



### SANDS CHINA KICKS OFF ARTS COMPETITION

Sands China has launched its first creative arts competition in partnership with local associations to boost awareness of the region's heritage

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### HENGQIN SLIDES DOOR TO MACAU, OVERSEAS TALENT

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA's** efforts to reduce poverty have improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people, but they could be undermined in the future without efforts to root out corruption and better address public complaints, a United Nations representative for human rights warns.  
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**TAIWAN's** financial regulator is investigating Mega Financial Holding Co. after New York state ordered its banking unit to pay a USD180 million penalty and install an independent monitor for violating the state's laws against money laundering. *More on p11*

**KOREAS** The American-led U.N. Command in South Korea yesterday accused North Korea of planting land mines near a truce village inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas. Much of the border, one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints, is strewn with land mines and laced with barbed wire.

**MYANMAR** Officials say United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will attend a peace conference next week that seeks to end decades of armed conflict with ethnic minority groups.



**SYRIA** Turkish artillery shelled Islamic State targets across the border in Syria for the second consecutive day, a senior Turkish official said, amid reports that Turkey-backed Syrian rebels are preparing an offensive against an IS-held border town.

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# Taipa Houses-Museum revamp ready next month

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## MDT EXCLUSIVE

# Elvis Costello looking forward to Macau casino residency

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MDT EXCLUSIVE | ELVIS COSTELLO

# Fortune spin wheel won't be used in Macau,

Daniel Beitler

**E**NGLISH musician and singer-songwriter Elvis Costello will be making his first appearance in Macau next month, marking a new foray into the Asian continent – where he has rarely performed before.

Costello, who was ranked by Rolling Stone magazine in 2004 as one of the 100 Greatest Artist of All Time, will perform at the Macau Cultural Centre on September 9, shortly after he plays three concerts in Japan – a country that Costello says is the origin of his earliest Asian fan base. Following this, he will head to Singapore and then Taipei for his final Asia concerts for 2016.

In an exclusive interview with the Times, Costello said that he is planning to perform a combination of his most well-known songs and possibly some newer hits in his Macau debut, but will not be featuring a return of his game show-style “spin wheel” that he has used on previous occasions to generate a spontaneous and somewhat unique set list. Costello hinted that it might just be too much chance-based entertainment for a city built on gambling, and could invite “due questions” from local authorities. However, the singer-songwriter also suggested he might return for a month-long residency at one of the city's resorts.

The renowned artist sat down with the Times to talk about Macau, the music industry, and how and why he writes the lyric-intensive, meaningful songs that he does.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What are your impressions of Macau? Have you visited or performed here before or elsewhere nearby?**

**Elvis Costello (EC) -** I haven't been to Macau before, but I have been to Hong Kong to perform on one occasion. Other than that I've not been in the area at all.

As for my impressions, I have only that which I've been told. So I can't say that I'm an expert of any kind – I'm waiting



to be educated, as it were. I've been told that the city is very bustling and that it has a lot of buildings. I expect that there's a vibrant skyline.

I have played very few shows in Asia actually; I played in Singapore twice, I played in Hong Kong just once, and then

**But if we played a residency in one of the casinos, then [the spin wheel] could be done.**

a couple of times in Korea. My longest relationship [in Asia] has been with my audience in Japan. I have been traveling there for nearly 40 years, so that's a very different matter.

**MDT - Aside from entertainment, what do you hope that the audience in Macau takes away from the show?**

**EC -** I think that this is a show in which storytelling of a kind in song is very much to the fore. Some aspects of the song [will be] lost, allowing for the fact that people will in some cases be listening in a second language. I still think it's very important to stick with what I'm doing and sing the strongest songs that are at

my disposal. And I think the feeling of music can carry you through quite a long way. But I believe that people will take out [of the show] an accumulated story.

My shows are ones that are created night-to-night in a different way, depending on the songs I choose. If you come to two of my shows, you are unlikely to hear exactly the same songs in the same order.

You may hear some new tracks in the show [in Macau]. I will hopefully manage to play one or two news songs along with what I believe are the better-known songs – I really don't know [which those are] now. I will try to play the best songs. That is the best thing that I can offer.

**MDT- You have previously used a game show-style “spin wheel” with the names of some of your most popular tracks written across it to determine which songs will be played at that particular concert. Will you be featuring a return of the wheel in Macau?**

**EC -** No, I won't be employing that on this occasion. I figure that when you play in cities where games of chance are their main industry, there is the potential for some due questions asked by the ‘house’, shall we say? I don't think introducing a game of chance to the show will go down too well [in Macau]. We didn't feature [that] show in Las Vegas when I was traveling with

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# could raise 'due questions' from authorities

the spinning wheel.

I think maybe that's something we can [trial], if we come back to Macau – for say a month – [and be based] in one of the Macau casinos. It's a big wheel and it takes a long time to construct it and transport it. But if we played a residency in one of the casinos, then it could be done.

**MDT - You have said in the past that some of your singles become country-specific hits overseas. Are there any particular songs that are popular in the area or Asia writ large?**

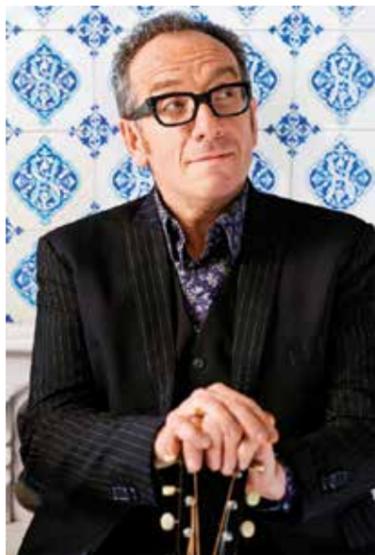
EC - Well, I think that my calling card for a lot of people in places where I didn't have an initial popular success would be the song, "She". There is no doubt that it is widely heard because [of its attachment] to a very successful movie. Sometimes I think people are a little surprised when they hear that the rest of my repertoire doesn't resemble that song very much. But I'm hoping to convince them [audiences] that the other songs that I have are equally [valuable].

**My longest relationship in Asia has been with my audience in Japan. I have been traveling there for nearly 40 years.**

**MDT - You have worked as a solo artist and as part of groups in the past. Can you describe the differences and whether working with other musicians can ever be creatively compromising?**

EC - When I choose the songs to sing in concerts [that] I play alone, I often return to the first iterations of the songs - the way I imagined them when I first wrote them. So in many ways, they are performed as they originally were [meant to be] before I got involved recording them with a band.

With the benefit of hindsight, there are a couple of songs – and I am not going to tell you which ones those are – that I feel I kind of let get away a



bit in the process of recording them in the studio. Maybe I [became] more focused on making the record than singing the songs. So it's always good to get the opportunity to bring those songs back into focus.

I wouldn't say it's creatively compromising to work within a group; it's just very different. I've been fortunate to front two or three very fine groups [... with very talented] musicians – some of which I have worked with for nearly 40 years. We wouldn't be doing that if I didn't think [highly of them].

But we are not the same people. It would be foolish not to take advantage of all the things you can learn in the time in between. In any line of work you should be looking to get better as you move along.

**MDT - Are there any emerging artists that you are particularly fond of, or watching closely, and why?**

EC - I used to say the names [of new artists that I admire], but then I began to feel it was a bit of a burden for them – to have to answer questions about the fact that I like them. What does it matter what I think?

If you look at the company I have been keeping, you have to assume that I wouldn't share the same [stage] with people that I didn't like and didn't think highly of. Recently I

played a show where we ended up with 19 people on the stage in what was supposed to be a solo concert! I am glad to call all of those people my friends to different degrees, and it is a pleasure to play with them.

**MDT - What are your thoughts on the direction and the current state of the music industry and how is it affecting artists today, compared with in the past?**

EC - When I started out in music, most artists were paid very poorly for their work...

but somebody benefited from it. And that seems to [also] be the situation now. So what does that tell us?

The people who control the means to deliver music to the public will always be the ones who say that they take all of the risk, but they also take most of the profit. That hasn't really changed, just the amount of money and the method [of generating it].

I think it must be very discouraging for young artists today, but it's not something that I feel I need to be involved with right now. I can play

the songs that I like [today] in front of a public, without having to put them [first] on a record.

Actually, I don't have anything clever to say about it. I don't have a special insight into it that nobody else has.

**MDT - Why did you want to write your recently published autobiography/memoir, "Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink"? What do you want the readers to take away from it?**

EC - As the title suggests, memory is not a permanent condition. So I thought it was best to get it on the page while [I can clearly recall it], in case there should ever come a time when I couldn't remember it as clearly and I regretted not having [written it].

I'm astounded that anybody read it. You know, I can understand if you're a book reviewer – you kind of have an obligation to at least pretend to have read it – but I have met many people who have clearly read it in quite a lot of detail.

I don't know that there is one thing to take away from a book that's 600 pages long. It quite surprised me [...] that everyone takes a different thing out of it. That's the pleasing thing. There isn't one message as such; it isn't a fairy tale with "and the moral of the story is..."

It's a complicated non-linear book and I think some people have probably become exasperated with its [apparent lack of structure]. Its structure is unusual... you'll have to take my word for it that it does have a structure... and one that was intended!



# Sands China kicks off arts competition

Lynzy Valles

**I**N a bid to boost public awareness of the region's heritage sites and historic center, Sands China has launched its first creative arts competition in partnership with local associations.

The "Macao's Past and Present Creative Arts Competition," which accepts artwork submissions from today, hopes to attract the city's art enthusiasts to submit art pieces that may eventually be transformed into commercial products for Sands China.

In a press conference yesterday, Sands China's president Wilfred Wong expressed hope that the competition would inspire local artists to create homages to the city.

"This competition is one of our company's initiatives to promote the local art scene in Macau," he said,



Wilfred Wong with co-organizers, along with IC and MGTO representatives

adding that this has the potential to boost the peninsula's cultural tourism.

Wong also recalled that the company has been supporting various local arts and culture events including the documentary film, "Behind the Scenes of Gaming Practitioners," which started shooting recently.

The conference outlined the three categories of the competition: drawing and painting, photography, and sculpture/3D arts.

The organizer said the work must be closely related to the people, events and sights of Macau, and it should capture the changes over the region's development.

The artworks may feature the city's World Heritage Sites, innovative architecture, large-scale integrated resorts, folk costumes, festival celebrations and mega events. Streets, alleys and the everyday life of local residents could also be

included to showcase local characteristics and social dimensions of the MSAR.

Winners will be chosen in each category including a special award, "The Parisian Macao Design Award," for entries themed on the resort that is due to open on September 13, in addition to ten "Awards of Merit."

Winners will receive prizes totaling to over MOP150,000 with winning works to be displayed across all Sands China properties.

The competition is only open to MSAR residents, and the organizer stressed that Sands China employees are not eligible to join. Entries will be accepted at the Macau Design Center until October 23, with no limit to the number of submissions per contestant.

"Macao's Past and Present Creative Arts Competition" is co-organized by the Macau Artist Society, Macao Multimedia Photographic Association, and Macao Designers Association, along with the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office as supporting entities.

# Hengqin hopes to issue green cards to talented people from overseas

**W**ITH hopes of attracting more talent from overseas, Hong Kong and Macau, the Hengqin administrative departments are considering to relax border control policies.

Future policies will be specifically designated for talented people from overseas, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

The region expects to issue green cards to skilled people from all over the world. However, as green card issues involve China's state regulations, the idea is still facing difficulties in moving forward.

Currently, Hengqin is providing various compensations to qualified professionals, including housing subsidies. Last year, the area spent over RMB216 million awarding those with particular professions. It is also building high-end residences for professionals, which quantifies its expectation to attract 2,000 people.

At the end of last year, Ye Zhen, Deputy Part Secretary of Hengqin New Area Committee, said that "the region has been preparing itself to build an internationally competitive [place for] talented people [...] in order to attract more investment, as well as more talented people." Ye also claimed that "innovation and entrepreneurship institutions and a high-quality living environment have been created." **Staff reporter**

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# Taipa Houses-Museum revitalization project ready by the end of next month



Ung Vai Meng



Helena Senna Fernandes



Fanny Vong

## Renato Marques

**T**HE renovation of the five Taipa Houses-Museum as announced by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has finally begun.

The works are expected to last for approximately one month, costing a total of MOP6.4 million, the president of Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Ung Vai Meng, announced yesterday afternoon in a press conference that sought to provide further details on the project.

Ung justified the revamp as a project that will promote Portuguese and Macanese culture. In addition, he noted that these venues have never been subject to major repairs or renovations.

The purpose of the renovations is to provide a fresh look and include new elements while also "maintaining the atmosphere and feeling of the museum complex," said Ung.

The works, having a confirmed end date in September, will target the outer and inner walls for repair and repainting, as well as restore windows, renovate furniture and oversee the installation of floor lighting.

As the IC president noted, the renovations have four goals: to maintain the comfort and attractiveness of the space; to introduce Portuguese and Macanese traditional cuisine; to improve walking routes and include cultural

and creative industry elements; and to seek cooperation from external entities.

In order to fulfill those goals the IC will cancel the entry fee that until recently was charged for visitors of the museum complex. One of the houses will display cultural and creative products, specifically the works of young local creators. Another will seek the cooperation of the consulates of several countries in order to showcase exhibitions and events.

The director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, stated that "we are also seeking the cooperation [of groups and residents] for small projects regarding performances that would be in line with the project. Namely for music, folk dance and sketching activities, among others, [that] will [strengthen] the Portuguese atmosphere," adding that the MGTO will take charge of the space's promotion.

As has been previously publicized, one of the chosen methods for this cultural promotion is through gastronomy, with the inclusion of a restaurant in one of the houses that will serve Portuguese food and drinks.

As Fanny Vong, the president of the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) said, the institute will be in charge of supervising the food and beverage element, insuring that all runs as planned.

"We will introduce suitable operators and we will also manage their performance," she said.

When questioned on the choice of operator, Vong said, "[It] is not yet confirmed," but she affirmed that "the theme [of Portuguese cuisine] will be a must."

Vong also clarified that the house to be transformed into a restaurant venue already possesses a large number of facilities since "it was planned from the start to be that way." She remarked that the aforementioned idea to have a restaurant in the houses-museum comes from the 1999 original project that was never implemented.

This food and beverage venue will occupy an additional multi-purpose space within another of the five houses, which was envisioned to include a Portuguese cultural art display. With regards to the concession for the restaurant, Vong stated that there are three options being considered: "public tender, direct attribution or consultancy method."

Vong also said that the venue will commence operations "as soon as possible after the renovations works are completed."

Ung clarified that out of the five houses, aside from the two that will be used as food and beverage venue and supporting space, three will be signposted for other purposes: one for showcasing cul-

tural and creative products; another for exhibitions and activities; and the final one will remain as a display of a traditional Macanese house.

When questioned if the repurposing of the house formerly dedicated to the Portuguese regions will be a substitution of Portuguese cultural heritage with food and beverage products, the president of the IC remarked that "Portuguese cuisine has an important role in the creation of local culture," highlighting also that there will be an increase in the area of the museum dedicated to this end. "When before we only two houses dedicated to Portugal and to Macau, now there will be three," he said.

His comment suggests that this alteration was a decision reached by consensus together with the Portuguese consulate-general in Macau, other Portuguese associations and local cultural authorities. The current way of presenting the Portuguese regions "doesn't make sense anymore," he added. "It was too outdated."

When questioned on the expected results of such an initiative, the director of MGTO said, "it is expected to increase the number of visitors of that area by 10 to 15 percent," remarking that the council formed to implement the project is not targeting large tour groups, but is instead focusing on individuals and small groups.

## Tam participates in ASEAN-China culture meeting



The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, participated yesterday in the Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the ASEAN-China, the Office of the Secretary informed in a statement. According to the same note, Tam was part of an official delegation representing the People's Republic of China (PRC), by invitation of the Ministry of Culture, which attended the event held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. Tam will take the opportunity during two meetings of the event to present the social, cultural, tourism and educational developments of Macau, the statement read. The official delegation of the PRC, led by the Deputy Minister of Culture Ding Wei, will return to the country on Friday.

## Korean visitors soared by 40.3 percent in July

Information from the Statistic and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that visitors incoming from the Republic of Korea soared by 40.3 percent in a year-on-year comparison for the month of July, representing in turn a 11.5 percent increase for the first seven months of 2016. During the summer holidays in July, a total of 2,794,855 tourist arrivals were recorded, a number mostly dominated by visitors from Mainland China (1,839,397). Long-haul visitors from Australia (6,736) and from the United Kingdom (5,153) also increased year-on-year, whereas the number of those travelling from the United States (15,467) and from Canada (4,942) decreased. Still, long-haul visitors from the aforementioned countries registered a year-on-year increase with respect to the first seven months of 2016. The number of visitors from Hong Kong increased by 10.5 percent in the last month. Those travelling from Taiwan (103, 2970) also represent a 5.5 percent jump in July. Tourists in July grew 18.5 percent month-on-month and 5.5 y-o-y.

## St. Dominic's postcard on sale today

Macao Post will issue a Postage Paid Postcard today. Featuring the image of St. Dominic's Church, the postcard will be available for sale at the Macao Post Headquarters, all post offices and postal kiosks. St. Dominic's Church was established in 1587, located at St. Dominic's Square. This Postage Paid Postcard priced at MOP10 each can be sent to every corner of the world without stamp.

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

## 219 new CCTV cameras to operate around local border control

**STARTING** from next month, 219 CCTV cameras will be put into operation in the surrounding areas of the city's border gates, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio.

The Unitary Police Service (SPU) Commissioner-General Ma Io Kun claimed that the facilities have completed the testing of said cameras and that a report has already been submitted to the Office for Personal Data Protection.

The police force will install a total

of 1,620 CCTV cameras in the city, with the entire mounting operation divided into four phases. The aforementioned 219 cameras mark the first installing; an additional 263 and 338 cameras will be installed during the second and third phases, respectively. Cameras will be displayed along main roads, at traffic conjunctions and at crime black spots. Regarding the fourth stage, whereby 800 cameras are expected to be installed, the public tender is now ongoing.

## Chang Chak Io predicts inflation at 3.5pct for the year

**IN** a discussion of Macau's latest inflation rate, Chang Chak Io has claimed that residents might not see prices being adjusted downward.

The vice president of the Economics Science Association told TDM that he expects that in the upcoming half year, rentals for stores will be maintained or further decrease, predicting that the inflation rate of 2016 will be somewhere around 3.5 percent.

The Statistics and Census Bureau (DESC) announced this week that the composite Consumer Price In-

dex (CPI) rose last month by 2.08 percent year-on-year, representing a 0.18 percent decline from the 2.26 percent growth registered in June.

In a statement released by DSEC, the 2.08 percent increase was attributable to the higher rental prices assigned to parking slots, eating out, the increase in motor car prices, as well as in property management fees.

In Chang's words, this slight decrease will not yield lower consumer prices, stating also that resident's stable wages are also preventing prices from decreasing.



## AVIATION

# Tigerair Taiwan adds flights to Macau on 'boost in tourism'



**TIGERAIR** Taiwan, a joint venture between Taiwan's China Airlines (CAL) and Singapore's Tiger Airways, said this week it will increase flights between Taiwan and Macau, as well as between Taiwan and Sendai and Daegu as peak travel season arrives in those places, the Central News Agency reported.

Two round-trip flights per week will be added to the Taoyuan-Macau route between Oct. 30 and Dec. 14, on Wednesday and Saturday.

Another two round-trip flights will be added on the same route every Monday and Thursday between Dec. 15 and March 25 next year, it said, bringing the total to 23 per week.

The budget airline already operates two to three

daily flights to Macau, but according to CNA "a boost in tourism is expected in the fall because the Special Administrative Region will hold many major events or festivals at that time."

The carrier said four round-trip flights will be added per week between Taoyuan and Sendai in Japan from Oct. 20 to 31 to take advantage of the fall foliage season, with two to be added every Thursday and two more on Mondays.

The airline currently offers four round-trip flights per week between the two destinations. Two round-trip flights will be between Taoyuan and Daegu in South Korea from Dec. 3 and Feb. 25, 2016 - one on Wednesday and one on Saturday - bringing the total to six per week.

Tigerair Taiwan said tou-

rists could go there to enjoy changes in the color of tree leaves or to shop, the Taiwanese agency reported.

Recently, travel portal website Skyscanner reported that Macau is on the top 10 favored destinations for Taiwan people. The countries and regions that made the top 10 were Macau, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, the U.S. and the U.K.

Statistics for the month of June released by Taiwan's Tourism Bureau showed that tourists from mainland China dominated as the largest source of visitors, accounting for almost 33.2 percent of the total number. Those from Hong Kong and Macau, calculated as the same group, accounted for about 17.5 percent of the total number of arrivals. **MDT/Agencies**

## corporate bits

### MGM CHINA ANNOUNCES LION DANCE COMPETITION DATES



MGM China Holdings hosted a press conference for the "MGM Lion Dance Championship - Macau International Invitational 2016" and a graduation ceremony for the second Junior Lion Dance Training

Program yesterday at MGM Macau's Grand Ballroom.

The operator announced November 12 and 13 as the dates for the Championship, introducing Macau's first Female Traditional Lion Dance competition.

The announcement of the sixth edition of the championship was initiated by MGM chief executive Grant Bowie who played the traditional Chinese drum yesterday.

A certificate presentation session was hosted shortly afterward to congratulate the fresh graduates of the junior competition, which took place over the past eight weeks. A total of 75 graduates aged between five and 10 were awarded with certificates and souvenirs.

The competitions are launched with the objective of propagating the culture and tradition of the Chinese sport to a wider, local audience, especially younger generations in the city, according to a statement from MGM.

### QUICKPASS LAUNCHES IN MACAU

Bankcard association UnionPay International has launched QuickPass, its host card emulation (HCE) and tokenization based mobile payment service, for custo-

mers of ICBC (Macau).

"Now, over 7 million POS terminals in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Canada

accept mobile QuickPass," UnionPay International says.

More than 20 commercial banks signed up to support the service when it launched in Beijing in December 2015. It launched in South Korea in June and in Canada last week.



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REAL ESTATE

# US new-home sales climb to best level since late 2007

Josh Boak, Washington

**A**MERICANS stepped up their purchases of new homes in July to the fastest pace in nearly nine years, as low mortgage rates and a steady job market are fueling a real estate surge.

New-home sales jumped 12.4 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted rate of 654,000 annual units, the strongest level since October 2007, the Commerce Department said yesterday. The demand has eclipsed the pace of construction. Just 4.3 months' supply of new homes is available on

AP PHOTO



**We see tremendous growth potential in new home sales as housing demand continues to grow and the continued supply shortage of newer vintage homes.**

TIAN LIU  
GENWORTH MORTGAGE INSURANCE

the market, down from 5.2 months a year ago.

Construction of single-family houses has picked up this year, as the housing market continues to recover from the drop-off caused by the Great Recession and sub-prime mortgages. Sales in July roughly matched the historic pace of 650,000 new homes selling each year, as the 4.9 percent unemployment rate, mortgage rates hovering near all-time lows and recovering economy have pulled more buyers to new developments and properties.

"We see tremendous growth potential in new home sales as housing demand continues to grow and the continued supply shortage of newer vintage homes," said Tian Liu,

chief economist at Genworth Mortgage Insurance.

Purchases shot up 40 percent in the Northeast and 18.1 percent in the South last month. They increased slightly in the Midwest and stayed unchanged in the West.

July's median sales price dipped 0.5 percent from a year ago to USD294,600, a possible reflection of the regional sales mix.

New-home sales have climbed 12.4 percent so far this year to 352,000.

Builders are increasing construction but are still running behind demand. Ground breakings for houses have climbed 10.6 percent year-to-date, the government reported last week. This marks a sharp reversal from prior

years in the recovery from the Great Recession when a large share of the increase in residential construction came from apartments.

Optimism abounds for many builders as well. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index for August rose two points to 60 following a downwardly revised reading of 58 in July.

Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor.

Low mortgage rates are feeding much of this confidence. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage fell to 3.43 percent last week from 3.98 percent a year ago. **AP**

BAHAMAS

## PM says stalled Chinese mega-resort to be finished and sold

**T**HE government of the Bahamas says it has reached an agreement that will lead to the completion of a stalled mega-resort financed and built by Chinese state-owned enterprises.

Prime Minister Perry Christie announced that China Construction will finish the Baha Mar project with financing from the Export-Import Bank of China. The complex will then be sold to a "world class" hotel and casino operator, he said.

Construction would resume in September and the project will open before the end of the 2016-2017 tourist season, Christie said in a nationally televised address that followed Supreme Court approval of the agreement. He did not identify any potential operators.

"This agreement represents a signal achievement for The Bahamas, and a milestone in the troubled history of Baha Mar," he said.

Baha Mar is a USD3.5 billion project that was initially scheduled to open in December 2014 on 1,000 acres along Cable Beach in Nassau. It would include four new hotels, a golf course and what would be the largest casino in the Caribbean. After a series of delays the developer filed for bankruptcy. **AP**

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Serene Cheong, Ben Sharples  
& Dan Murtaugh

**CHINA** is throwing the world's leaders a party, and oil bulls may be hit with the hangover.

Authorities in the Asian nation have ordered hundreds of factories to curb activity ahead of the Group of 20 summit in Hangzhou in early September, in a bid to ensure blue skies when the red carpet is rolled out. The curtailments, along with flooding earlier this summer, may cut petroleum demand in the world's second-biggest oil consumer by 250,000 barrels a day in the third quarter, according to industry consultant Energy Aspects Ltd.

The slowdown at facilities including refineries and petrochemical plants along the Yangtze River threatens to weaken Chinese oil imports that rose to record highs in the first half of the year, at some times exceeding even those of the U.S. Those unprecedented purchases, along with supply disruptions, helped crude rally about 80 percent from a 12-year low earlier in 2016, and any sustained recovery will hinge on continued strong demand from the world's biggest energy consumer.

"There is a weather and policy induced slowdown in China," said Michal Meidan, an analyst at Energy Aspects. "While the floods seemed to have died down, we are entering a period ahead of the G-20 when there is going to be industrial curtailment. Chinese demand is certainly going to be weak."

President Xi Jinping is expected to showcase his nation's strengths at the G-20 summit, which will host leaders of countries that account for two-thirds of the world's population and 85 percent of its economic output. They are gathering at a time of slowing trade and tepid global growth. China's recent stabilization faltered in July as private businesses remain reluctant to invest and authorities seek to curb financial risks and cut excess capacity.

China has a history of enacting temporary environmental measures to clean the air before hosting major events, which have affected commodity prices. Before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, small coal mines in the northern provinces of Shanxi and Hebei were ordered to shut. That exacerbated a supply shortage of the fuel, sending local prices to a record ahead of the Games.

Iron-ore prices slumped in 2014 when the Chinese government ordered some steel mills in the world's largest buyer to suspend production before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Beijing. They again tumbled last year ahead of closures before the world track and field championships and a parade to mark the 70th anni-



## ECONOMY

# Dark clouds loom for oil as China chases blue skies for G-20

**■ The slowdown at refineries and petrochemical plants along the Yangtze River threatens to weaken Chinese oil imports that rose to record highs in the first half of the year**

versary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

"The rationale is that you have to shut down in order to achieve absolutely clean air," Salmon Aidan Lee, a Singapore-based consultant at Wood Mackenzie Ltd., said by phone. "Shut-downs have happened before during APEC meetings in Beijing and the Olympic Games many years ago. What is unprecedented is the scale or magnitude of this shutdown."

For G-20, Shanghai, which is 180 kilometers northeast of

Hangzhou, has asked 255 companies, including coal-power plants and oil refineries, to curb output from Aug. 24 to Sept. 6, according to a statement on the website of the city's Environmental Protection Bureau. Officials in Ningbo, about 150 kilometers east of Hangzhou, proposed cuts or closures at 445 companies, including petrochemical plants and producers of steel, cement and paper, according to a document obtained by Bloomberg.

In spite of the planned measures, some analysts remain optimistic that China's overall oil use could rise in the third quarter, compared with the prior three months. Demand may increase by 250,000 barrels a day from the period before, backed by more industrial activity before the G-20 event, according to Yao Li, an analyst at SIA Energy, a Beijing-based consulting firm.

Still, the planned shutdowns for the G-20 meeting could exacerbate the effect from flooding last month. Raging waters across 11 Chinese provinces that account for more than a third of the country's fuel use wreaked havoc on oil-product and gas pipelines, and may have reduced demand by about 100,000 barrels a day, according to Barclays Plc.

China's total oil demand is es-

timated at 11.64 million barrels a day in 2016, making it the largest user after the U.S., according to the International Energy Agency. Consumption is expected to grow by 200,000 barrels a day from the year earlier, accounting for about 14 percent of global expansion, data from the Paris-based IEA show.

The Asian nation's crude imports fell to the lowest level in six months in July, according to data from the General Administration of Customs. It received shipments from overseas at a rate of about 7.35 million barrels a day, the slowest pace since January.

Crude prices remain vulnerable. They entered a bull market last week, but that was less than three weeks after tumbling into

a bear market amid concern that a global supply glut is persisting. While there's speculation that informal OPEC talks next month may lead to action to stabilize the market and producers including Russia may discuss an output freeze, a similar plan proposed earlier this year didn't end in an accord.

Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, traded at USD48.81 a barrel at 12:44 p.m. London time on the ICE Futures Europe exchange. While futures are up about 30 percent in 2016, they are still more than 50 percent lower than mid-2014 levels. Their climb to the \$100s earlier this decade was driven by China's insatiable thirst for fuel, and their collapse two years ago came as the Asian nation's economy slowed and global output peaked.

The factory output reductions for the G-20 meeting in China could eliminate about 400,000 barrels a day worth of crude processing at the nation's refineries, according to Harry Liu, associate director for oil markets, midstream and downstream at IHS Markit Ltd.

"A number of major refineries will be required to cut back runs, therefore limiting a further rise in Chinese crude imports," Liu said by e-mail. **Bloomberg**

**■ The rationale is that you have to shut down in order to achieve absolutely clean air.**

SALMON AIDAN LEE  
WOOD MACKENZIE, SINGAPORE

# UN envoy: Beijing must give public voice to stamp out poverty

Nomaan Merchant, Beijing

**C**HINA'S efforts to reduce poverty have improved the lives of hundreds of millions of people, but they could be undermined in the future without efforts to root out corruption and better address public complaints, a United Nations representative for human rights warned yesterday.

Unless it takes action, China risks sparking mass protests and unrest, said Philip Alston, the U.N.'s special rapporteur for extreme poverty and human rights. Alston visited China for nine days and presented his preliminary findings at the U.N. mission in Beijing.

Alston cited estimates that say China has lifted 700 million people out of poverty in the last several decades thanks to its roaring economy and what he described as "genuine political will" to help the poor.

Authorities have said they aim to lift all Chinese out of "extreme poverty" by 2020. Alston says he believes China will meet that goal.

But China also has deep income inequality, particularly between urban and rural areas, as well as a lack of means for people to report corruption and misconduct. Authorities have waged a wide and public cra-



ckdown on lawyers who have pursued corruption and human rights cases, as part of a widespread campaign against supposed foreign influences under Chinese President Xi Jinping.

While Xi has also mounted an anti-corruption drive snaring hundreds of officials, Alston called it a "top-down" effort that hasn't given citizens a true voice. There are no dedicated institutions for dealing with public complaints, and government regulations going into effect next year target foreign

nongovernmental organizations that advocate for human rights.

The absence of those institutions will be felt greatly as more people are lifted out of extreme poverty and begin to demand more from their government, Alston said.

That will leave public protests as China's "main safety valve," he said. While some protests do lead to government action, participants and organizers risk being arrested and prosecuted on broadly defined charges

**Unless it takes action, China risks sparking mass protests and unrest, said Philip Alston [the United Nations envoy]**

such as "stirring up troubles."

"We cannot rely for the vindication of rights just upon governmental action from the top, at the time when it suits the government, when it seems politically appropriate," Alston said. "There must be ways for those whose rights are violated to initiate action."

Alston is a lawyer and professor at New York University who studies human rights for the U.N. as a volunteer. He's expected to submit a final report on his visit to China before the U.N.'s Human Rights Council next year.

But Alston acknowledged that his report will not be binding, nor does he expect it to spark immediate change within China.

He said Chinese officials refused to let him meet with several academics he had requested to see, and that a government security detail tailed him throughout his visit.

The Chinese arranged for him to visit a village in Yunnan province, where he received what he called an "abysmal tour" staged by authorities. Officials claimed they never get any complaints from ethnic minority communities, nor were they aware of any protests.

"This is a wonderful achievement, but of course it can't be true, because it's not in any other country of the world," Alston said. **AP**

TAIWAN

## Financial regulator to probe bank fined in US for money laundering slip

**T**AIWAN'S financial regulator is investigating Mega Financial Holding Co. after New York state ordered its banking unit to pay a USD180 million penalty and install an independent monitor for violating the state's laws against money laundering.

The investigation comes as regulators across the globe step up financial scrutiny following the leak of a trove of data about offshore accounts set up by a Panamanian law firm.

Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission said in a statement seen yesterday that it was looking over records at the bank, and investigating possible violations.

New York's Department of Financial Services



announced the fine for Mega International Commercial Bank last Friday. It ordered the bank to beef up compliance after finding its staff, unfamiliar with U.S. regulations, failed to conduct reviews meant to detect suspicious transactions.

U.S. regulators expressed strong concern given that Mega International has two branches in Pa-

nama, which they described in a consent order as a "high-risk area" for money laundering.

They did not say if the bank had been implicated in money laundering but chastised it for failing to report "fraud, dishonesty, making of false entries and omission of true entries and other misconduct."

The government-

appointed chairman of Mega Financial Holding, Chen Sung-hsin, told reporters in Taiwan that the bank was not engaged in money laundering, but had failed to keep up with regulatory requirements.

"The regulations are much tighter than in the past and we could not manage to meet them," he said.

Concern over offshore companies intensified after the Washington-based International Consortium of Investigative Journalists published a slew of stories based on the leak of documents belonging to Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca. The reports detailed how world leaders, celebrities and businesses were using offshore companies to hide money. **AP**

PANDAS

## Cub's older sister celebrates birthday at National Zoo

**H**ER brother got the big party, but the National Zoo's other young giant panda is also celebrating a birthday.

Bao Bao turned 3 yesterday. That means she only has a year left at the National Zoo before she goes to China to enter its panda breeding program. China owns the pandas at the zoo and any cubs born in Washington will eventually go back there.

Bao Bao is the second of three surviving cubs born to Mei Xiang during her time at the zoo. She now weighs 180 pounds and is classified as a "sub-adult." Pandas can begin breeding between the ages of 4 and 6.

The zoo celebrated the birthdays of Bao Bao, 1-year-old brother Bei Bei and their father Tian Tian on Saturday. **AP**



## THAILAND

# Military court rejects torture allegation in bomb trial

Natnicha Chuwiruch, Bangkok

A Thai military court yesterday rejected allegations by two Uighur defendants that they were tortured in custody to confess to bombing a popular Hindu shrine in Bangkok last year that left 20 people dead. The court then postponed the rest of the hearing to next month because no Uighur-language translator was available.

In previous preliminary hearings, the two men who are from the Uighur-speaking region of China have said they were tortured and mistreated by their jailors in military detention, and yesterday pleaded to be moved to a different correctional facility.

"After investigating these claims, the court finds them to be false and the defendants will remain where they are since this is a case of national security," one of the three judges on the panel ruled.

The judges, who have not been identified in keeping with protocol in military trials, said the defendants' safety may be at risk in a regular correctional facility because of the high-profile nature of the case, and that they were safer in military detention.

The ruling came on what was to be the first day of the trial of the two ethnic Uighurs of Chinese nationality. But the opening day, which was set aside for recording witness testimonies, got off to a shaky start when the court realized that there was no Uighur-language



Bilal Mohammad (front) and Mieraili Yusufu (rear) as they arrive at a military court in Bangkok

translator available.

The makeshift translator in previous hearings was also a Uighur, who was arrested in a separate criminal case. Defense lawyers said he had apparently skipped bail and disappeared.

The hearings scheduled for today were then postponed to Sept. 15-16 while authorities try to bring a new translator.

The two defendants — Mieraili Yusufu and Bilal Mohammad, also known as Adem Karadag — have pleaded not guilty. At a recent pre-trial appearance they broke down in tears alleging mistreatment and torture

by Thai authorities.

They are the only two men in custody out of the 17 people that authorities say were responsible for the Aug. 17, 2015, bombing of the Erawan shrine in Bangkok's most famous shopping district of Ratchaprasong. It was one of the deadliest acts of violence in Thailand in decades.

The Erawan shrine, dedicated to Hindu god Brahma, is popular among Chinese and other tourists. Of the dead, 14 were tourists. Many Chinese were among the 120 people injured.

Thai authorities have said

the bombing was revenge by a people-smuggling gang whose activities were disrupted by a crackdown. However, some analysts suspected it might have been the work of Uighur separatists angry that Thailand in July had forcibly repatriated scores of Uighurs to China, where they may be persecuted.

Chuchart Kanpai, the lawyer for one of the defendants, has told reporters in the past that Bilal had been tortured to admit that he was the person seen in surveillance video planting the bomb. Bilal says his captors poured cold water into his nose,

threatened to send him back to China and had a barking dog frighten him.

Police say the case against the two men is supported by closed-circuit television footage, witnesses, DNA matching and physical evidence, in addition to their confessions. Police believe Yusufu detonated the bomb minutes after a backpack containing the device was left at the shrine by Bilal.

■ The judges, who have not been identified in keeping with protocol in military trials, said the defendants' safety may be at risk in a regular correctional facility

Since a May 2014 coup installed the military in power, its courts in Thailand have handed criminal cases deemed to involve national security.

The two men have been held at an army base since their arrest in late August and early September 2015. No other details of their interrogation have been revealed. Some of the 15 other suspects are Turks, with whom Uighurs share ethnic bonds, and Turkey is home to a large Uighur community. Beijing charges that some Uighurs are Islamist terrorists and that some have been smuggled out of China to join Islamic State fighters in Syria via Turkey. AP

A British man arrested in the killing of a police officer on the tourist island of Bali confessed to bashing the Indonesian man with a beer bottle and leaving him unconscious, police said yesterday. His lawyer said he didn't realize the officer would die.

David Taylor and his Australian girlfriend, Sara Connor, were arrested Friday, two days after the bloodied body of traffic police officer Wayan Sudarsa was found on the beach outside the Pullman Hotel in Kuta, a popular tourist area. Connor's handbag was found nearby.

The couple had been drinking beer on the beach in the hours before the

## INDONESIA

# British man accused in Bali police death confesses to fight



Indonesian police officers escort murder suspect David Taylor (second from right) to an investigator's room at a local police station in Bali

late-night encounter.

Denpasar Police Chief Col. Hadi Purnomo said Taylor, 45, admitted getting into a fight with Sudarsa, who was on duty, after Connor realized she had lost her handbag and accused the officer of stealing it and being a fake police officer.

Purnomo said the dispute escalated after Taylor tried to search Sudarsa, who pushed the British man to the ground.

Taylor's lawyer, Hapo-

san Sihombing, said his client admitted to hitting the Indonesian with a cellphone, binoculars and beer bottle, but he didn't realize Sudarsa would die.

"Taylor hit the victim repeatedly with the broken bottle, leaving him face down and unconscious," the police chief said. The couple left the scene but Taylor returned and turned over the body of Sudarsa, who was still unconscious, he said.

Sihombing said Connor,

33, tried to help Taylor during the fight, but her lawyer, Erwin Siregar, said she denies being involved.

"She insists that she was not involved with the murder at all. She saw from behind that Taylor hit the victim, but she did not know what he used to hit," Siregar said.

Prosecutors will decide charges after police submit their investigation report. A conviction for intentional murder in Indonesia has a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison.

Purnomo said Connor could be charged with aiding an assault that led to death. The maximum penalty is 10 years if convicted. AP

Nick Perry, Wellington

NEW ZEALAND

# Man sought by China settles case for USD31m

A former pharmaceutical executive who Chinese authorities accuse of embezzling money and fleeing to New Zealand has settled his case for USD31 million, New Zealand police said yesterday, in a deal that represents an unusual level of cooperation between the two countries.

William Yan settled without acknowledging any criminal or civil liability, the police said in a statement. Police had previously seized homes, luxury cars including a Porsche and a Maserati, and stocks from the 47-year-old Yan, his wife and two associates, the statement said.

Police said they would release those items once Yan and the others handed over 43 million New Zealand dollars (\$31 million). Police said the money would then be split between the New Zealand and Chinese governments, with the amount each would get still to be determined.

New Zealand authorities refused to answer further questions about the case, including whether China would attempt to extradite Yan. China's embassy in Wellington did not immediately respond to ques-



William Yan

tions.

The settlement is the largest of its kind ever made in New Zealand, and the first for crimes alleged to have occurred in China. But critics say it raises

questions about why Yan isn't facing charges and how much New Zealand is acquiescing to China's demands.

China represents a crucial market for New Zealand's

agricultural exports, which include kiwifruit and dairy products.

One of Yan's Auckland-based lawyers, Simon Lance, said in an email that his client "does not accept that he is guilty of embezzling money in China."

Another one of the lawyers, Marc Corlett, said in a statement that the settlement was a "commercial compromise" that would allow Yan to recover his seized assets and "return his focus to his business activities in New Zealand and elsewhere."

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key said the police handle investigations independently and it is up to them to determine whether it is better to settle a case or pursue charges.

But opposition lawmaker Winston Peters said the way the case was handled was demeaning for New Zealand.

"You know, we're dancing on a pinhead for China in so many areas," he said.

As part of an operation it calls Sky Net, China last year issued a list of its 100 most-wanted economic fugitives, who it accuses of absconding overseas with ill-gotten gains. Under the name Yan Yongming, Yan made the list at No. 5.

The listing said Yan is wanted by police in the northeast Chinese city of Tonghua, where he last worked as chairman of a pharmaceutical company, the Tonghua Golden Horse Group. It lists three different passport numbers and three national identification numbers for Yan, who it also lists under the name Liu Yangming.

China said between 11 and 20 of the alleged economic fugitives had fled to New Zealand, making it the third-most popular destination behind the U.S. and Canada. AP

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# Private lives are exposed as WikiLeaks spills its secrets

Raphael Satter & Maggie Michael

**WIKILEAKS'** global crusade to expose government secrets is causing collateral damage to the privacy of hundreds of innocent people, including survivors of sexual abuse, sick children and the mentally ill, The Associated Press has found.

In the past year alone, the radical transparency group has published medical files belonging to scores of ordinary citizens while many hundreds more have had sensitive family, financial or identity records posted to the web. In two particularly egregious cases, WikiLeaks named teenage rape victims. In a third case, the site published the name of a Saudi citizen arrested for being gay, an extraordinary move given that homosexuality is punishable by death in the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom.

"They published everything: my phone, address, name, details," said a Saudi man who told AP he was bewildered that WikiLeaks had revealed the details of a paternity dispute with a former partner. "If the family of my wife saw this [...] Publishing personal stuff like that could destroy people."

WikiLeaks' mass publication of personal data is at odds with the site's claim to have championed privacy even as it laid bare the workings of international statecraft, and has drawn criticism from the site's allies.

Attempts to reach WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange were unsuccessful; a set of questions

left with his site wasn't immediately answered yesterday. In a tweet responding to AP's story, the organization said the privacy allegations were "recycled" and "not even worth a headline."

WikiLeaks' stated mission is to bring censored or restricted material "involving war, spying and corruption" into the public eye, describing the trove amassed thus far as a "giant library of the world's most persecuted documents."

The library is growing quickly, with half a million files from the U.S. Democratic National Committee, Turkey's governing party and the Saudi Foreign Ministry added in the last year or so. But the library is also filling with rogue data, including computer viruses, spam, and a compendium of personal records.

The Saudi diplomatic cables alone hold at least 124 medical files, according to a sample analyzed by AP. Some described patients with psychiatric conditions, seriously ill children or refugees.

"This has nothing to do with politics or corruption," said Dr. Nayef al-Fayez, a consultant in the Jordanian capital of Amman who confirmed that a brain cancer patient of his was among those whose details were published to the web. Dr. Adnan Salhab, a retired practitioner in Jordan who also had a patient named in the files, expressed anger when shown the document.

"This is illegal what has happened," he said in a telephone



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange

interview. "It is illegal!"

The AP, which is withholding identifying details of most of those affected, reached 23 people — most in Saudi Arabia — whose personal information was exposed. Some were unaware their data had been published; WikiLeaks is censored in the country. Others shrugged at the news. Several were horrified.

One, a partially disabled Saudi woman who'd secretly gone

into debt to support a sick relative, said she was devastated. She'd kept her plight from members of her own family.

"This is a disaster," she said in a phone call. "What if my brothers, neighbors, people I know or even don't know have seen it? What is the use of publishing my story?"

Medical records are widely counted among a person's most private information. But the AP found that WikiLeaks

also routinely publishes identity records, phone numbers and other information easily exploited by criminals.

The DNC files published last month carried more than two dozen Social Security and credit card numbers, according to an AP analysis assisted by New Hampshire-based compliance firm DataGravity. Two of the people named in the files told AP they were targeted by identity thieves following the leak, including a retired U.S. diplomat who said he also had to change his number after being bombarded by threatening messages.

The number of people affected easily reaches into the hundreds. Paul Dietrich, a transparency activist, said a partial scan of the Saudi cables alone turned up more than 500 passport, identity, academic or employment files.

The AP independently found three dozen records pertaining to family issues in the cables — including messages about marriages, divorces, missing children, elopements and custody battles. Many are very personal, like the marital certificates which reveal whether the bride was a virgin. Others deal with Saudis who are deeply in debt, including one man who says his wife stole his money. One divorce document details a male partner's infertility. Others identify the partners of women suffering from sexually transmitted diseases including HIV and Hepatitis C.

Lisa Lynch, who teaches media and communications at Drew University and has followed WikiLeaks for years, said Assange may not have had the staff or the resources to properly vet what he published. Or maybe he felt that the urgency of his mission trumped privacy concerns.

"For him the ends justify the means," she said. **AP**

USA

## Nazi-looted 'Adam' and 'Eve' paintings to stay in California

decision mindful of "the facts and law at the heart of the dispute," the Los Angeles Times reported this week.

Marei von Saher alleged that the paintings were seized from her father-in-law, Dutch Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker, after his family fled Holland during the Holocaust.

The Norton Simon countered that it legally acquired the works in the 1970s from the descendant of Russian aristocrats who had them wrongly

taken by the Soviet Union in the 1920s.

Lucas Cranach the Elder painted the works in around 1530. In 1971, they were acquired by the museum for USD800,000, the equivalent of about \$4.8 million today. They were appraised at \$24 million in 2006.

Depicting mankind in the ominous moment before the biblical Fall, the painting's ownership battle, too, points to a period in human history fraught with uncertainty: a 20th-century Europe

ravaged by war.

The dispute is one of many to emerge in recent years involving precious art looted by the Nazis.

The judge said that because Goudstikker's art dealership decided not to seek restitution for the works after the war, his family thereby abandoned their claim to the art.

"Obviously, Ms. von Saher is disappointed with the court's decision," representatives from her legal firm, who plan to appeal the decision, said in a statement

to the Times.

They also criticized a legal motion exchanged with them by the museum's legal team, presenting evidence that von Saher's father was a member of the Nazi Party.

"Using this information in an attempt to discredit Ms. von Saher is nothing more than a distasteful device to evade responsibility for refusing to restitute artworks that were indisputably stolen from her husband's family," the attorneys said. **AP**



The exterior of the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena

A judge has ruled in favor of a Southern California museum in its 10-year legal battle over the ownership of two German Renaissance masterpieces that were seized by the Nazis in World War II.

U.S. District Court Ju-

dge John F. Walter ruled last week that Pasadena's Norton Simon Museum, where the paintings "Adam" and "Eve" have been for more than 30 years, is the rightful owner of the two life-size oil-on-panel paintings.

The museum called the

David Rising, Berlin

# Report: More migrants die in Mediterranean as risks increase

**N**EW and more dangerous smuggling practices and attempts to reach Europe by riskier routes have led to a spike in the number of migrants dying as they attempt to cross the Mediterranean, according to a new analysis released yesterday.

The International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Center in Berlin said 2,901 people died or disappeared crossing the Mediterranean in the first six months of 2016, a 37 percent increase over the first six months of last year.

Most of the deaths, 2,484, occurred on the so-called Central Mediterranean route from North Africa to Italy, where some 70,000 people crossed in the first half of 2016.

"The numbers have not increased hugely in terms of those crossing, but the risk of death remains high and is increasing," said Frank Laczko, head of the Berlin center.

The Central Mediterranean route has always been the most dangerous route because of the length of the journey, and smugglers continue to overfill unseaworthy vessels with desperate migrants.



Women from Nigeria sit in the Astral vessel after been rescued by members of Proactiva Open Arms NGO, during a rescue operation at the Mediterranean sea, about 17 miles north of Sabratah, Libya

Adding to the problem now, however, are more frequent instances where smugglers are sending multiple boats at once, making rescue operations more difficult. In addition, newer routes, particularly from Egypt,

are longer and riskier, and search and rescue efforts are often carried out farther away from land.

"Smugglers are showing absolutely no interest in the welfare of the people who are paying for

their services, and cramming unseaworthy vessels with more and more people to increase profits," Laczko said.

He added that further study needs to be done to determine whether other factors in the rising death toll may be at play, like whether the overland journey to the coast has become so grueling that migrants undertake the Mediterranean crossing already undernourished and exhausted.

The number of deaths in the Central Mediterranean peaked in May at 1,130, and dropped to 388 in June, 208 in July and only 29 so far in August, but Laczko said it's too early to tell whether this may be part of a trend.

In the Eastern Mediterranean, however, few deaths have been reported since a March deal between the EU and Turkey, combined with Balkan border closures to migrants, has led to a dramatic drop in new arrivals.

Where some 885,000 mi-

grants crossed from Turkey to Greece along the route in 2015, the IOM reported that new arrivals are down 98 percent since the March 20 agreement. Some 154,000 arrived in Greece in the first half of the year, but almost all in the first three months.

A total of 376 deaths were recorded in the Eastern Mediterranean in the first six months of 2016, but there were only 10 in April and none in May or June, according to the report.

Laczko said there are no indications that the EU-Turkey agreement has been forcing people to attempt the more perilous Central Mediterranean crossing, though in recent days there have been reports of some trying to make it to Italy from Egypt.

Laczko said the report shows there's a need for more legal channels for migrants to be able to come to Europe, but also for better information campaigns to make sure would-be migrants understand the dangers of the journey. **AP**

AD



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## what's ON



## BLUE MAN GROUP IN MACAU

TIME: 8pm (August 24-27)

5pm (August 27-28)

2pm (August 28)

VENUE: The Venetian Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP680, MOP880

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

## CONCERT OF MACAU YOUTH SYMPHONIC BAND

TIME: 8pm

VENUE: Macao Cultural Centre,

Avenida Xian Xing Hai s/n, Nape

ADMISSION: MOP100

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2870 0699

## AUGUSTE BORGET: A PAINTER-TRAVELLER

ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## ABSTRACT PAINTINGS

FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2016

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## "MEMORIES OF MOMENTS - MACAO AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 4, 2016

VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

## ART COURSES STUDENT'S EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU MUSEUM OF ART

TIME: 10am-7pm

(no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 27, 2106

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(free admission on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

## MAN KICKED OUT OF BAR BITES OFF BARTENDER'S FINGER IN FIGHT

Police are searching for a man who bit off a bartender's finger after being kicked out of a San Francisco bar at closing time.

Officer Carlos Manfredi said yesterday that the suspect had been drinking at the bar in the Marina District on July 17 and tried to go back inside after it closed.

When he wasn't let in, the man tried to get in through a small window, and the bartender stopped him again.

Manfredi said the two got into a fight after the man began kicking the door to the bar. Police say that during the confrontation, the man bit off the bartender's ring finger.

The bartender was taken to a hospital, where he was treated for an amputated finger, swollen eyes and bruises to his head.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:15	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
19:00	Merciless (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Could A Robot Do My Job?
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Merciless
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

18 Aug - 24 Aug



## BEN-HUR\_

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm  
(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Timur Bekmambetov

Starring: Morgan Freeman, Rodrigo Santoro, Jack Huston

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 124min

## DOREAMON:BIRTH OF JAPAN\_

ROOM 1  
4.45 pm  
Director: Shinnosuke Yakuwa  
Duration: 97min

## LINE WALKER - THE MOVIE

ROOM 2  
2.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm  
Director: Jazz Boon  
Starring: Nick Cheung, Louis Koo, Francis Ng  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 97min

## CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY\_

ROOM 2  
4.30 pm  
Director: Jun Takagi  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 120min

## ROBINSON CRUSOE

ROOM 3  
2.30, 7.30 pm  
Director: Vincent Kesteloot, Ben Stassen  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 90min

## BFG\_

ROOM 3  
4.30, 9.30 pm  
Director: Syeven Spielberg  
Starring: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 117min

## MACAU TOWER

18 Aug - 31 Aug

## HEARTFALL ARISES\_

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm  
Director: Ng Ban Yu  
Starring: Sixuan Chen, Babyjohn Choi, Mavis Fan  
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 106min

## this day in history



## 1991 GORBACHEV PUNISHES COUP PLOTTERS

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has begun his purge of cabinet members and officials involved in the failed coup four days ago.

Two of the three ministers who signed the committee's takeover decree, defence minister Dmitri Yazov and KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, have been arrested.

The third, interior minister Boris Pugo, committed suicide to avoid arrest.

Mr Gorbachev also sacked his prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, and foreign minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh. Dozens of other party officials and senior army officers resigned or were dismissed.

During an address to the Russian Parliament, the leader said his "entire government" should resign for failing to oppose the takeover.

But Mr Gorbachev was unable to prevent his political rival, Russia's president Boris Yeltsin, capitalising on support he gained from opposing the coup and suspending the Russian Communist Party.

The exchanges between the Russian President and Soviet leader in parliament appeared to indicate that the balance of power in post-coup Moscow is rapidly shifting away from Mr Gorbachev.

Mr Yeltsin forced him to read out a list of those who had supported the takeover, taken from notes of the cabinet meeting on the morning of the coup.

When Mr Gorbachev had finished reading the notes, the president said: "Now, on a lighter note, I will sign this decree suspending the Russian Communist Party."

Mr Gorbachev pleaded with him not to sign the document, telling parliament he would never agree to something that infringed the interests of "millions of workers and peasants".

"You can't say that the whole Communist party supported the conspirators - if we do things like this it will be a witch hunt," he added.

But Mr Yeltsin responded by saying he was not banning the party, merely suspending it "prior to investigation of its involvement in the coup" - and signed the document to loud applause.

Mr Gorbachev praised the Russian Parliament and Mr Yeltsin for their role in defeating the coup, but was frequently heckled during his speech.

During his description of what happened during the takeover attempt one member of the parliament shouted: "We all know that. Talk about the reasons."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Soviet Union collapsed four months later and Mr Gorbachev resigned on 25 December 1991.

Russia, Ukraine and Belarus formed the Commonwealth of Independent States, an alliance which was eventually joined by all the former Soviet republics except the Baltic states.

In 1992, Russia took the former USSR's seat at the United Nations.

Mr Yeltsin's path to democracy was far from smooth. In 1993 he suspended parliament and called for new elections after a series of disagreements with his MPs.

When they barricaded themselves into the parliament building, he was forced to order the army in to recapture it.

Mr Yeltsin resigned in 2000 and was replaced by Vladimir Putin.

The 1991 coup plotters were pardoned in 1994.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You and your people need to work together today — though maybe not all as part of one large group. It's a really good time for you to show off your leadership skills, too, so step it up!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Your experience with foreign cultures could be intense or passing but today, you need to step up your mental game and show someone from far away how things roll in your world.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your relationship issues are boiling down to power struggles today — but don't lose hope! You just need to make sure that you're trying new things and experimenting with new ways of relating.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

It's time to take this terrific energy and do something really great with it! You have to explore new territory or make sure that someone close is where they really need to be. Go for it!

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You need to impress someone today — so it's a good thing you've got your game face on! You should be able to show them how sweet it can be if only they believe in what you've got to offer.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You are feeling a bit more excited over a new plan or project than anyone else, but that's easily explained: It's yours! Your terrific energy practically guarantees a rousing success, too, so enjoy!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

People are extra weird today — so make sure that you're not playing their game. If they seem to be trying to get a rise out of you, there's no need to play your part. Things should get better in a few days.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

A troublemaker is just trying to stir things up — so see if you can respond in a cool fashion and avoid taking the emotional bait. If you can pull it off, you should be a big winner.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Open up to new ideas — at least one of the silliest-sounding ones you're facing is a sure-fire winner! Take a deep breath, let go of your skepticism, and see what happens when you dive in.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You need to reconnect with your family today — though it may come to you! Things are a little overwhelming, but you can handle whatever comes your way. Things are getting real!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've got to make sure that you know what's coming — even if it's just the broad outline. You can't specifically read the future, but you should be able to get a good idea of what to expect.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You have got to work together today — your own energy isn't quite enough to get what you want on your own. There's nothing wrong with that, of course! Just ask those you trust for help.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 grid

Easy+

2 6 7 1 9 7 3 6 2 7 3 8 6 7 9 2 8 4 2 4 9 5 5 2 4 9 5 4 1 2 grid

Medium

2 1 6 7 4 5 5 3 2 6 1 2 7 9 6 8 1 9 3 3 2 5 1 4 5 2 6 5 4 grid

Hard

7 1 6 2 3 5 4 2 3 1 6 5 2 3 1 5 7 1 3 5 7 8 grid

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 24 30 overcast/shower Harbin 16 27 clear Tianjin 25 30 cloudy/thundershower Urumqi 16 31 clear Xi'an 25 38 cloudy Lhasa 11 22 overcast/cloudy Chengdu 26 34 shower Chongqing 30 38 clear Kunming 18 25 shower Nanjing 27 35 cloudy Shanghai 28 35 cloudy Wuhan 26 37 cloudy Hangzhou 27 36 cloudy Taipei 26 33 clear/drizzle Guangzhou 27 31 cloudy Hong Kong 28 30 cloudy

WORLD

Moscow 12 31 drizzle/rainstorm Frankfurt 13 24 cloudy/clear Paris 15 27 clear London 13 23 cloudy New York 26 28 clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- D-Day beach; 5- Located; 10- Pinchy crustacean; 14- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 15- Diciembre follower; 16- Do followers; 17- Pitcher Hershey; 18- Alleviates; 19- \_\_\_ soup yet?; 20- Achievement; 23- Seaport in the Crimea; 24- Cosmetician Lauder; 25- Condescending; 28- 1952 Winter Olympics site; 30- Large village; 31- Forming a group of seven; 36- Riviera season; 37- Eternal; 39- Leaves in a bag; 40- Tsunami; 42- Noncommittal words; 43- Boxer Max; 44- Picture theater; 46- Durango dwellings; 49- Tips off; 51- One purpose of a driver's license; 56- Sweeney \_\_\_; 57- Worked with wicker; 58- Career golfers; 60- Thus; 61- Oven option; 62- Taverns; 63- Witnessed; 64- Intervening, in law; 65- Activist;

DOWN: 1- \_\_\_-Aztec languages; 2- Scarlet's home; 3- Baldwin of "30 Rock"; 4- Tranquil; 5- Decorous; 6- Ill-suited; 7- Inventor Nikola; 8- ... \_\_\_ saw Elba; 9- Crash wherever convenient; 10- Incarnadine; 11- Bowling alley button; 12- Nitrogen compound; 13- Please, in Potsdam; 21- Feedbag bit; 22- Troy beauty; 25- Editor's mark; 26- Denier's words; 27- Was indebted to; 28- Mayberry moppet; 29- RR stop; 31- Skyrocket; 32- Ltr. holder; 33- Look \_\_\_, I'm Sandra Dee; 34- Paper quantity; 35- Divine Secrets of the \_\_\_ Sisterhood; 37- As \_\_\_ resort; 38- Farm female; 41- Forsake; 42- Vapid; 44- Tiny bed; 45- CD earnings; 46- Quotes; 47- Cherish; 48- Marsh plant; 49- Sots; 50- \_\_\_ the hole; 52- SDI concern; 53- Payment for travel; 54- Yes \_\_\_?; 55- Bar \_\_\_; 59- Georgia, once: Abbr.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



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# Sports court confirms Russia ban from Rio Paralympics

Graham Dunbar, Geneva

**R**USSIA is banned from the Paralympic Games as punishment for a state-backed doping program, after losing an appeal at sport's highest court.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport announced its urgent verdict yesterday to dismiss the Russian Paralympic Committee's appeal against exclusion from the Sept. 7-18 games in Rio de Janeiro. A hearing was held in Rio on Monday.

The court said its judges ruled that the International Paralympic Committee "did not violate any procedural rule" in banning the Russian team two weeks ago.

"[The] decision to ban the [Russian team] was made in accordance with the IPC Rules and was proportionate in the circumstances," the court said in a statement.

An appeal by Russia's Paralympic committee to Switzerland's federal court is possible though unlikely before the ga-



In this file photo taken on March 24, 2014, Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (right) speaks as Russian President Vladimir Putin (standing background center) listens to him during an awards ceremony in the Kremlin in Moscow

mes open, Alexei Karpenko, an attorney representing the Russian athletes, said in televised remarks.

The Swiss supreme court could intervene if the legal process was abused but not judge the merits of the evidence — which the CAS panel was satisfied had proven that Russian authorities organized cheating.

The Russian appeal "did not file any evidence contradicting the facts on which the IPC deci-

sion was based," the CAS panel said.

The world Paralympic body used evidence from a World Anti-Doping Agency inquiry into a Russian state-orchestrated program of doping and cover-ups which ran from 2011 to 2015.

Russian authorities also corrupted results at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games and Winter Paralympics by swapping tainted doping samples for clean ones

at the official WADA-accredited laboratory, the inquiry said.

The IPC said in Rio two weeks ago it had evidence of manipulated doping tests relating to 44 Russian athletes, including 27 from competitors in eight sports that are part of the Paralympic program.

Then, IPC President Philip Craven said of Russia that: "Their medals over morals mentality disgusts me."

Yesterday, Craven said the ruling from a court based in the Olympic home city of Lausanne, Switzerland, was a "sad day for the Paralympic Movement, but we hope also a new

beginning."

"Today's decision underlines our strong belief that doping has absolutely no place in Paralympic sport, and further improves our ability to ensure fair competition and a level playing field for all Para athletes around the world," Craven said in a statement yesterday.

Still, it was "not a day for celebration and we have enormous sympathy for the Russian athletes who will now miss out on the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games," the British official said.

Craven is also a member of the International Olympic Committee which declined to use similar evidence from WADA investigator Richard McLaren's report to take the toughest sanction against Russia for the Rio Olympics which ended Sunday.

Instead, the IOC asked individual sports governing bodies to decide if Russian teams and athletes could compete. Russia's weightlifting team was banned and only one track and field athlete was ruled eligible.

Russia ended the Rio Olympics in fourth place in the medal table. Its athletes won 56 medals, including 19 gold.

With Russia excluded from the Paralympics, the IPC said it will now "redistribute the 267 slots that had been secured by Russian athletes to compete." AP

## “ Their medals over morals mentality disgusts me.

PHILIP CRAVEN  
IPC PRESIDENT

AD

**T**HE richest clubs and biggest leagues in Europe are set to tighten their grip on the Champions League's future format and prize money this week. A deal being prepared by UEFA should end threats by some elite clubs to break away and form a closed European Super League before 2021.

However, it could ensure that more guaranteed places in the 32-team group stage and bigger shares of billion-dollar prize money each season will go to teams like Real Madrid, Barcelona and Juventus from the four highest-ranked national leagues.

In the hours before the group-stage draw tomorrow, a series of meetings with clubs and UEFA executive committee members in Monaco is expected to agree changes to entry slots for the 2018-2021 seasons.

UEFA and the influential European Club Association declined to comment on reports that the top leagues — in Spain, Germany, England and Italy — will each get four direct entries into the groups.

In a statement to The Associated Press, UEFA said only that it "expects to announce the evolution" of the Champions League at a news conference on Friday.

Italian clubs are looking to be the big winner. Serie A would offer four direct entries to the group stage, compared to two in the current three-season commercial cycle which expires in 2018.

Spain, England and Germany would also benefit by ending the risk of its fourth-placed club losing in the playoff round each August. Advancing through the playoffs is worth tens of millions of euros as UEFA will share 1.3 billion euros (USD1.47 billion) among the 32 group-stage clubs this season.

Italy has a dire recent record in playoffs. Serie A sends its

## FOOTBALL | UEFA

# Top European clubs set to win in new Champions League deal

third-placed team to the final qualifying stage and only AC Milan in 2014 has advanced in the past six seasons.

Changing the Champions League format is possible only every three years. It must be agreed before UEFA's retained marketing agency can sell Champions League and Europa League rights to broadcasters and sponsors for the next cycle.

The debate this year has been intense with clubs seeming to take advantage of a UEFA leadership gap since outgoing president Michel Platini was suspended by FIFA last year.

It should be resolved ahead of a Champions League draw missing recent winners Manchester United, Chelsea, AC Milan and Inter Milan. They all failed to qualify, but would expect to join an American-style closed European league where the likes of surprise English champion Leicester would not automatically appeal to most broadcasters.

Options favorable to the most



Argentine footballer Lionel Messi of Spanish club FC Barcelona

influential clubs included more entries for the top leagues, bigger shares of the prize fund, protected places for storied

clubs with a global fan base, and playing matches on Saturdays rather than midweek to appeal to Asian and Ameri-

can audiences. Outside Europe, viewers are judged to want more games between high-profile teams.

The deal now reportedly on UEFA's table gives clubs some concessions, while keeping Platini's vision for the world's most prestigious club competition.

UEFA acknowledged the next format is being agreed sooner than expected. A deadline of December's meeting of the UEFA executive committee was set after tense meetings in Milan on May 28, ahead of the Champions League final.

The new timetable should see the tournament's immediate future settled before the UEFA presidential vote on Sept. 14 to replace Platini.

The election front-runner, Aleksander Ceferin of Slovenia, has won public support from countries like Denmark and Sweden, whose title-holders regularly qualify for Champions League groups but are not seen as commercially attractive. **MDT/AP**

## ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

# Eriksson's Shanghai held 0-0 in ACL quarterfinal first leg

**SVEN-GORAN** Eriksson's Shanghai SIPG could only manage a 0-0 draw in the first leg of its Asian Champions League quarterfinal against Jeonbuk Hyundai yesterday.

Shanghai invested heavily since securing its place in the quarterfinals in May, bringing Brazilian striker Hulk to

the club for an Asian transfer record of 55.8 million euros (then USD62 million) from Russian side Zenit St. Petersburg. The 30-year-old Hulk missed this tie with an injury, however, as did Argentinian playmaker Dario Conca.

Eriksson, a former England manager, still had plenty of firepower to deploy —

with two-time ACL winner Elkeson and forward Wu Lei both starting.

The 2006 ACL champion Jeonbuk showed why it sits 10 points clear at the top of South Korea's K League Classic, edging a physical first half and coming closest to opening the scoring with Leonardo's effort that struck the post.

Shanghai looked dangerous going forward in the second period, and Lu Wenjun drew a smart save from Kwoun Sun-tae from a free kick just outside the area soon after the restart. Yu Hai and Wu also went close with headers but couldn't find the target. **AP**

# Mongolia's Olympic wrestling strip gets public backing

**Ganbat Namjilsangarav, Ulaan Bataar**

**A**skin-baring protest by a pair of Mongolian wrestling coaches at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics might have struck some observers as slightly bizarre. Back home in their landlocked Asian nation, however, it's been praised as the appropriate response to bad refereeing.

Mongolian media and the public reacted angrily to the decision to award victory to Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Navruzov over



A coach of Mongolia's wrestler Mandakhnaran Ganzorig takes off his clothes in protest on August 21

Mongolia's Mandakhnaran Ganzorig in the 65-kilogram freestyle bronze medal match on Saturday.

While Ganzorig, who had already started celebrating, fell to his knees in disappointment, his coaches went much further.

Byambarenchin Bayaraa took his shoes and shirt off and threw them to the mat in disgust in front of the officials.

Tsenrenbataar Tsoshtayar stripped all the way down to his blue briefs. The Brazilian crowd started chanting "Mongolia! Mongolia!"

Former freestyle wrestler Nyamjav Baasanjav said Tuesday the referees should have given Mandakhnaran a warning instead of awarding a key penalty point to Navruzov.

"This shows the referees were biased and favored the Uzbek wrestler," Baasanjav claimed. "Everyone can see from the video recording of the wrestling that Mandakhnaran was the better wrestler. Mongolia was robbed."

Wrestling is one of Mongolia's traditional sports — alongside archery and hor-

seback riding — and has an intense following in the country of slightly fewer than 3 million people.

Stripping one's clothes off is considered an acceptable way of peacefully protesting a decision and the coach's actions were widely embraced.

"The internet loves the Mongolian coaches for this protest action," said Myagmardorj Boldbaatar, an entrepreneur and active social media user. "The coaches didn't break anything or physically hurt anyone. It was nothing personal." **AP**

opinion

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**ELECTRIC TAXIS**

Every so often my wife drags me to Zhuhai to see what is new there. I do not mind because progress in Zhuhai is a good benchmark for improvements here, but all too often Macau falls behind. A case in point is the fully electric taxi made by BYD that we recently rode in Zhuhai - why isn't Macau leading the way in having electric taxis?

Electric vehicles are clearly a major technological trend and they are starting to take over from vehicles powered by internal combustion engines. Moreover, hybrid vehicles that combine internal combustion and electric motors are only a transition technology and in the long term fully electric vehicles will be the norm.

Fully electric vehicles are mechanically much simpler, and thus can lower capital and operating costs and be much more reliable. Electric motors can also outperform equivalent internal combustion motors. As important, is the fact that electricity as a fuel source can be much less polluting. Converting most of the world's vehicle fleet to electric and eliminating their consumption of fossil fuels will be necessary if we are to achieve global climate change goals (to keep the temperature rise below 2 degrees).

The big question mark is battery capacity and energy density and we are steadily climbing the technology curve with lithium ion batteries to resolve these issues. I am sure that over the next 10-20 years fully electric vehicle sales will grow to take 50+% market share.

6-7 years ago I was peripherally involved in a project to develop an initial prototype for an electric car in association with Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou. The end goal of the project was specifically to create an electric taxi because: (1) taxis are fleet sales so you can focus your marketing efforts on a small number of relatively sophisticated buyers; (2) the buying decision is strongly driven by comparative life-cycle costs and electric taxis can have significantly lower costs; (3) taxis work from depots so you only need a small number of recharging stations; (4) taxis can create very good word of mouth for general vehicle sales if passengers and drivers like their experience; (5) the travel distance in one operating shift could be covered by one full charge of the vehicle batteries so that range limitations are not an issue.

Unfortunately, the project I was involved in did not get past the initial prototype, but I did get to drive it in Guangzhou. I and others drove the open chassis before the body was fitted and the acceleration and smoothness of the ride were excellent. We drove it on the public roads without being concerned with red tape, and it was great fun. I miss that freedom in Macau where nowadays we seem to be ever more constricted by rules and regulations.

The concept was excellent then and still is now. And Macau is the perfect place for electric taxis. Why they are successfully operating in Zhuhai and not Macau is beyond me - can somebody from the relevant government department explain the problem to me?

BYD as a company never really impressed me - they are really a battery manufacturer more than a vehicle manufacturer. Nonetheless, the BYD electric taxi I rode in Zhuhai was a very reasonable vehicle and its power and acceleration was quite noticeable. There seemed to be quite few of them on the road. Unfortunately, my non-existent Chinese language skills meant that I could not ask the driver for his opinion on the vehicle, but as a passenger I was impressed. I had thought that Warren Buffett's investment in BYD was a mistake, but I am reconsidering that view.

When can we see the first fully electric taxi in Macau?

**THE SWISS CHARGE 3 SUSPECTS IN GLOBAL PHISHING CASE**

Swiss prosecutors say they've charged three people accused of illegally obtaining data on at least 133,600 credit cards with computer fraud following their extradition from Thailand.

The Swiss attorney general's office said yesterday that the group for years earned a living from the unlawful procurement and

fraudulent online use of credit card data. It said that "credit card holders around the world and Swiss financial institutions" were affected.

The three allegedly obtained the data through so-called phishing attacks, using emails, websites and text messages.

**KIM'S LATEST**

**Lions, tigers and poodles? Dogs a big draw at Pyongyang zoo**



Visitors feed dogs at the newly opened Central Zoo in Pyongyang

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

**LIONS**, tigers and poodles?

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's latest gift to the residents of Pyongyang, the renovated central zoo, is pulling in thousands of visitors a day with a slew of attractions ranging from such typical zoo fare as elephants, giraffes, penguins and monkeys to a high-tech natural history museum with displays showing the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth.

But one of the most popular attractions might come as a surprise to foreign visitors. Just across from the hippopotamus pen and the reptile house, dozens of varieties of dogs - including schnauzers, German shepherds, Shih Tzus and Saint Bernards - are on display in the "dog pavilion."

One, a King Charles

spaniel, was presented as a gift to Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, by "the U.S. company Tapco" in 1995. According to plaques above their pens, which - dog lovers will be relieved to know - are spacious and clean, Kim Jong Un himself chipped in by giving the zoo its schnauzers, poodles, German shepherds and a Chihuahua.

Former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who pursued a sort of detente with Pyongyang called the "Sunshine policy," presented the North with a Jindo dog that now resides in the zoo.

North Korea's own national dog - yes, it has one, the puffy white Pung San breed - lives in a pen next to it.

Though somewhat shocking to those accustomed to thinking of dogs as companions or household pets, the zoo display may actually reflect an increasingly fond

attitude toward dogs in North Korea. While dog meat is still a common dish in the North, and in China and South Korea as well, a small but growing number of North Koreans are keeping canines as pets.

People walking dogs on leashes can now be seen from time to time in Pyongyang and some other cities. And instead of suggesting recipes, signs in the dog pavilion describe the best way to train a pet dog, suggesting that patience and kindness work better than harsh words.

Aside from the dogs, another unique feature of the zoo is the posting of signs above many of the animal habitats noting where the "gift animals" came from - which is intended to remind visitors of how much North Korea's leaders are loved and respected by leaders abroad. The signs also are meant to emphasize the benevolence of Kim Jong Un, who along with the dogs donated tigers, giraffes and many other animals at the zoo.

Pyongyang's central zoo actually dates back to 1959, when Kim Il Sung, the nation's first leader and the grandfather of Kim Jong Un, ordered it built on the outskirts of the city. According to an official history, the zoo started off with only 50 badgers. That same year, however, it got its first "gift animals," elephants donated by fellow socialist leader Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam.

Fittingly, the elephants, according to the zoo, were heroes in the socialist revolutionary movement because they helped the Vietnamese by carrying war materiel in the fight against French colonialism.

Another "gift animal" elephant was donated by Laos. Zebras and ostriches at the zoo were donated to Kim Il Sung by the leader of Tanzania, and orangutans were donated by the late President Suharto of Indonesia. The mayor of the Japanese city of Kyoto gave the old zoo a jaguar. **AP**



A North Korean man kisses a turtle through the glass of its tank



North Koreans feed an elephant

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

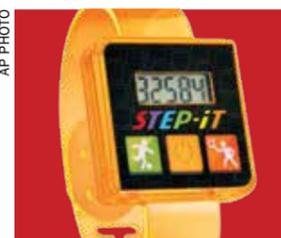
SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**UKRAINE** The leaders of Russia, Germany and France have raised the alarm about a recent uptick in fighting in eastern Ukraine, the Kremlin said yesterday. President Vladimir Putin's office said Putin, Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande discussed Ukraine in a telephone call earlier in the day and condemned recent fighting in eastern Ukraine. The conflict in Ukraine's industrial heartland between Russia-backed separatists and government troops has killed more than 9,500 people since it began in 2014.

**SWEDEN** An eight-year-old boy has been killed after a grenade was thrown into a flat in the Swedish city of Gothenburg, police said. Yuusuf Warsame from Birmingham in the UK was sleeping in the living room of the flat in the Biskopsgarten area, where he was visiting relatives. According to BBC, police said the "despicable" attack may have been linked to an underworld feud.

**USA** Chicago police say three children, including a 3-month-old baby, and one man have been killed in an apartment building fire.



**USA** McDonald's is recalling millions of fitness bands that had been given away in Happy Meals because they might cause skin irritation or burns to children. The fast-food chain said that it would stop distributing the bands in Happy Meals. Now it's recalling 29 million of them in the U.S., and 3.6 million in Canada. The company, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, received more than 70 reports of incidents after children wore the bands.

**OLYMPICS** Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike is preparing for a strenuous workout with the next Summer Olympics headed her way. The practice started when she received the Olympic flag Sunday in the official handover ceremony from her Rio counterpart, Mayor Eduardo Paes.