putin said. "We cannot and will not accept what in fact is pure discrimination."

Putin said the athletes banned from the Olympics were victims of a campaign to present Russian sports in a bad light. He spoke with two-time Olympic pole-vaulting champion Irina Isinbayeva, the most high-profile of the 67 track and field athletes banned from the games, standing beside him.

Fighting back tears, Isinbayeva told Rio-bound Russian athletes: "Show them what you're able to do - for yourself and for us too."

As the athletes walked across Red Square to meet Putin, some **OLYMPICS | DOPING** 

# **Putin slams discrimination as** banned athletes join send-off

posed for selfies with Vitality Mutko, whose sports ministry was accused by the World Anti-Doping Agency of orchestrating the doping program. The sports minister has been blocked by the International Olympic Committee from attending the games next month but he remains in Putin's government.

The IAAF is the only sport to impose a near-blanket ban on Russians, only deeming one long jumper Darya Klishina eligible for Rio.

"The situation went beyond the legal field as well as common sense," Putin told the audience, including many of the banned athletes. "It's a well-planned campaign which targeted our athletes, which included double-standards and the concept of collective punishment which has nothing to do with justice or even basic legal norms.

"Not only have our athletes who never faced any specific accusations been hurt - this is a blow to the entire global sports and the Olympic Games. Clearly, the absence of Russian athletes who were leaders in some of the sports, will affect



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks at the Kremlin, in Moscow yesterday, during a reception for the Russia's Olympics team

the competition."

There was positive news, however, from Putin's ally, Alisher Usmanov, the Russian billionaire who is president of the International Fencing Federation.

The governing body said it would allow the 16 Russian fencers who have qualified for the Rio Games to compete and it approved four reserves. The decision came after the FIE said it had re-examined 197 tests taken from Russian fencers in 35 countries over the last two years which all came back negative.

WADA investigator Richard McLaren reported last week that four positive doping tests in Russian fencing disappeared in recent years. The FIE did not respond to questions

from The Associated Press about whether McLaren's evidence was considered before deciding to allow Russian fencers to compete in Rio.

Russian entries to the Olympics must still be examined and upheld by an expert from the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The International Gymnastics Federation said it has established a "pool of eligible Russian athletes" and is awaiting IOC approval.

Individual sports federations were given the task of deciding which athletes should be cleared to compete in Rio by the International Olympic Committee on Sunday. In his native Germany, IOC President Thomas Bach is facing increasing criticism for failing to impose a complete ban on Russia's team. Germany's national antidoping agency chief Andrea Gotzmann said the decision does not follow the IOC's declared "zero tolerance" policy, saying Bach has missed "a huge chance."

Olympic discus champion Robert Harting said he was "ashamed of Thomas Bach."

## MOTORSPORT | F1

## Ferrari replaces chief technical officer halfway into season

Ferrari's techni-cal director James Allison has left the team in what was described as a joint decision following a disappointing first half of the Formula One season during which Ferrari failed to win a race. Allison spent three years in his second stint with Ferrari. Team chief Maurizio Arrivabene thanked him yesterday for his "commitment and sacrifice" and wished him "success and serenity for his future endeavors." Mattia Binotto takes over as chief technical officer, only days before Sunday's German Grand Prix. Allison was at Ferrari as head of aerodynamics during the dominant Michael Schumacher era of 2000 to 2004, before moving back to the to thank them all for the Renault team, where he great professional and



ts behind drivers' standings leader Lewis Hamilton.

Vettel said earlier in the season that the Ferrari has the speed to battle with Mercedes but that it is lacking in the aerodynamics department, an opinion secon-

## Eight's just enough for Aussie rowers as they head to Rio

 $B_{\rm for \ the \ Australian \ wo-}^{\rm ETTER \ late \ than \ never} \quad {\rm in \ the \ women's \ eights \ } - \\ {\rm Anastasia \ Karabelshchiko-}$ men's eights rowing team at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, even if they'll have to borrow a boat and oars.

The Australian women's crew had disbanded after failing to qualify when a third placing at a regatta in

va – had served a previous doping ban.

"We all called in to a hotline and the head of Rowing Australia said 'It's happening girls, pack your bags you are going to Rio'," Alexandra Hagan, one of the members of the Australian team, said yesterday. "We all kind of screamed and cried and I can't quite remember what happened, but here we are, unbelievable." The Australian women's eight crew will arrive in Rio on Aug. 5 — the day of the opening ceremony – and just three days before their first heat. They'll also have to race in an unfamiliar boat using borrowed oars because the one they used in Switzerland was shipped back to Australia and can't be sent to Brazil in time for the start of Olympic racing the-

Ferrari driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland leads ahead of Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of The Netherlands during the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix

was deputy technical director when Fernando Alonso won consecutive titles in 2005 and 2006.

"During the years I spent at Ferrari, at two different stages and covering different roles, I could get to know and appreciate the value of the team and of the people, women and men, which are part of it," Allison said in the Ferrari statement. "I want

human experience we shared. I wish everybody a happy future with lots of success."

The first car designed under Allison's supervision won three races in 2015, but Ferrari has not been able to challenge the dominant Mercedes cars this season. It is also coming under pressure from Red Bull. Sebastian Vettel, who won four championships with Red Bull, is lagging 82 poin-

ded by teammate Kimi Raikkonen.

After finishing fourth in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix, which he won last year, Vettel said he did not think the gap between Mercedes and Ferrari was that great.

"We are not happy to finish fourth, because we have to win, we need to improve here and there, but I think the difference with Mercedes is not that big as it looks," Vettel said in Budapest.

"We are working very hard. We are moving in the right direction," he said. AP

Switzerland in late May left the team as first reserves for Rio.

But they reassembled in Melbourne last weekend after the possibility of an Olympic call-up because of Russian athletes facing expulsion over doping.

On Tuesday, world rowing federation FISA said Russian boats in four categories, including the women's eights, were being withdrawn following the strict anti-doping criteria announced by the International Olympic Committee after allegations of widespread doping and cover-ups in Russia.

One of the Russian rowers re. AP



## opinion

## World Views Andy Mukherjee

## More paperwork, less playtime for bankers in Singapore

**Deciding** where to conduct a banking transaction is no different from selecting a boarding school for an unruly child. Singapore has long been seen as a solid choice. It didn't smother innovation by throwing a thick carpet of rules over everyday commerce, and it didn't believe in punishing shareholders for bankers' misdemeanors. While that second attraction still partly holds, the first is in doubt.

Banks know any management they hire will be naughty at times, and careless - or clueless - more often. Since the financial crisis, all three behaviors have become universally unacceptable. But while money centers like London and New York have dealt with delinquency by levying hefty fines, which end up hurting investors, Singapore's strategy has been to punish the errant wards while sparing the guardians.

A good example of this came in 2013 when the city-state penalized 19 lenders for rigging currency benchmarks in a novel way. It asked them to set aside additional reserves with the Monetary Authority of Singapore at zero compensation. After a year, the MAS returned the SGD10 billion (USD7.4 billion) to the likes of UBS, Royal Bank of Scotland, Bank of America and Deutsche Bank. Not having the money at hand meant management had to work that much harder to maintain profitability, but the rap on the knuckles didn't bruise shareholders.

Three years later, it's crime-and-punishment season again, and this time the offense involves that one area of banking where there's still some optimism left: serving the wealthy in Asia.

Allegations that billions of dollars have been siphoned out of 1MDB, a Malaysian state fund, have triggered a global probe. Last week, Singaporean authorities seized SGD240 million in assets tied to the 1MDB scandal, and the MAS said it was investigating Falcon Private Bank for "serious breaches" of anti-money-laundering regulations.

The regulator, which in May gave Swiss private bank BSI its marching orders in relation to the same case, has also put homegrown DBS, as well as the Singapore units of UBS and Standard Chartered, on notice for "instances of control failings," which it said will be "met by firm regulatory actions."

The threat of impending punishment gives financial institutions in the city a reason to groan, not because they'll be notifying their shareholders of big fines, but because the additional paperwork all bankers can now expect will make life at least as dull as it is in Hong Kong.

Bankers in Hong Kong grumble that their regulator's insistence on treating private-banking clients as though they were retail customers has pushed more sophisticated trades to Singapore because the island's pragmatic approach was tailored to fit industry needs. In the aftermath of 1MDB, that perceived arbitrage opportunity will probably end. Bank shareholders will have mixed feelings about this. The forecast for 11 percent annual growth in wealth accumulation by ultra-highnet-worth and high-net-worth individuals in the region is juicy enough for UBS to include in its most-recent annual report. But it could turn out to be a costly mirage if in chasing that prize, bankers step on dirty money. Even momentary lapses of reason would haunt investors. On the other hand, ensuring discipline isn't cheap either. Standard Chartered's regulatory expenditure was \$1 billion last year, a 40 percent increase from 2014 and 29 percent more than what it spent on premises. The \$700 million HSBC forked out in compliance-related expenses in the first quarter equaled 70 percent of its pretax earnings from Europe. Let financial firms moan about the extra homework in Singapore. Having already suffered the consequences of bankers behaving badly, shareholders now need to fret about how much more good behavior will cost them.

## **NORWAY MULLS GIVING MOUNTAIN BUZZ PEAK TO FINLAND**

Norway is considering moving a mountain — or at least its peak — to neighboring Finland.

Anne Nordskog, a spokeswoman for Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, said yesterday the government is contemplating a proposal to give the Halti peak as a gift to Finland next year as the Finns celebrate 100 years of independence.



Most of the mountain is on the Finnish side of their northern border but the peak of 1,331 meters is in Norway. The proposal would redraw the border to put the peak in Finland.

While mountainous Norway has several peaks that are higher, Finland's highest mountain is 1,325 meters.

Former Norwegian state surveyor Bjorn Geirr Harsson, who came up with the proposal, said "it would be nice to give Finland an extra 6 meters."



The Cultural Affairs Bureau was represented at the Hong Kong Book Fair

## Hong Kong Book Fair draws record number of over 1 million visitors

THE 27th Hong Kong Book Fair ended on Tuesday, after drawing a record attendance of close to 1.02 million visitors, according to a statement from the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HK-TDC).

The event, which was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in Wan Chai North, featured an extensive selection of literary works, renowned international authors and diverse cultural activities. According to the statement, there were as many as 640 exhibitors from 35 countries present at the Fair. An overarching theme was adopted for the first time this year, titled "Chinese Martial Arts Literature." An exhibition on Chinese Martial Arts Literature and an exhibition on "The Literary Giant - Jin Yong and Louis Cha", which was jointly organized by the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, were set up at the Art Gallery, featuring manuscripts, first edition works and comic books and movies adapted from well-known martial arts literature. "This year, the Hong Kong Book Fair continued to enjoy the public's widespread support, with attendance

breaking the one million mark for the third consecutive year," said HKTDC acting executive director Benjamin Chau. "This is a reflection of Hong Kong people's love of reading and fondness for cultural activities."

Chau added that the variety of seminars, exhibitions, performances and open public forums associated with the event "turned the Book Fair into a true cultural feast."

In addition to these activities, new book parades, readings, martial arts demonstrations and traditional song and dance exercises from Shaanxi Province and India all drew a total of more than 300,000 participants. The HKTDC commissioned an independent market research agency to conduct on-site surveys during the Book Fair in order to better understand the interests and purchasing habits of visitors. Of the approximately 800 people who responded to the questionnaire, the average visitor spent about HKD900 at the Fair, a comparable figure to that recorded at last year's event, said the HKTDC. Only 11 percent of people said that they had planned to spend more this year, while 84 percent said that their budgets were similar to last year's, as reflected in the stable average spending of visitors.

In terms of genre, fiction topped the list (54 percent), followed by literature (33 percent), travel books (28 percent) and self-improvement books (19 percent).

The on-site survey also found that most respondents had been drawn to the Book Fair by new releases, followed by discounted items and cultural activities.

The on-site cultural activities and more than 260 ci-



## WORLD BRIEFS

**VIETNAM's** prime minister vowed to defend the country's sovereignty in the South China Sea as he was re-elected by the rubber-stamp National Assembly. In his acceptance speech, Nguyen Xuan Phuc called on parties to respect and comply with international law and not to further complicate the situation. More on p10



GERMANY Bavaria's top security official says it's unclear whether the man who blew himself up at a bar in the town of Ansbach meant to detonate it at the moment he did. State Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said yesterday that further investigation into the case is needed. More on p15

## ICELAND's airport

authority says the country briefly closed its airspace to flights because of a technical problem at its air traffic control center. Gudni Sigurdsson of airport operator and air navigation service Isavia said yesterday that "we did not let more traffic into our area" while a problem with the flight data processing system was being resolved. He said the problem has been fixed and services are returning to normal.



ty-wide related events were held under the banner of the month-long "Cultural July" campaign, which is seeking to promote the joy of reading, culture and art to the Hong Kong public.

The Hong Kong Book Fair also seeks to stimulate an interest in reading among HKSAR residents. The same on-site survey found that almost all respondents (99 percent) said they had read a printed book in the past month, spending on average 24 hours reading it. Some 60 percent of the respondents reported reading an e-book in the past month, taking on average 14 hours to read it. **DB** 

**UNITED NATIONS Plummeting economies** in Venezuela and Brazil are expected to drag Latin America into negative growth again this year, the U.N.'s **Economic Commission** for Latin America and the Caribbean reported on Tuesday. The commission projected a 0.8 percent slide in the region's overall gross domestic product for 2016, a bit worse than last year's 0.5 percent dip.