



TEAMS ARRIVING IN MACAU

This year's FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macau will be held from July 14 to July 16

P6

VEHICLE REGISTRATION RECALLS SURGE



P6



CHINA'S AMBITION, U.S. RETREAT ON SHOW

A giant Chinese flag flutters on a pole where an American flag used to fly at a steel mill in a Serbian factory town

P15

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WORLD BRIEFS



US-RUSSIA President Donald Trump has called for expanded cooperation with Russia over Syria as a cease-fire brokered by the two powers and Jordan came into effect. The agreement followed weeks of secretive talks between the U.S., Russia and Jordan in Amman to address the buildup of Iranian-backed forces near the Jordanian and Israeli borders. Shortly after the agreement came into effect, Trump tweeted that the cease-fire "will save lives."

INDONESIA Police said yesterday that a man whose home-made bomb accidentally exploded in the West Java city of Bandung was obsessed with the idea of joining Islamic State group-affiliated militants in the southern Philippines. [More on p13](#)



JAPAN Prime Minister Shinzo Abe yesterday pledged to increase cooperation with Finland in Arctic issues and on furthering Russian relations, after talks with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto. Abe said his country would increase its role in the agency by "positively contributing more than in the past to [its] activities."

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Leong hints at gaming rights 'refreshment'

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Survey: Consumer Confidence Index shows trust in local economy

P3

CRIME

Illegal hostel hires illegal worker

Renato Marques

IN an unusual case that occurred over the weekend, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) detained a man over illegal work performed in an apartment that was serving as an illegal hostel in the ZAPE area, the PSP informed in a press conference yesterday.

The case goes back to July 5 when the PSP was performing an anti-crime operation around Rua de Pequim. The force claimed it was aware that in the nearby street (Rua de Cantão) an illegal hostel was in operation and they decided to set up a vigilance operation on the site.

When the PSP saw a man leaving the building, officers took the opportunity and approached him.

The man, a tourist from the mainland aged 52, was lodged in the alleged illegal hos-

tel. He told the PSP that he had arrived Macau on June 27 and on that day he was approached by a woman offering cheap lodging (HKD100 per day). He claimed that the offer was initially not tempting, but the next day he found her again and asked if she still had vacancies. The woman took him to the apartment, but this time said she was charging MOP120 per day for a bed there. However, she offered him a special deal.

She said she needed to travel back to the mainland for about eight days, and proposed the man care for the apartment during this period, collecting the rental money on her behalf from people that a second woman would bring in.

In exchange for doing this, the man would get a MOP20 discount per day from his own rental fee.

He accepted the deal and

paid the first three days (MOP300) in advance to the woman who then departed.

On July 4, as the first woman had informed him, a second female brought three other men to the apartment. He collected a total of HKD600 from each man for two nights' stay.

Questioned by the police, the three men confirmed the story and the payment amounts, saying that they were approached on the street by a woman with a similar story to the one relayed by the first man.

The PSP then requested that the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) send officers to the location. After inspections and hearing the stories from those involved, MGTO classified the apart-



PHOTO ARCHIVE

ment as an illegal hostel and impounded it.

As for the initial man, the police deemed that there was enough evidence to incriminate him for illegal work in the region, presenting him to

the Public Prosecutions Office under such charges.

The three other hostel lodgers, all tourists from the mainland aged between 37 and 39 were let go without any charges.

WANTED ROBBER CAUGHT BY CASINO SECURITY

THE JUDICIARY Police (PJ) informed that they have detained, with the help of casino security, a man who was being pursued since May 24, 2016 over a case of robbery. At the time of the initial incident, the man took the opportunity to take a bag from a Korean casino gambler from his seat on the gaming floor of a casino in Cotai. The man spotted on the surveillance cameras was being

searched for until July 7 when security guards of another casino spotted and caught him, delivering the 34 year-old from the mainland to the PJ's custody. The man confessed the crime saying that he has already spent the HKD160,000 that was in the bag. The PJ informed that the man's detention was only possible due to the close communication between the private security forces and police authorities.

Swindle over supplier 'fake' email hits local shop

A swindle over an email communication from an alleged supplier of a local shop affected sales worth over MOP94,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed yesterday in press conference.

The case started on July 3 when a shop that sells leather items on Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva received an email that the shopkeeper thought was from one of her regular suppliers, an Italian company with which she claimed to have conducted business activities since 2015.

The email requested the shop update the supplier's information, specifically bank account numbers to which she should transfer funds to pay for a recently-made order.

The woman who owns and manages the small shop did not find the email suspicious and complied with the request, changing the account information and transferring the equivalent of MOP94,279.

On the evening of July 7, she received a communication from the supplier noting that they had not yet received the payment, alerting her to check the previous email.

She then noted that the email address was slightly different from the one in use from the supplier and she suspected she had been the target of fraud.

She then decided to file a complaint to the PJ who is still investigating the case.

THE University of Macau (UM) is hosting various summer programs and activities for its local and international students, as well as local secondary school pupils.

UM's Portuguese- and English-language summer programs are among the most anticipated.

Launched in 1986, the UM's Department of Portuguese's summer program for the language has attracted students

EDUCATION

UM holds summer programs for students

from around the world, including but not limited to Japan, India and the United States.

For the first time, UM's Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH) has organized a series of English learning activities for students from Sacred Heart Canossian College English Section, Kao Yip

Middle School and the Affiliated School of UM.

FAH also launched a summer camp titled "Summertime English: An Immersion Experience" which is open to all secondary students in Macau.

In addition, the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Science

and Technology launched various summer camps for secondary students.

The camps focus on various themes and subjects including biomedical sciences, civil engineering, computer vision and human interaction, wireless technology studies, green vehicles,

3D reconstruction with quadcopters, and robotics and artificial intelligence. These camps aim to help participants learn more about science through interactive games and scientific experiments.

UM has also launched activities to help new students adjust to uni-

versity life and its English-speaking learning environment. These activities include the English immersion program held over the summer, and a preparatory course in calculus. There are courses in public speaking and quantitative reasoning as well as a program in financial accounting theory, specifically designed for students admitted to UM through the principals' recommendation admission scheme.

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Daniel Beitler

Leong hints at 'refreshment of gaming rights'

THE government is considering amendments to the gaming concession law that could cover both the city's current concessionaires and sub-concessionaires.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said yesterday that the government "will analyze various options – including the possibility of amendment to terms and conditions – regarding any refreshment of gaming rights for Macau's current gaming concessions and sub-concessions."

The concessions and sub-concessions of the six current gaming operators will expire on various dates between 2020 and 2022. They may be extended exceptionally by the Chief Executive in increments of time to a maximum of five extra years. After that, a new concession process must take place.

Leong said yesterday that the government needed to "cautiously assess such matters" due to the significant role of the gaming industry in Macau's economy.

Nevertheless, the relevant authorities would also need



to consider how to best further the diversification of tourism offerings in the city, with a focus on non-gaming activities.

Almost a year on since

the gaming recovery began, Leong said that authorities will need to wait until the peak summer travel season of this month and next to fully understand the health of the

industry.

In June, gross gaming revenues reached almost MOP20 billion, up 25.9 percent compared with the same month in the previous year due to a low base of comparison. For the first six months of 2017, gaming revenues are up 17.2 percent against the first half of 2016.

According to a statement released by the Government Information Bureau, Leong said that the exports of other tourism services in the first

quarter of this year grew by more than 20 percent year-on-year, indicating that the economy was not merely driven by gaming revenues.

According to the 2016 Population By-census, around 21.2 percent of the city's workforce are employed by the gaming and junket sector. Moreover, despite the gaming recession, the industry remains the largest in Macau, accounting for a significant share of the government's revenue.

LEONG STEPS DOWN AS NPC DELEGATE

LIONEL LEONG said yesterday that he will not seek a third term as a delegate of the National People's Congress. Instead, he will focus on his role as the government's foremost economy official. The city is now compiling a commission to select 12 representatives of the MSAR to join

the NPC. After resigning as a delegate, Leong delivered his notice yesterday to join the Macau commission. The commission is a body of around 500 electors, mainly composed of interest groups and those that elect the chief executive, that will choose the territory's NPC representatives.

SURVEY

Consumer Confidence Index shows trust in local economy

Julie Zhu

THE Macau Consumer Confidence Index (MCCI) for the second quarter of 2017 indicated only one of the six sub-indexes in MCCI increased compared with the first quarter of 2017, that one being the "local economy".

The "local economy" sub-index was 102.28, which continued the previous quarter's upward trend with an increase of 0.85 percent, showing Macanese consumers' continuous optimism about the local economy's overall performance.

All of the other sub-indexes decreased compared to the first quarter of 2017. While the "employment" sub-index declined by 1.15 percent over the first quarter of 2017, it was 105.52 in the second quarter of 2017, still above the 100-point "having confidence" level, and was the highest among the six sub-indexes. This reveals that Macau consumers tended to be cautiously optimistic about their employment in the labor markets.

The "consumer prices" sub-index was 74.22 in the



second quarter of 2017, a decline of 0.75 percent from the first quarter of 2017, implying a slightly increased concern of inflation.

The "living standards" sub-index was 97.02, a growth of 0.4 percent to the first quarter of 2017, indicating a slightly increased living pressure of Macau residents due to local inflation.

The "housing purchase" sub-index was still the lowest (51.16) among the six sub-indexes, which continued the previous quarter's downward trend, with a drop of 4.15 percent from the first quarter of 2017. This suggests a further worsening of the already-negative sentiment among potential residential home buyers.

The "stock investment" sub-index was 81.63, with a

quarter-to-quarter decrease of 3.27 percent, reflecting a significant drop in the willingness of local consumers to invest in the volatile stock market.

The survey results from the second quarter of 2017 showed a decrease in local consumers' overall confidence.

The "local economy" sub-index continued the previous upward trend and went back to above the 100-point "having confidence" level.

Customers were cautiously optimistic about "employment", with relatively stable confidence in "consumer prices" and "living standards", however, confidence again declined in "housing purchase," and confidence significantly declined in "stock investment."

The previous 34 consecutive MCCI surveys had all shown that consumer confidence increased substantially with education levels.

In particular, the 35-quarter average MCCI for consumers with tertiary education was 4.59 points (5.4 percent) and 9.92 points (12.5 percent) higher than those for consumers with only secondary and primary education respectively. MCCI for consumers with only primary education tended to be more volatile across different years.

Based on the survey design, index scores range from 0 to 200, where 0 means "no confidence", and a score of 100 means a neutral impression, and a score of 200 indicates "full confidence".

In short, index scores below 100 suggest "lack of confidence" while index scores above 100 imply "having confidence".

The Institute for Sustainable Development (TISD) of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) used its computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system to conduct the MCCI survey from June 13 to 19, with 1,015 Macau residents aged 18 or above randomly selected and successfully interviewed to compile the index.

Taiwan customs seized USD380k from duo leaving Macau

Two men from Taiwan who won USD400,000 from Macau casinos lost USD380,000 of that when they were crossing the Taiwan border to enter Taipei city.

According to a report by Apple Daily Taiwan, the two men, both in their 20s, took a flight from Macau to Taipei last Saturday.

The Taipei customs authority found USD400,000 in cash in their possession, at which point the two men were questioned about the money's source.

The duo admitted that the money had been given to them by someone they met in Macau's casinos. However they reportedly did not know the identity of the person who gave them the money.

Then, the Taipei customs authority questioned the two

men about whether they had been paid to carry the money out of Macau, but they refused to answer.

In accordance with Taiwan's anti-money laundering policy, USD 380,000 was subsequently seized by customs.

According to the Taipei customs authority, this case involves the largest amount of cash ever carried to Taiwan.

Taiwan customs are reminding the public to be careful with how much cash they take to Taiwan. An individual is only allowed, at most, to bring NT 100,000, RMB20,000, and USD10,000 in cash to Taiwan.

Any amount above the limit must be declared to Taiwan customs, otherwise the Customs authority will seize the surplus.



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Cricket festival returns after five-year lapse

Daniel Beittler

AN eight-team cricket tournament is returning to Macau after five years of absence.

On July 23, eight teams of six adult players will vie to become tournament winner, contesting a total of 15 matches to be hosted at Hou Kong Middle School. The teams hail from Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, with the home groups sourced from the membership of the Macau Cricket Association (MCA).

MCA is the sole organizer of the tournament. A group of non-professional cricketers, the 35-strong membership of MCA is composed of mostly nationals from South Asia – namely India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

MCA president, Adnan Nasim, told the Times yesterday that the event is returning to Macau after a five-year absence that he attributed to a lack of resources.

He said that just one date was available at the playing fields of



A previous event organized by the Macau Cricket Association

Hou Kong Middle School in the next six months – “It was that Sunday or never”- and being a small, amateur sporting association, MCA does not have the financial and logistical backing to roll out large-scale events on a frequent basis.

“Awareness of cricket in Macau is very low because locals don’t get the chance to experience the sport,” said Nasim. He put this

partly down to the lack of specialized grounds, which discourages locals from taking up the sport and makes it less likely that overseas teams will agree to travel to the city for friendly matches.

The MCA president wants to bring cricket back to schools to nurture an interest in the sport among the youth. It is a strategy that worked well once

before, during MCA’s outreach program with The International School and the Anglican College, but Nasim said that limited resources led to dwindling interest.

“The problem is that there is nowhere to continue playing cricket when the students graduate,” and so they lose some of their ambition, he said.

The MCA president wants to introduce cricket to schools to nurture an interest in the sport among the youth

Cricket is a ‘bat-and-ball’ game, popular in some parts of the world, but mysterious and confusing to others.

In cricket, two teams rotate through an equal number of phases of batting or bowling, known as ‘innings’. There are a set number of balls that are bowled during each innings, defined by the number of ‘overs’. An over refers to the bowling of six consecutive balls, after which

the bowler must swap with another player.

The first team to bat accrues a number of runs during their innings, which is contested by the opposing team once the second innings begins. The team that scores the most runs wins the match.

Some forms of cricket – most notably test match cricket – can see matches span five or more days. As a result, cricket is not usually considered an apt sport for single-day tournaments that involve multiple teams.

For the Macau Cricket Festival, organizer MCA is limiting each match to just 40 minutes, which will include both teams’ innings. Each side will have just five overs, expected to last four minutes each. Then the teams will rotate.

The tournament, which will run from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., is yet to attract sponsorship, although each of the eight teams has been asked to contribute a MOP600 entry fee. Nasim said that MCA is currently seeking a benefactor to provide drinking water during the day’s activities, but they are strongly discouraging competitors and spectators from bringing food, as they aim to keep the facilities clean.

He also said that MCA contacted the Sports Bureau to invite a representative to the event, but as of Sunday they had not received an answer.

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SPORTS | FIVB 2017

China volleyball team coach hopes to perform better



EXECUTIVE coach of the China Women's National Volleyball Team, An Jiajie, is hoping that the team's young players will achieve a breakthrough in the rankings of this year's FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macau, which will be held from July 14 to July 16 at Macau Forum.

With several new players in the team, the Chinese team will gain another experience in international competitions from the tournament.

"Many national teams used young players this year and so has our team. I hope that they can be more confident in the Macau leg competitions and our team can achieve a breakthrough in the rankings," An told the press, who arrived along with the team from Shanghai yesterday at 5 p.m.

The executive coach was speaking on the sidelines of Galaxy Entertainment

Group's welcome reception for the team.

This year, teams from Turkey, Italy and the United States also consist of younger athletes, and the Chinese coach pledged to further train younger players to compete in Macau.

"We will keep using these young people in Macau," he said, adding that they are more confident with their young team members.

"Hopefully it follows our plan, which is that the young teammates can express themselves, and hopefully that, through this completion, our team's level [of ability] can be trained," An continued.

With six matches, the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macau 2017 will see China play against Italy on the first day, then against Turkey on the second day, and the U.S. on the last day.

An referenced one team member, Zhang Changnin, who is currently injured, and revealed that she is recovering and hoped that she could join the upcoming three-day competition.

Zhang, 21, was selected for the National Women's Volleyball Team in 2014 and won the silver medal in the 2014 World Women's Championship, and gold medal in the 2015 Asian Women's Championship.

China's national team won the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macau 2016, which saw the team renew the title it first won in 2014.

The three-day event is organized by the Sports Bureau and the Volleyball Association of Macau, China, and presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group. **LV**

UNITED STATES TEAM ARRIVES IN MACAU

IN ADDITION to the Chinese volleyball Team, team USA, the winners of the Kunshan leg, arrived in the territory yesterday to prepare for the FIVB Volleyball World Grand Prix Macau 2017. Fresh from defeating Russia, Italy and China to win the Kunshan leg last weekend, Team USA aim to continue their winning streak in the city where they were

crowned champions of the FIVB WGP Finals in 2011. Comprising mostly new players, their lineup includes only two players that participated in last year's Rio Olympics - Carli Lloyd and Kelly Murphy. The U.S. will play China in the anticipated final match of the Macau leg on Sunday, which will be a rematch of last weekend's finale in Kunshan.



COURTS

Defendants in Ho's case reach closing submission

THE closing submission in the trial of other defendants in the former Prosecutor-General Ho Chio Meng's case proceeded yesterday.

The prosecutors, in their closing submission, said that the case involving Macau's former Prosecutor-General also involved the Public Prosecution Office (MP), in turn revealing MP shortcomings and as such, "it needs a lot of courage to reveal its own wound."

The prosecution side said that the case had a negative impact on the MP's image. However, the MP believes that after taking care of the 'wound', the day will come when it has recovered from this injury: "[The] MP's work towards ensuring the rule of law cannot be stopped," the report reads.

The MP added that it will let the public know that Macau is a city with rule of law.

In total, there are nine defendants involved in Ho's case, not including Ho Chio Meng. The trial of these nine defendants has been ongoing for nearly five months.

The prosecutors divided the closing submission into different sections, including one where it accused Ho Chio Meng of various crimes.

Three defendants appeared at yesterday's trial: Lai Kin Ian, Former Chief of Office of the Prosecutor General of Public Prosecutions Office, and businessmen Wong Kuok Wai and Mak Yim Tai.

The trial of Ho reached its final stage in May. The two prosecutors, Chan Tsz King and Kuok U Man, previously stated during the closing submission of Ho's trial, that they were "gloomy in proceeding with the closing submission" because the defendant, Ho, was formerly the highest official of the MP.

The prosecutors said that the MP was "sad and ashamed" by Ho's conduct, with the prosecution expressing their hope of seeing this case, highlighting in the eyes of the society, the principle that every person is equal before the law, and that the foundations of the rule of law will not be shaken because of this case.

Vehicle registration cancellation up 80 percent in first semester

THE number of vehicles whose license plates were cancelled during the first half of this year registered a growth of 79.8 percent when compared to the same period of 2016, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) informed in a statement.

According to the statement, 14,591 vehicles saw their registration cancelled during the period. Of this figure, 12,464 were cancelled by request of their owners. According to DSAT, this number doubled in comparison with last year.

These figures include 5,736 two-stroke engine scooters and motor-

cycles which fell under the government plan to remove high-polluting vehicles from local roads, which ran earlier this year between February 15 and June 30.

DSAT noted that 850 other vehicles were removed from the streets due to either prior cancellation of their licenses or because owners failed to comply with road tax payment. Of the latter group, only 2 percent of owners sought to claim back the vehicles or to voluntarily cancel their licenses.

DSAT remarked that it will remove all vehicles which have not

paid the road tax or have their registration canceled but are still parked on the public street. The bureau also warned that in such cases, "a fine shall be imposed to the owner of the vehicle that shall be subject to payment of all administrative fees regarding the process." In the instance of a vehicle removal, deposit fees will be included, and DSAT reminded that such costs are calculated on daily basis. As such, the Bureau encouraged owners to properly request vehicle license cancellation as well as vehicle recollection, a service DSAT offers. **RM**

Chinese workers protest at Saipan casino opening

CHINESE construction workers protesting over unpaid wages marred the opening of Imperial Pacific International's Saipan casino last week.

The workers, most of whom come from China, said that they are missing several months of pay and will not be returning home until they are compensated. They claimed to be owed at least RMB40,000 (MOP47,300) in wages.

"In addition to not paying us for months, the hourly wages we did receive were well below what we were promised," said one worker, cited by the Financial Times. "We are all very desperate because we all paid money

from our own pockets to the brokers who brought us here."

The casino opening on July 6 is an upgrade to the temporary base that the operator was using as it awaited the resort's development. Previously the young operator was licensed to run its casino, Best Sunshine Live, from a shopping center, but it has now moved into the USD550-million, Palladian-façade resort.

According to the company's annual report, last year Best Sunshine Live pulled in USD32 billion in VIP betting from just 16 gaming tables, narrowly beating the much larger and more established, Venetian Macao (USD29

billion).

Saipan is just a four-hour flight from Shanghai, a major target market of Imperial Pacific International.

The casino operator is looking to capitalize on the opportunity presented by the Macau gaming slowdown, initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign and sustained by a more complex regulatory environment in the MSAR.

In contrast, gaming liberalization is a trend being observed across the Asia-Pacific region, from Vietnam and the Philippines in Southeast Asia to Australia and Japan on the Pacific periphery. **DB**

Sunac, Wanda seal China's largest property deal

SUNAC China Holdings Ltd. agreed to buy hotels, land and projects from Dalian Wanda Group Co. for 63.2 billion yuan (USD9.3 billion) in China's largest property deal, as billionaire Chairman Sun Hongbin moves to take advantage of competitors shedding assets.

Sunac will buy 76 hotels from Wanda through a unit and will purchase a 91 percent stake of 13 cultural and tourism projects, with both sides planning to sign a detailed agreement before July 31, according to a statement. Sunac halted trading of its shares in Hong Kong yesterday, pending the announcement, after closing 6.9 percent lower on Friday.

The deal marks Sun's biggest gambit, building on a spree totaling more than \$12 billion over the past year as Sunac expands beyond its core focus on residential real estate. Sunac invested in companies affiliated with the cash-strapped LeEco empire, as Sun has said that he's seeking ways to expand beyond property into areas from healthcare to finance.

"For Sunac, the deal signifies a move into hotels from primarily property development it focused on before," said Kristy Hung, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. "Sunac could be seeking more exposure outside of just purely property development, as growth of Chinese new home sales will likely slow in the long-run."

With the latest deal, Sun targeted assets from fellow-billionaire Wang Jianlin, who was among the most acquisitive Chinese tycoons up until last year. Wanda is among conglom-



merates including Fosun International Ltd., HNA Group Co. and Anbang Insurance Group Co. whose loans are under government scrutiny after China's banking regulator asked some lenders to provide information on overseas loans to the companies, people familiar with the matter said in June.

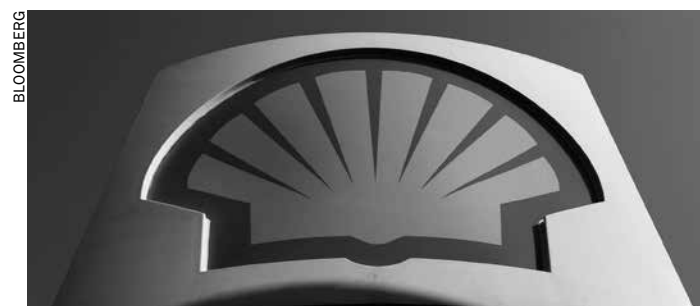
Sunac has emerged as the most acquisitive Chinese developer in the past 12 months and its property holdings have expanded rapidly, from four cities in 2011 to 44 in 2016. Sunac's 15 acquisitions since the start of last year included a deal with technology company Legend Holdings Corp. that spanned 42 property projects across 16 cities, including Beijing, Tianjin, Chongqing and Hangzhou, according to Bloomberg data. Sunac's stock has soared almost 130 percent this year.

Sunac said it will use its own funds for the Wanda deal, and that it had more than 90 billion

yuan in cash as of the end of June, Caixin reported yesterday, citing an interview with Sun. Wanda will use all proceeds from the deal to pay back loans, according to the report, which also cited an interview with Wanda's Wang.

The transaction will allow Sunac and Wanda to "fully play" to their advantages, and both parties agree to cooperate in other areas such as in movies, according to the statement. Wanda will control the construction and operation over the 13 cultural projects and the firms will cooperate in a number of other areas, including films, according to the statement.

Sunac's purchase comes amid what Citigroup Inc. predicts will be a "mega-consolidation" in the industry. Developers spent a record 96.7 billion yuan in the second quarter on acquiring competitors or their assets, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. MDT/Bloomberg



Shell plans to spend USD1b a year on clean energy by 2020

Rakteem Katakey

ROYAL Dutch Shell Plc plans to spend as much as USD1 billion a year on its New Energies division as the transition toward renewable power and electric cars accelerates.

"In some parts of the world we are beginning to see battery electric cars starting to gain consumer acceptance" while wind and solar costs are falling fast, Shell CEO Ben Van Beurden said in a speech in Istanbul yesterday. "All of this is good news for the world and must accelerate," while still offering opportunities for producers of fossil fuels.

Shell sees opportunities in hydrogen fuel-cells, liquefied natural gas and next-generation biofuels for air travel, shipping and heavy freight - areas of transport for which batteries aren't adequate. The intermittent nature of wind and solar energy means power plants fired by natural gas will have a long-term role, Van Beurden said.

Van Beurden was addressing the World Petroleum Congress - a gathering of ministers and CEOs from some of the largest oil producers - at a time when the accelerating shift to clean energy is raising questions about their long-term business models.

While Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and Saudi Arabian Oil Co. boss Amin Nasser said oil and gas will be dominant for decades to come, Van Beurden highlighted the potential for some of the fastest-growing nations to leapfrog straight to a cleaner energy mix.

"When you consider the areas of the world where energy demand is still to expand, like Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, there is a huge opportunity," Van Beurden said. "These are areas that are not, on the whole, locked in to a coal-driven system. There is the potential for them to shift more directly onto a less energy-intensive pathway to development."

There is often too much focus on energy-transition policies in Europe and North America instead of the fast-growing developing world, Van Beurden said. "What happens in England is important, but what happens in Ethiopia is at least as important. From Denmark to the DR Congo, from the U.S. to Uganda, to India, to China, there is a lot of work to do."

These countries will still require fossil fuels to develop industries such as steel, cement and chemicals because they need a heat intensity that cannot come from electricity alone, he said. Bloomberg

corporate bits

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS SHOWDOWN AT THE VENETIAN MACAO



The Venetian Macao is holding a mixed martial arts (MMA) event titled "One: Kings & Conquerors" on August 5.

The main event will be a match between reigning champion Bibiano Fernandes of Brazil, and top contender Andrew Leone of the United

States. They will fight for the ONE Bantamweight World Championship.

The 37-year-old Bibiano Fernandes, or "The Flash," is widely considered one of the best bantamweights in the world. He made his promotional debut back in 2012 and captured the title in

2013. He has won his last 12 bouts, achieving three submissions and two knockouts.

Andrew Leone of Cortland, New York, is a 27-year old martial artist who has a stand-out record of eight wins and two losses. He has won three victories over top caliber opponents that earned him a shot at the ONE Bantamweight World Championship.

Other athletes to compete at the event include Timofey Nastyukhin from Russia, Koji Ando from Japan, Shannon Wiratchai from Thailand, and Rob Lisita from Australia.

This is One Championship's second edition in Macau, after an event last year.

Tickets for the show are priced at MOP1980, MOP1180, MOP880, MOP280 and MOP140.

CATHAY TO BUY OUT PARTNER DHL'S 40 PERCENT STAKE IN CARGO UNIT



Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. agreed to buy out the stake owned by partner DHL International GmbH in a cargo venture as the premium Asian carrier revamps its operations as part of a three-year transformation

program.

Under the non-binding preliminary agreement, Cathay will purchase the 40 percent held by the German company in AHK Air Hong Kong Ltd., making it a fully-owned subsidiary, the

airline said in a filing to the city's stock exchange Friday. DHL will buy eight Airbus SE A300-600 freighters from AHK and lease them back to Cathay's unit.

With mainland China as its backyard and an ongoing boom in e-commerce in the region, Asia's biggest international airline has been expanding its air-freight business even as it streamlines the structure by getting rid of the role of cargo director. Cathay, together with its Cathay Dragon unit, carried 11 percent more freight in the first five months of 2017 than a year ago.

AHK will sell space on its freighters to DHL on an agreed network of overnight routes for initially 15 years starting January 2019, Cathay said.

ANGOLA

First cotton harvest after independence

THE first cotton harvest under Angola's production recovery program is scheduled for July in the provinces of Malanje and Kwanza Sul with a symbolic result of 200 tonnes in the first province and 42 in the second, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

Following independence, in 1975, cotton production virtually ceased due to the civil war, which ended in 2002.

The Ministry of Agriculture staffer and coordinator of the cotton production recovery program, Carlos Canza, said that an area of 242 hectares was planted, and each hectare will produce one ton of seed cotton, which is insufficient to meet the needs of the textile industry in the country.

For the next 2017/2018 crop year, which will require an investment of 530 million kwanzas, 1,500 tonnes of seed cotton are expected to be harvested in those two provinces in February 2018, after planting 30 tonnes of seeds.

Agricultural engineer Carlos Canza said it was also expected



The palace which hosts the provincial government in Malanje

that a Japanese company, which he did not identify, would invest in cotton production at the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub (Malanje) in an area of 10,000 hectares.

This project, he added, is expected to produce 50,000 tonnes of seed cotton in each agricultural season, around 5 tonnes per hectare, which will help to meet demand from the Angolan textile industry.

Canza also mentioned another cotton production project in an irrigated perimeter of Kwanza province in which USD67 million will be invested in a shared financing

deal between the governments of Angola and South Korea.

Cotton cultivation in Angola dates back to 1926, with production increasing significantly from 1968, when it reached 15,000 tonnes, to 31,000 tonnes in 1971 and a peak of 86,000 tonnes in 1973.

The revitalization of the cotton value chain began with the reconstruction and modernization of Angola's three textile factories, Textangue II (Luanda), Satec (Kwanza Norte) and Africa Têxtil (Benguela), engaged in spinning, weaving and sewing garments, respectively. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

IFAD supports agricultural development

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will apply about USD150 million in the agricultural sector in Mozambique, which will be disbursed over the next five years, beginning in 2018, said the representative of the institution for the country in Maputo last week.

The funding is intended to support small-scale farmers as well as aquaculture, said Robson Mutandi, minutes before the meeting to review the performance of the portfolio of government projects funded by the IFAD.

At the meeting, which was attended by representatives of the Bank of Mozambique, the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security and Economy and Finance, the investment strategy was drawn up for the next five years.

Mutandi, who also serves as IFAD's director in South

Africa and Botswana, said that the resource allocation strategy will depend on a series of meetings, with Thursday's being the first meeting but added "we have some ideas where to apply that funding over the next five years," according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

The Mozambican government and IFAD signed a Country Strategic Opportunities Program (COSOP) in 2011 that established a framework for cooperation that ended in 2015.

IFAD's current lending portfolio includes support for programs in the agricultural sector, small-scale fisheries, market links, financial services, value chain development and food and nutrition security.

IFAD has disbursed about USD400 million since it began supporting Mozambique in 1983. **MDT/Macauhub**

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US has apologized for Taiwan name gaffe

Didi Tang, Beijing

THE United States has apologized for mistakenly describing Chinese President Xi Jinping as the leader of Taiwan, China said yesterday. Chinese scholars said the error shows a lack of competence in the White House that is not conducive to healthy U.S.-China relations.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China asked the United States for an explanation of the mistake, and the U.S. said it was a technical error. Washington apologized and corrected the error, Geng said at a daily news briefing.

In a statement issued Saturday about a meeting in Germany between Xi and U.S. President Donald Trump, the White House press office described Xi as president of the Republic of China, the formal name for Taiwan. Communist China, led by Xi, is called the People's Republic of China.

The issue is particularly sensitive because Beijing insists that Taiwan is part of its territory.

"It is basic knowledge for those working in diplomacy, yet this isolated incident shows how incompetent the White House staff are, how casual they are, and how poorly coordinated they are," said Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at China Renmin University. "It will only make the Chinese people look down upon the American government for it to make such a low-level mistake."

The gaffe has gone largely unreported in China because the local media have no motivation to mock Trump, Shi said.

Wang Dong, an associate professor in the school of international studies at elite Peking



Donald Trump (left) and Xi Jinping arrive for a meeting on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China asked the United States for an explanation of the mistake

University, said he believes the error was not intentional but still reveals a lack of capacity in Trump's foreign policy team while key positions remain unfilled.

"It shows the deficiency in the professionalism on the part of the White House staff in terms of diplomacy," Wang said. "The mis-

take itself may not affect China-U.S. relations, but the White House should draw a lesson from it to improve its work flow. It's a politically sensitive mistake that should not have occurred."

The mistake occurred in the introduction to the statement and was not in the actual text. By yesterday, the White House had altered the statement to read simply "President Xi of China."

During a 2006 state visit to Washington by then-Chinese President Hu Jintao, a White House announcer said the national anthem of the Republic of China would be played, instead of the People's Republic of China. The correct anthem was used.

Other actions by Trump toward Taiwan have drawn Beijing's ire. Upending long-standing diplomatic protocol, Trump accepted a congratulatory

phone call from Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen in December and questioned the wisdom of the "one-China policy" under which Washington maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan. Then last month, to Beijing's indignation, his administration approved a \$1.4 billion

arms sale to Taiwan, which separated from mainland China in 1949 during a civil war.

Almost six months into office, Trump has yet to fill thousands of government positions. His White House staff in particular has been faulted for poor organization. **AP**

SINGAPORE PM MISTAKEN FOR WIDODO

IN A separate but similar blunder, U.S. President Donald Trump's social media team mistakenly confused the Prime Minister of Singapore with Indonesian President Joko Widodo. A picture uploaded to Trump's social media account, "realdonaldtrump", was accompanied by the caption: "President Trump and the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo speaking before the start of their bilateral at

the #G20Summit in #Hamburg, #Germany. #USA". However, the picture showed Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore sitting next to Trump. The post was quickly deleted and replaced with the correct caption. The meeting at the G20 Summit was the first between Trump and Lee, while the U.S. President previously met Widodo at the Arab Islamic American Summit in Saudi Arabia in May.

Beijing said to order carriers to bar personal VPNs by February



CHINA'S government has told telecommunications carriers to block individuals' access to virtual private networks by Feb. 1, people familiar with the matter said, shutting a major window to the global internet.

Beijing has ordered state-run telecommunications firms, which include China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom, to bar people from using VPNs, services that skirt censorship by routing web traffic abroad, the people said, asking not to be identified talking about

private government directives. Companies operating on Chinese soil can use leased lines to access the international web but must register their usage of such services for the record, the people said.

In keeping with President Xi Jinping's "cyber sovereignty" campaign,

The government appears to be cracking down on loopholes around the Great Firewall

the government appears to be cracking down on loopholes around the Great Firewall, a system that blocks foreign information sources from Twitter and Facebook to news websites such as the New York Times and others. While VPNs are widely used by businesses and individuals to access banned websites, the technology operates in a legal gray area.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology pledged in January

to step up enforcement against unauthorized VPNs, and warned corporations to confine such services to internal use. At least one popular network operator said it had run afoul of the authorities: GreenVPN notified users it would halt service from July 1 after "receiving a notice from regulatory departments." It didn't elaborate on the notice.

China Mobile Ltd., the Hong Kong-listed arm of the country's biggest carrier, declined to comment. Representatives for publicly traded China Telecom Corp. and China Unicom (Hong Kong) Ltd. couldn't immediately comment. The ministry didn't immediately reply to an email seeking comment. **Bloomberg**

China takes lead in Pacific shipping after USD6.3b deal

Kyunghee Park, Daniela Wei and Shawna Kwan

CHINA is the new leader of shipping trade to the Americas. State-owned Cosco Shipping Holdings Co.'s USD6.3 billion offer to buy Orient Overseas International Ltd. would create an entity that's the biggest shipping company moving boxes to the North American continent from Asia, beating Copenhagen-based A.P. Moller-Maersk A/S and France's CMA CGM SA.

The takeover, announced Sunday in Hong Kong, would also create the biggest sea-box carrier through the Pacific Ocean. The consolidation may help raise container rates on the Americas route - the second-busiest in the world - a critical piece in the survival of the shipping industry that has been battling slumping charges and overcapacity. Earlier this year, Maersk and Hyundai Merchant Marine Co. said that they managed to get higher fees from customers on their annual rate-negotiation talks on the trans-Pacific routes. Moving goods to Europe from Asia is the world's biggest shipping trade route.

The Cosco-Orient Overseas combination would have the capacity to move a weekly average of 77,208 containers between Asia and North America, based on end-May data from Alphaliner, a shipping data provider. In the Asia-Europe trade lane, the combination will become only the third biggest.

The mainland shipping com-

pany will receive bridge loans from Bank of China to help fund the purchase, Chief Financial Officer Deng Huangjun told reporters in Hong Kong yesterday. Officials also said Cosco has no plans for further acquisitions and has no timeline on when it expects to get all the regulatory approvals needed to complete the transaction.

"There's a very good chance we will get all the regulatory approvals because we always comply with all rules," Cosco's Executive Director Xu Zunwu said at a press conference in the city.

Cosco's offer to buy Orient Overseas was a 49 percent premium, based on the average 20-day trading price before the announcement. That is the biggest for a major container-shiping deal since 1997, the year Hong Kong passed from British hands to China. In the same year, Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines Ltd. bought APL Ltd. for \$833 million, offering a premium of 57 percent.

To compare what Cosco is paying, click here

The controlling shareholders of Orient Overseas have accepted Cosco's offer at HKD78.67 a share. The family of Tung Chee-hwa, the first chief executive of Hong Kong, holds about 69 percent of the shipping line.

The deal was announced a little more than a week after China's President Xi Jinping visited Hong Kong as the former British colony marked the 20th anniversary of the handover. Tung, currently a vice chairman of China's top political advisory body, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference,



was hand-picked by Beijing in 1997 for the top job in the financial hub and has been advising the central leadership on foreign policies especially China-U.S. relations.

The purchase could also stoke concerns the city's role as a major shipping and financial hub is diminishing amid further inroads by state-owned companies and the rise of other centers on the mainland such as Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Shanghai.

"Rather than being one shiny spot, Hong Kong is now more seen as part of the Pearl River delta," said Yu Zhanfu, a Beijing-based principal at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. "For the companies being acquired, there's more to gain than to lose. They will benefit from having closer

access to the broader market in the mainland." Mainland Chinese companies can also learn from the city-based firms that have thrived in a market-based environment, he said.

China and the U.S. have been negotiating over trade as President Donald Trump pushes the Asian nation to cede greater access to American exporters to help address a \$347 billion deficit. The so-called 100-day talks due to end July 16 have been marred by North Korea's testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile last week.

Global trade, measured by volume of goods and services, is set to expand 3.8 percent this year and accelerate to 3.9 percent in 2018, according to projections by the International Monetary Fund. Global trade probably rose 2.2

percent last year, the slowest pace since 2009.

Cosco currently has a market share of 8.4 percent while Orient Overseas has 3.2 percent, according to Alphaliner. Their combined 11.6 percent share would make the merged entity the third-biggest container-shiping company, overtaking CMA CGM with 11.2 percent, according to the shipping data provider. The enlarged company will operate more than 400 vessels with capacity exceeding 2.9 million twenty-foot equivalent units, including order book.

"That is the example of a sudden new competitive challenge and we have to react and move quickly against that," said Jeremy Nixon, chief executive officer of Ocean Network Express Pte., the operating company for the combined container business of Japan's three biggest shipping lines.

The industry is "fragmented" and consolidation can help transform the business for the benefit of customers, Maersk, the world's biggest container operator, said yesterday in reaction to Cosco's takeover. A representative for Hyundai Merchant said the company is "closely monitoring to see how this development will impact the industry."

Yildirim Holding AS is seeking buyers for its stake in CMA CGM as the family-owned Turkish company looks to acquire Ports America Holdings Inc., a terminal operator.

Earnings of shipping companies will improve in the second half of the year "driven by higher trans-Pacific annual contracts," said Andrew Lee, an analyst at Jefferies in Hong Kong. Cosco said in a filing last week that it expects to turn profitable in the first half of 2017, with a net income of 1.85 billion yuan (\$272 million) versus a loss of 7.2 billion yuan a year earlier. **Bloomberg**

Hospital: Liu Xiaobo in critical condition

Gerry Shih, Beijing

THE hospital treating imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo said yesterday his condition is now critical and doctors are in "active rescue" mode for China's best-known political prisoner.

The First Hospital of China Medical University said in a statement that Liu, who has liver cancer, is suffering from a severely swollen stomach, low blood pressure and poor kidney function.

An MRI scan also revealed growing cancer lesions. The lesions have caused localized bleeding in his liver, the statement said.



Liu's health has been the subject of international attention after news emerged in late June that the dissident had been transferred to a Chinese hospital because of late-stage liver cancer. Supporters and Western governments urged China to allow Liu to choose where he wants

to be treated and to release him, which Beijing has so far resisted, citing Liu's fragile health and arguing that he is receiving the best possible care in China.

Liu was convicted in 2009 of inciting subversion for his role in the "Charter 08" movement

calling for political reform. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a year later while in prison.

At a daily briefing yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang repeatedly declined to say whether Liu would be allowed to leave China and asked other countries to "respect China's national sovereignty and refrain from interfering in China's domestic affairs due to an individual case."

A video clip surfaced yesterday of what appeared to be a foreign expert, Markus W. Buchler of Heidelberg University, addressing Liu's wife, Liu Xia, to tell her that Chinese doctors were doing

their utmost to help Liu and were "very committed to his treatment."

Following a visit with

Liu on Saturday, Buchler and an American doctor, Joseph Herman from the University of Texas, said on Sunday that they deemed Liu strong enough to be evacuated, apparently contradicting Chinese expert opinion. **AP**

DISSIDENT'S HEALTH A GREAT CONCERN

THE GERMAN government says Chancellor Angela Merkel hopes for a "signal of humanity" toward imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo and his family, which hopes he will be allowed to receive treatment for advanced liver cancer abroad. Xi Jinping visited Berlin last week and attended the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg. Asked whether the chancellor discussed with Xi the family's wish for Liu to be treated

in another country, Merkel spokesman Steffen Seibert said yesterday he wouldn't comment on confidential conversations. But he told reporters in Berlin, "I can assure you that this tragic case of Liu Xiaobo is a great concern of the chancellor, and that she would like a signal of humanity for Liu Xiaobo and his family." A German doctor visited Liu at a hospital on Saturday. Seibert said the latest report of Liu's worsening health is depressing.

THE most senior Vatican cleric to ever be charged in the Roman Catholic Church sex abuse scandal returned to Australia yesterday to stand trial in his home state on charges alleging he sexually assaulted multiple people years ago.

Cardinal George Pell, Pope Francis' top financial adviser, avoided waiting media when he arrived at Sydney Airport on a flight from Singapore. He had declined to comment in Singapore over the weekend as he made his way home from Rome.

The 76-year-old cleric is due to appear in a court in the Victoria state capital, Melbourne, on July 26 on what Victoria Police described as multiple counts of "historical sexual assault offenses" — meaning crimes that generally occurred years ago. There is no statute of limitations

AUSTRALIA

Cardinal returns to face sexual assault charges

on such crimes in Australia. Police said there were multiple complainants, but have released no other details.

Pell is free ahead of his court hearing, during which he can formally apply for bail.

When police announced the charges last month, Pell vowed to fight the allegations, saying: "The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me."

Yesterday, the Sydney archdiocese said the cardinal had made multiple stops on his journey to Australia to avoid

AP PHOTO



In this June 29 file photo, Cardinal George Pell meets the media at the Vatican

long-haul flights, based on the advice of his doctors. Last year, Pell said he was too ill to make the long flight back to his home country to testify before a government inquiry into how the Catholic Church and other institutions have responded to child sex abuse allegations.

"When he was told of the

charges by Victoria Police, Cardinal Pell said in Rome he totally rejected the allegations, was completely innocent of the charges and would return to Australia to vigorously defend himself and clear his name," the archdiocese said in a statement. "Cardinal Pell will not

be making further comment other than to say he is grateful for the numerous messages of support he continues to receive."

Pell has taken a leave of absence to fight the charges in Australia and has said he intends to return to the Vatican to continue his work as a prefect of the church's economy ministry.

■ The pope said he would wait for Australian justice to run its course before making a judgment

The pope thanked Pell for his "honest" work and collaboration, and said he would wait for Australian justice to run its course before making a judgment himself.

For years, Pell has faced allegations that he mishandled cases of clergy abuse as archbishop of Melbourne and, later, Sydney. But more recently, Pell himself became the focus of a clergy sex abuse investigation, with Victoria detectives flying to the Vatican to interview him last year. **AP**

JOHN PAUL II'S SPOKESMAN-ALLY DIES

JOAQUIN NAVARRO-VALLS, a suave, silver-haired Spaniard who was a close confidant of Pope John Paul II, serving for more than two decades as chief Vatican spokesman, has died at the age of 80. A spokesman for the Opus Dei movement in Rome of which Navarro-Valls was a member, said he died last week after a long illness. Navarro-Valls was fiercely loyal to John Paul, accompa-

nying the Polish pope on most of his 104 international trips. He also performed delicate diplomatic missions, such as helping to prepare the pope's historic pilgrimage to Cuba. Navarro-Valls, who spoke four languages, was a foreign correspondent for the Spanish newspaper ABC when John Paul offered him the job as director of the Vatican press office. He was the first journalist to hold the post.

INDIA

Police patrol for poachers as animals flee flooding

AP PHOTO



Wasbir Hussain, Gauhati

POLICE are patrolling for poachers as rhinoceros, deer and wild buffalo move to higher ground to escape floods devastating parts of northeast India, including a famed wildlife preserve.

Kaziranga National Park in Assam state has the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros and is home to many other species.

Assam Forest and Environment Minister Pramila Rani Brahma yesterday described the flooding situation in the

park as grave after heavy monsoon rains in the past three weeks. Forest guards have found one carcass of a rhino that died in the floods, and Brahma said vehicles on a highway knocked down six deer over the weekend.

Most forest guard posts in the park have flooded, and police are ordering drones to keep watch on the national park spread over an area of 500 square kilometers.

Last year, 17 one-horned rhinos died in monsoon floods, according to the state government. Most were calves that

became separated from their mothers during the flooding. Flood levels reached 1.5 meters high in some places in the park last year.

Flooding and landslides in Assam have killed at least 28 people since mid-June, and around 500,000 people have fled their homes in 800 villages across nearly half of Assam's 27 districts, officials said. Nearly 20,000 people have taken shelter in relief camps run by the state government.

The monsoon season runs from June through September, and deadly floods occur regularly. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Senior diplomat summoned after Kashmir fire

PAKISTAN summoned India's deputy high commissioner in Islamabad Sunday after five civilians were killed by "unprovoked" Indian fire across the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region. In a separate 'goodwill gesture' it also released scores of Indian fishermen held for illegal fishing in its territorial waters.

The Foreign Ministry said J.P. Singh was summoned a day after Pakistan's military said Indian forces had shelled two areas. India said Pakistani shelling across the Line of Control killed an off-duty soldier and his wife, calling it an "unprovoked" violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement.

The two nuclear-armed rivals have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, which both claim in its entirety, since gaining independence from British



Kashmiri villagers at the funeral of Indian policeman last month

colonial rule in 1947. The Himalayan region is split between Indian and Pakistani-controlled zones separated by the heavily militarized Line of Control.

Also on Sunday, Pakistan released 78 Indian fishermen in the southern port city of Karachi. The fishermen were held for illegally fishing in Pakistani waters last year, said Muhammad Naseem Siddiqui, a government official.

Siddiqui said they were held in various

jails and were being released as a "goodwill gesture" by the Pakistan government. He said they boarded a train bound for Lahore under police escort where they will be handed over to Indian authorities yesterday at the Wagah border crossing.

India and Pakistan regularly arrest each other's fishermen for illegal fishing in their poorly delineated territorial waters, often detaining them for months. **AP**

Cambodia passes bill tightening screws on opposition

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA'S National Assembly passed a bill yesterday barring political parties from having links with convicted criminals, a move aimed at keeping the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party from capitalizing on its association with its popular former leader, Sam Rainsy.

Sam Rainsy has been convicted of criminal defamation and similar offenses by courts generally seen as politically biased. He already resigned his party leadership and membership in February after the Law on Political Parties was amended to make parties liable to be dissolved if their leaders had criminal convictions. He has been in self-imposed exile for more than 1 1/2 years to avoid prison on the defamation charge, for which he was convicted but had believed was covered by a pardon.

The February changes also allowed the Interior Ministry to suspend parties whose activities incite national disintegration, a catchall clause similar to those in other laws that are used against the government's critics.

Yesterday's amendments of the political parties law were boycotted by the opposition, but passed unanimously after an hour of debate by all 66 lawmakers present from the ruling Cambodian People's Party. The amendments need approval from the ruling party-controlled Senate, a simple formality.

The new amendments bar political parties from cooperating with people convicted of felonies or misdemeanors, and from using images, audio recordings or writings of those lawbreakers to benefit their cause. Any parties that violate



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (front right) pictured during the 66th anniversary for the Cambodian People's Party on June 28

the newly adopted provisions could be suspended for up to five years or dissolved entirely by court rulings.

It's now clear for the public that Hun Sen is afraid of me — his best enemy.

SAM RAINSY
OPPOSITION LAWMAKER

Long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen suggested further amendments to the political parties law late last month, in what is seen as an attempt to shore up his party's strength ahead of next year general election.

In nationwide local elections earlier in June, the Cambodian People's Party won most constituencies but received a weak

majority of the popular vote, where the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party made gains.

The opposition had already staged an unexpectedly strong challenge in 2013's general election.

Without specifically naming Sam Rainsy, Hun Sen in public remarks last month accused a former opposition leader of meddling in political and national affairs and provoking civil disorder. Sam Rainsy has been continuing his criticism of Hun Sen and his government, largely on Facebook, where the attacks also have included cartoons making fun of the prime minister's bulging waistline.

"It's really silly on the part of Prime Minister Hun Sen to order his yes-men at the rubber-stamp National Assembly to produce a 'law' that just targets one single person," Sam Rainsy's said in a prepared statement. "It's now clear for the public that Hun Sen is afraid of me — his best enemy — to the

extent that only my name or my photo or my voice or my shadow or any representation of me causes him insomnia."

"However, I am concerned that my like-minded CNRP former colleagues, all government critics and all Cambodian democrats, will be held hostages by the authoritarian CPP-led government so as to silence me, but I will resist blackmail and, at the same time, do my best to ensure that I will be the only person they will blame and want to punish," he added.

A prominent ruling party lawmaker, Chheang Vun, said during yesterday's parliamentary session that the aim of the amendments was not to put pressure to the opposition party but to make sure that all political parties respect the law.

Hun Sen's government in the past year has put increasing legal pressure on its critics and political opponents, keeping them tied up in court, sending them fleeing into exile, or sometimes jailing them. **AP**

INDONESIA

Bomb maker wanted to join Philippine fight

INDONESIAN police said yesterday that a man whose home-made bomb accidentally exploded in the West Java city of Bandung was obsessed with the idea of joining Islamic State group-affiliated militants who've occupied parts

of a city in the southern Philippines since mid-May.

A West Java police spokesman said that Agus Wiguna, 21, was arrested following the explosion on Saturday at his rented house and was probably

acting alone.

The police also said Wiguna admitted to wanting to join IS militants fighting in the Philippine city of Marawi after carrying out his planned attacks.

The pressure cooker bomb allegedly prepa-

red by Wiguna exploded unintentionally but caused no casualties. It was the second terror-related incident in Bandung since February, when police shot a suspected militant after his bomb exploded in a vacant lot and he fled into a municipal building and set it alight.

Indonesian police have arrested more than 40 suspected militants following a twin suicide bombing on May 24 in Jakarta that killed three officers and injured 11

other people, including five civilians, in the deadliest militant attack in the capital in a year.

Southeast Asian neighbors Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have agreed to intensify their fight against violent Islamic militants. Analysts say the southern Philippines is at risk of becoming a new IS base as territory it controls in Syria and Iraq is captured by an international coalition seeking to defeat the group. **MDT/AP**



Vietnam seizes 3 tons of ivory

Police in northern Vietnam have seized nearly 3 tons of ivory smuggled from South Africa in the latest action taken against the illegal trade. Thanh Hoa provincial police said the ivory was found in boxes on a truck stopped by police early Saturday morning. The account posted on the police website quoted the truck driver as saying he was hired to transport the ivory from southern Dong Nai province to the capital Hanoi. Last year, nearly 7 tons of ivory were seized in Vietnam's southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh city. Vietnam is one of the world's major transit points and consumers of ivory and rhino horn. It bans hunting of its own dwindling population of elephants.

Aftershock follows Philippines quake

The strongest aftershock yet has shaken the central Philippines following last week's 6.5-magnitude earthquake that damaged a power plant and other buildings. No damage or casualties were immediately reported after the 5.4-magnitude earthquake yesterday morning. Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said the quake was strongly felt in and around Ormoc City and may trigger landslides or cause more damage to already damaged structures. He says it is the strongest aftershock of the 6.5-magnitude quake on July 7. The earlier earthquake left two dead and four people missing. It damaged a geothermal power plant, triggered landslides and collapsed a building with a grocery store and other shops.

Myanmar refugees to leave Thailand

More than 100 Myanmar refugees residing in Thailand's Tha Song Yang district have decided to return to their hometown of Suebpong Nimpoonsawat, reported the Bangkok Post, citing the district's chief. The refugees are currently housed in the Mae La refugee camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. Mainly of Karen ethnicity, the refugees are now awaiting travel documents to be arranged by the Thai Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Myanmar embassy in the country. According to the media outlet, the Myanmar government has agreed to provide the refugees with land they can live on and farm.

Mosul liberation leaves Iraq counting cost of Islamic State rule

Khalid Al-Ansary, Donna Abu-Nasr and Caroline Alexander

SOLDIERS cleared explosives from Mosul's historic quarter after its liberation all but ended Islamic State's presence in Iraq, three years of occupation that left a trail of human misery and devastation that could cost USD100 billion to rebuild.

Power and water supplies will be restored in the first phase of a 10-year program to rebuild Mosul, much of which was reduced to rubble during nine months of fighting, Planning Ministry spokesman Abdul Zahra Al-Hindawi said by phone yesterday. But in a sign of the immense challenges ahead, he estimated that reconstructing all areas of Iraq that fell to Islamic State would cost at least \$50 billion, and maybe double that amount. Iraq wants to hold a donor conference in Kuwait by early next year.

"The government is intensifying efforts to restore life in the destroyed areas," Mudher Saleh, economic adviser to Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, said by phone. Islamic State - which was welcomed in parts of western Iraq as well as Mosul by some Sunni residents angered by economic neglect and mistreatment by security forces - will look to use any disenchantment once families return to destroyed communities to "incite riots again," he said.

Abadi declared Mosul's liberation in a visit to the ravaged city Sunday. The victory marks a major blow against Islamic State, whose leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

AP PHOTO



made his first speech as self-proclaimed caliph from one of the city's mosques in 2014. The group's ability to attract foreign fighters is also dented, although it continues to inspire militants abroad who have staged terrorist attacks from London to Tehran.

As the major clashes ended, a line of tired civilians filed out of Mosul's Old City on foot, past the carcasses of destroyed apartment blocks lining cratered roads. While Mosul was Islamic State's last main urban center in Iraq, it still controls several areas in the west and northeast of the country, including Hawija near Kirkuk.

Nofal al-Hammad, the governor of Nineveh province, whose capital is Mosul, said Sunday that destruction in the city's west, where

the military campaign entered its final phase in mid-June, is 30 times greater than in the east, liberated in January, according to a report by the Rudaw news agency. The United Nations has said as many as 150,000 residents were trapped in the Old City when the battle there began, with illness and disease spreading as clean drinking water, food and medicine ran low.

Saleh, Abadi's adviser, said Iraq would need the help of the U.S.-led coalition that bolstered the war effort against Islamic State, as it rebuilds. "We count a lot on this military alliance that helped Iraq to be an alliance for reconstruction," he said.

The economic challenges facing Abadi's government are massive.

Iraq's non-oil sector, which employs the majority of the workforce, shrank in each of the years following Islamic State's takeover of major cities -- with contraction reaching 10.3 percent in 2016, according to the International Monetary Fund. Iraq reached a \$5.4 billion loan agreement with the IMF in May last year to help OPEC's second-biggest producer repair public finances damaged by the plunge in oil prices and war with Islamic State. The government has repeatedly said it should be exempt from OPEC's production cuts as it rebuilds its war-torn economy.

Nabeel Khoury, a former U.S. State Department official, said the military plan to defeat Islamic State had been carefully crafted to en-

sure everyone stuck to their role, and it largely went well. "Now, a comprehensive plan is needed for the aftermath," especially an economic one "to prevent radicalization and to show concern for the people and the city," Khoury said.

Iraq's Shiite dominated government has also been buoyed by assistance from neighboring Iran, which sent powerful militias to join the fight against the Sunni jihadists. That has raised fears of renewed sectarian conflict in a country where the Sunni minority has complained of neglect since the 2003 removal of Saddam Hussein.

"The Sunnis need to feel they're being treated as equal citizens," added Khoury, who is now non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, a U.S. research organization.

Ali Shamkhani, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's representative in Iran's Supreme National Council, offered Iranian help for "the displaced and the wounded and for the reconstruction of the cities," according to a report carried by state-run IRNA news agency.

Islamic State evolved from al-Qaeda in Iraq, which U.S. troops and Sunni militias defeated after its powers peaked in 2006 to 2007 in a campaign that was known as the Awakening. It was able to expand in 2013 in Syria, where a civil war has raged for more than six years, attracting fighters from Chechnya, Afghanistan, North Africa and Europe.

The extremists took advantage of the poor military performance of Iraqi troops -- portraying themselves as a champion of Sunni Arabs who felt alienated by a Shiite-led government - in a lightning assault across northern Iraq in the summer of 2014. The group then headed south toward Baghdad, triggering fears of the country's breakup as ethnic and sectarian tensions surged. **Bloomberg**

Old German caves, Poland silver mines make UN heritage list

ANCIENT caves in west Germany with art dating back to the Ice Age and disused silver ore mines in southern Poland were among the sites that a United Nations cultural agency has added to its list of heritage treasures during its current session.

The UNESCO World Heritage List Committee added the mines and caves, and nine other sites, to the roster of places called out for special recognition on Sunday. During its 11-day session in Poland that started July 2, the committee so far has added 22 sites to the list.

The designation, which recognizes the outstanding universal values



In this undated photo provided by UNESCO, the Cinema Impero in the Eritrea capital city Asmara

of the sites, is meant to draw attention to them and the need to preserve them.

Among the other new sites on the list are the modernist architecture in Asmara, the capital

city of Eritrea; the historic city of Yazd, in Iran; Japan's sacred and restricted-access island of Okinoshima, and Los Alerces National Park in Argentina.

The caves are in the

western German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where archeologists have discovered ancient instruments and carvings made from mammoth ivory, including a 40,000-year-old figure known as the Venus of Hohle Fels. Historians say it is the oldest known image of a human.

The old mines in Tarnowskie Gory are an underground tourist site, visited partly by boat, and are the only industrial site that was added to the list this year.

Also added Sunday were Turkey's 3rd century B.C. Aphrodisias temple; England's Lake District and the Valongo Wharf Archaeological

Site in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Heated controversies surrounded the addition to the World Heritage List of west China's Qinghai Hoh Xil mountain

area, on the Tibetan Plateau, and of Hebron, which was described in the submission as a Palestinian site, drawing vehement protests from Israel. **AP**

AFRICA HAS NEW UN HERITAGE SITES

AFRICA HAS several new sites on the United Nations world heritage list, including an old royal capital in Angola, the Eritrean capital of Asmara and a desert area in South Africa that was inhabited during the Stone Age. UNESCO said this weekend at a meeting in Poland that Mbanza Kongo in north-west Angola was the capital of the Kongo kingdom, a largely independent state between the 14th and 19th

centuries. The U.N. cultural agency says Asmara, which experienced large-scale construction under Italian rule in the 1930s, showcases "early modernist urbanism" in an African context. And it says the Khomani cultural landscape at South Africa's border with Botswana and Namibia testifies to the way of life of the once-nomadic San people that influenced the area over thousands of years.

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's eldest son changed his account over the weekend of a meeting he had with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign, saying Sunday that the woman told him she had information about Democrat Hillary Clinton.

A statement from Donald Trump Jr. one day earlier made no mention of Clinton. In his initial depiction of the meeting last June, the president's son said the discussion focused on a disbanded program that used to allow American adoptions of Russian children.

It appeared that Trump Jr. shifted his account of the meeting after being presented with additional information from The New York Times, which first reported both the discussion and the prospect of negative information about Clinton.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, is disavowing knowledge of the Russian lawyer, or any meeting between Trump senior staff and the woman. The meeting with Kremlin-linked lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya is the earliest known private meeting between key aides to the president and a Russian. Federal and congressional investigators are probing whether Trump's campaign coordinated with Russia to meddle in the presidential election, investigations the president has called a "hoax."

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and White House senior advisor,

Kremlin disavows knowledge of lawyer-Trump staff meeting

and then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort also attended the meeting with Veselnitskaya.

The New York Times, citing advisers to the White House who were briefed on the discussion, said Trump Jr. agreed to the meeting after being promised damaging information about Clinton.

In his statement Sunday, Trump Jr. said he was asked by an acquaintance he knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant to have a meeting with a person he was told might have information that would be "helpful" to the Trump campaign. He said he was not told the name of the person ahead of the meeting.

Trump Jr. said the attorney claimed during the discussion to have information that "individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee" and supporting Clinton.

"No details or supporting information was provided or even offered," Trump Jr. said. "It quickly became clear that she had no meaningful information." He said his father was unaware of the meeting.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday that the Kremlin is unaware of a meeting between Trump's senior staff and a Russian lawyer, that it doesn't know who Veselnitskaya is, and that it "cannot keep track" of every Russian lawyer who holds meetings in Russia or abroad.

On Saturday, Trump Jr. had described the same gathering as a "short introductory meeting" during which the three discussed a program that used to allow U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children. Russia ended the adoptions in response to American sanctions brought against the nation following the 2009 death of an imprisoned lawyer who spoke about a corruption scandal.

He said on Sunday that the attorney turned the conversation to the adoption of Russian children, and that he believed that this was the "true agenda" of the meeting and that claims about having information helpful to the Trump campaign had been a pretext for the encounter.



Donald Trump Jr.

"I interrupted and advised her that my father was not an elected official, but rather a private citizen, and that her comments and concerns were better addressed if and when he held public office," Trump Jr. said in the statement.

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's legal team, said only, "The president was not aware of and did not attend the meeting."

Unlike Kushner, Trump Jr. does not serve in the administration and is not required to disclose his foreign contacts. The newspaper said the meeting was disclosed in recent days to government investigators when Kushner filed a revised version of a form needed to obtain a security clearance. His attorney has previously acknowledged that Kushner's first security clearance submission was incomplete. **AP**

China's ambition, US retreat on show in Serbian factory town

Dusan Stojanovic, Smederevo

A giant Chinese red flag flutters on a pole where an American flag used to fly at a steel mill in this dusty industrial Serbian town. The company logos of U.S. Steel are faded on the huge chimneys stacks, replaced by those of a Chinese company.

When U.S. Steel sold its loss-making smelter in Serbia to the government for the symbolic sum of USD1 in 2012, few here thought the ailing communist-era factory would ever be revived. Then came along a state-owned Chinese company.

Hebei Iron & Steel's 46 million-euro (\$52 million) purchase of the Steelworks Smederevo last year is part of China's broader effort to project influence and gain an access point to the European market as other traditional powers, particularly the U.S. under President Donald Trump, retreat from the world stage.

The dynamic was laid bare at a world summit over the weekend, where Trump showed little interest in promoting free trade and was at odds with other countries

on issues like climate change. China, meanwhile, was keen to promote itself as a champion of commerce and openness — even though in practice it falls far short of being one.

The Serbian plant is economically irrelevant in the short term to China, which abounds with steel production at home. But the deal saved 5,200 local jobs and gained Serbia's political favor.

"It seems to me that everything China has been doing in the past several years in the field of its investments abroad also has a political background and connotation," said Mijat Lakicevic, a Serbian political and economy analyst.

"China doesn't really need the Serbian plant that produces practically nothing compared to the steel production in China," he said. "So, I would describe this as placing a foot in the doorway in order to enter the market and the area where Russia and America are already present."

The longer-term strategy for China is to open markets for its businesses as its home economy slows. The most high-profile effort in



Workers rest near billboard showing Chinese President Xi Jinping, reading: "Welcome President" (right) and billboard reading: "Nobody was hurt in my shift today" in front of the Zelezara Smederevo steel mill

this direction is the ambitious \$900 billion Belt and Road project, often referred to as the New Silk Road — a transport and trade corridor running from China to Germany, via Greek ports, the Balkans and Central Europe.

Annual investment by Chinese companies in Europe reached an all-time high of \$18 billion in 2014, with annual inflows averaging \$10 billion over the past four years, according to the Rhodium Group, a China investment monitor.

Beijing is encouraging its industries to diversify abroad in hopes of reducing China's reliance on exports

and its domestic market. That has also led to a string of acquisitions in chemicals, tourism, insurance, banking and other industries.

Steel producers have an extra incentive because Beijing is trying to shrink its bloated state-dominated industry at home. China's production glut has led to a flood of low-priced exports, which has depressed global markets and cost jobs in the U.S. and Europe, raising political tensions. As China negotiates the issue with the U.S. and EU, its acquisition of the Serbian plant gets it some rare good headlines in which it is credited with saving, not destroying, jobs.

Chinese companies are also starting to make inroads into Eastern European construction and engineering markets, including plans to build a \$2 billion high-speed rail line from the Serbian capital, Belgrade, to Budapest in neighboring Hungary.

And while the EU remains the Western Balkans' largest trading partner, local governments have sometimes looked with favor to countries like China that are willing to invest large amounts without raising concerns about the region's patchy record on human rights or media freedoms.

"Serbia has an important role in China's global Belt and Road project and we want to capitalize on all its potential," Serbian Construction Minister Zorana Mihajlovic said. "This project cannot be realized without developed infrastructure in the countries where it passes."

She said that China has so far loaned some 5.5 billion euros (\$6.3 billion) in Serbia for the construction of bridges, highways and railroads that it plans to use as transport routes for its goods into the heart

of Europe.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who has often been criticized by Western European leaders as being authoritarian, has often expressed his admiration for the economic achievements of countries like China. He wants to make Hungary the main hub for Chinese business and investments in Central and Eastern Europe.

"The old model for globalization has become obsolete," Orban said in May in Beijing while taking part in a Belt and Road conference. "The engine room of the global economy is no longer in the West, but in the East."

In Smederevo, the town of some 100,000 people where thousands make a living from the steel plant, there was praise for China.

Though salaries are about 25 percent below what they were under the U.S. company — roughly 750 euros (\$855) compared with 1,000 euros (\$1,140), mayor Jasna Avramovic said it was important that the jobs had returned in the first place.

"It's been one year since the Chinese came to our town and a calmer atmosphere is visible," Avramovic said. "There is no more uncertainty over what will happen with the plant. The salaries come on time." **AP**

what's ON



MACAO ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAO ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

COLOUR SHAPE LOVE - WORKS BY JOAQUIM FRANCO

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: September 3, 2017

VENUE: Level 2, MGM Art Space (via Grande Praça)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

Offbeat

AFGHAN STUDENTS DENIED US VISA TO ATTEND ROBOT COMPETITION

Six female students from war-torn Afghanistan who had hoped to participate in an international robotics competition in the U.S. this month will have to watch via video link after their visa applications were denied — not once, but twice.

The girls wanted to show the world that Afghans can also construct a hand-made robot. But of 162 teams who planned to participate, the Afghan girls are the only nation's team to be denied visas by the U.S. and must participate from afar, watching from their hometown in western Afghanistan.

"When we heard that we were rejected we lost hope," said 14-year-old Sumaya Farooqi. "We applied again for the U.S. visa and we were rejected again."

Farooqi and her teammates had already faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles to even get to a point where they could seek permission to attend. It took them six months to prepare, often working seven days a week, as they constructed a robot that sorts balls, has the ability to recognize orange and blue colors, and can move objects to put them in their correct places.

The girls traveled from their homes in Herat after convincing family members to let them go — no small feat in a country where young girls are often discouraged from pursuing academic study, especially in hard sciences such as math.

They made the 800-kilometer journey to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul twice because their applications were denied a first time, even though that location was targeted by a deadly truck bomb on May 31 in which more 150 people were killed and more than 400 others wounded.

War-torn Afghanistan has faced a series of large-scale attacks as the Taliban stepped up its war against the Kabul government in this year's summer offensive. In addition, the emerging Islamic State group affiliate in Afghanistan has tried to increase its footprint with attacks in urban areas.

Afghanistan is not part of U.S. President Donald Trump's order to temporarily ban travel from six Muslim-majority countries. Yet teams from Syria, Iran and Sudan — who are on that list — were granted visas to compete. Members of the team from Gambia were granted visas after initially being denied. The applications of five teams were still in process.

The U.S. State Department declined to comment on why the Afghan team's visa applications were denied, saying "all visa applications are adjudicated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with U.S. law." The agency cited a provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act that "prohibits us from discussing individual visa cases."

The competition is an initiative by First Global, a not-for-profit charity that holds the annual international robotics challenge in hopes of sparking a passion for science and technology among high school students around the world. It is an "Olympics"-style competition in which one team from every nation is invited to participate. It takes place from July 16-18 in Washington D.C.

First Global's president, Joe Sestak, said in a post on the organization's Facebook page that he was "saddened" by the U.S. decision.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 3
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr 1
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

7 - 12 JUL

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1

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

ROOM 3 (3D)

7:15

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min



DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2

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

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

THE MUMMY

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:45pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis

Language: English

Duration: 148min

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 3

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

MACAU TOWER

6 - 26 JUL



SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1995 SERBS OVERRUN UN 'SAFE HAVEN'

The Bosnian Serb army has seized control of the United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica after Dutch peacekeepers were forced to withdraw.

Some 1,500 Serb troops overran the lightly-armed Dutch troops, despite two Nato air strikes on Serbian tanks inside the enclave.

The Bosnian Prime Minister, Haris Silajdzic, called the Nato response "too little, too late" and said the people of Srebrenica had been "betrayed".

Up to 30,000 refugees from the mainly Muslim town are now reported to be fleeing to the north and the United States has questioned the UN's ability to carry out its "humanitarian mission" in the region.

UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters: "It is our understanding that Srebrenica has fallen to the Bosnian army."

"Thousands of refugees are fleeing to a town called Potocari in the north of the enclave. The Dutch company that was in Srebrenica has also withdrawn to Potocari." Thirty Dutch peacekeepers had been captured during the Serbian advance, Mr Ivanko added.

The 400-strong UN battalion had set up a "blocking position" south of Srebrenica in an attempt to defend the town.

Nato air strikes hit two Serbian tanks, but Dutch Defence Minister Joris Voorhoeve requested they were suspended after receiving "terror threats" from the Serbs.

Mr Voorhoeve said: "They threatened to shoot dead the 30 Dutch soldiers they are holding hostage and to raze the Dutch battalion's headquarters to the ground. And to raze Srebrenica to the ground."

But the Bosnian Serb Army commander, General Ratko Mladic, said in a letter to the UN that the offensive had been necessary to "neutralize terrorists" and accused the UN of failing to demilitarize the area.

And the general said that civilians and peacekeepers had no need to fear the Serb advance.

With Serb sights now set on the nearby Zepa safe area - according to a broadcast by a Serbian-controlled television station in Pale - US Defence Secretary William Perry said the now UN faced a serious challenge.

"This raises the question as to whether the UN force will be able to stay in Bosnia to perform the humanitarian mission," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

What happened in the weeks after the Serb offensive have since been described as the worst atrocity in Europe since World War II.

On 12 August 1995 the UN announced an investigation into reports up to 2,700 Muslim men had been shot dead with machine-guns and buried in mass graves. US aerial photographs appeared to show evidence of mass graves close to Srebrenica.

It is now thought that between 7,000 and 8,000 Muslim men were killed by Serb soldiers following the fall of Srebrenica.

Refugee accounts claimed General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, addressed the Muslim captives and warned that 1,000 refugees would be killed for every Serb who died.

General Mladic and the Bosnian Serb President at the time, Radovan Karadzic, were both later indicted by the War Crimes Tribunal for genocide. Mr Karadzic was finally arrested in Belgrade in July 2008 and is expected to face trial at the Hague but General Mladic is still at large.

One senior Bosnian Serb, General Radislav Krstic, was jailed for genocide for his part in the Srebrenica tragedy.

There have been a number of investigations into the massacre. In 2002 the entire Dutch government resigned after an inquiry blamed officials for giving the poorly-armed troops an impossible task to defend the enclave.

Initial findings of a commission involving the Bosnian Serbs admitted for the first time in June 2004 that Serbs had taken part in the killings

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
First, drag everything you haven't worn in forever out of your closet and choose something. Dress 'interesting.' Next, last and most important: Be prepared for a 'coincidental' meeting.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
On the one hand, you're totally engrossed in your work -- for totally professional reasons. On the other hand, there's a certain authority figure that's been on your mind lately -- for totally unprofessional reasons

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Sitting still is always a challenge for you. But at the moment, it's going to be darned near impossible. Why fight it? You need a change of scenery, it's cold outside and there's someone you'd like to spend some time with.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Intimacy is the name of game now -- and you, of course, being the emotional, sensitive creature that you are -- won't mind a bit. Since you're so good at spoiling the ones you love.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Here's the deal. The way the heavens are arranged at the moment can mean only one of two things for you: An existing relationship will become far more intimate, or a new relationship will take off like a speeding bullet.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You have a policy -- a personal rule, really -- about dating coworkers. You tend to avoid it. Period. There are times, however, in the life of every rule, when exceptions need to be made.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
One of those days when it's good to be you, no matter how you shake it. That will go double if the person you've spent so much time thinking about is clever enough to pick up on those hints.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Romance, extravagance and nothing but the best, especially when it comes to flirting with a certain someone like they've never been flirted with before. That's your mission, and no one needs to ask if you'll accept it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Words have always been your specialty, but today's astrological additives will actually intensify your already enviable talents in that department. The moment is officially, astrologically right.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Here we go again: You're in the mood to shop, big-time, and to buy whatever it is that you're absolutely sure no one else has -- or, at the very least, no one you know.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
All those rumors about your sign being cold, aloof and detached? Untrue. Totally untrue. The stuff about you being objective, impartial and incapable of prejudice? Absolutely true.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
It's fine astrological weather to be a Pisces -- but no one has to tell you that, do they? You've been confided in by your dearest dears, and you've shared your own secrets with them, too.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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7	3					9		2
				4		3	6	
6			5				3	

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

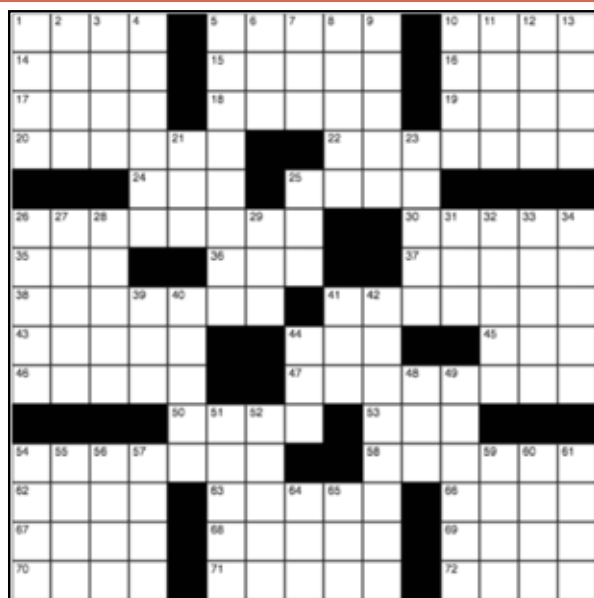
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	36	clear/cloudy
Harbin	21	31	thundershower/cloudy
Tianjin	28	37	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	25	31	cloudy/shower
Xi'an	25	39	clear
Lhasa	9	20	moderate rain/drizzle
Chengdu	24	35	clear
Chongqing	25	37	clear
Kunming	15	26	cloudy
Nanjing	25	32	cloudy
Shanghai	26	34	shower
Wuhan	24	33	clear/shower
Hangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Taipei	27	35	cloudy
Guangzhou	27	34	cloudy/thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	23	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	24	drizzle
Paris	13	20	drizzle
London	13	22	drizzle
New York	22	29	overcast/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Still; 5- Liquid waste component; 10- JFK postings; 14- Toward the sheltered side; 15- Nostrils; 16- Tree house; 17- Beach blanket?; 18- Units of computer memory; 19- Actress Sommer; 20- Whole; 22- Most proximate; 24- "Silent" prez; 25- Fluid-filled sac; 26- Qualifier; 30- Paces; 35- Compass point opposite WSW; 36- Quarterback Manning; 37- Really bother; 38- Beginning; 41- Ascertain dimensions; 43- Gogol's "___ Bulba"; 44- Dinghy thingy; 45- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 46- Stone marker; 47- Supervisor; 50- Lottolike game; 53- Chile ___ carne; 54- Eyelash cosmetic; 58- One making fun; 62- Like the Sabin vaccine; 63- Ankle bones; 66- Small amount; 67- Hamlet, for one; 68- Low-budget prefix; 69- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"; 70- Nevada city; 71- Soup utensil; 72- Ollie's pal;

DOWN: 1- Beer buy; 2- Greenspan of the Fed; 3- Gave temporarily, holy period of 40 days; 4- Famed Florentine family; 5- Skepticism; 6- Beam of light; 7- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example; 8- Itty-bitty; 9- Curved letters; 10- Cabinet dept.; 11- Prefix with conference; 12- Questions; 13- Editor's mark; 21- UK fliers; 23- Lost; 25- Dernier ___; 26- Thaws; 27- ___ a time (singly); 28- The Wreck of the Mary ___; 29- North Pole aide; 31- Univ. aides; 32- Musical study piece; 33- European capital, in song; 34- Guide; 39- Lentil and spice dish; 40- Honshu port; 41- Dallas player, briefly; 42- Building; 44- Winning tic-tac-toe line; 48- Future flounder; 49- Slowpokes; 51- Some Art Deco works; 52- Civil rights org.; 54- Method; 55- Shrinking Asian sea; 56- Went under; 57- 1963 role for Liz; 59- Smoke deposit; 60- Sicilian spouter; 61- Parade spoiler; 64- Outback hopper; 65- ___-cone;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa
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HKD 10.78M
Ocean Gardens complex
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Macau, One Central Residences, Macau
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Riveira H Unit, Tower 1 Macau
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Camellia Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane
3 Bedroom Apartment Green Views & Great Kitchen
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Cheoc Van Coloane
Multi-Storey Property Dazzling Sea Views
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Ref: 17060651



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	School of Arts and Crafts

JOALHARIA/JEWELLERY

JOALHARIA
- avançado

JEWELLERY
- advanced



monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

horário/schedule:
Quartas
Wednesdays
18h00 - 21h00

total: 30 horas/hours início/starts: 19/07/2017
10 sessões/sessions fim/finishes: 20/09/2017

língua/language:
Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **
propina/fee: MOP 1200 *

local/Venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8° andar B, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

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In Loving Memory of Mr Barry Bland

The Automobile General Association Macao-China (AAMC) informs that Mr. Barry Bland, who has been responsible for coordination at Macau Grand Prix Formula 3 for more than 30 years, passed away on July 5 at the age of 71 at his residence in UK accompanied by his wife Irmgard and his sons Chris, Alex and Ben. The funeral serve will be held on Wednesday, July 12 at 6 pm in the Igreja da Sé.

Thanks to all in advance for participating.

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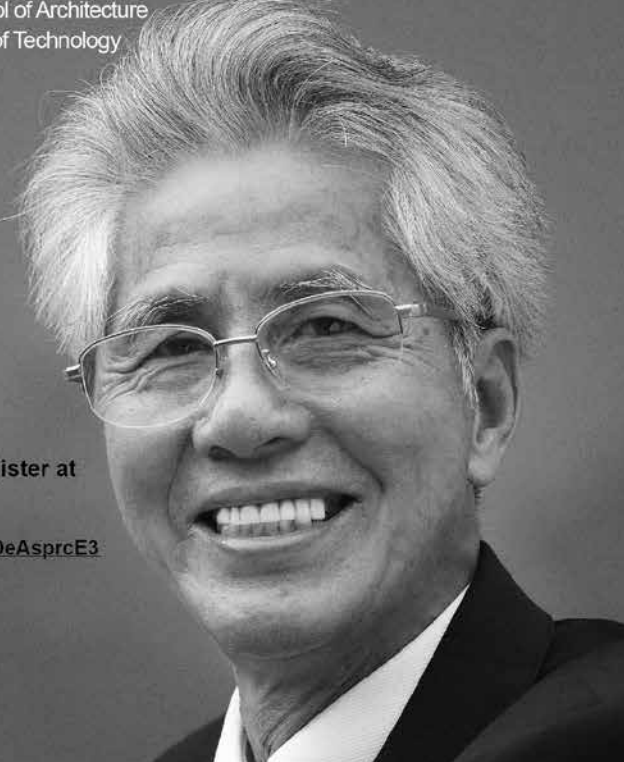
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Honorary Dean of School of Architecture
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(Wednesday)
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(Mandarin)
Venue
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WAYNE Rooney no longer has to hide his nighttime secret.

Although the striker left Everton in 2004 in pursuit of glory with Manchester United, the affection for his boyhood club never truly diminished — even while winning every major honor in European soccer with United and becoming the all-time leading scorer for English soccer's biggest club.

A reunion with Everton was mooted for years and it finally came on Sunday. The 31-year-old Rooney completed an emotional return across northwest England by signing a two-year contract at Goodison Park.

"I've kept it quiet for the last 13 years," Rooney said, "but I've actually been wearing Everton pyjamas at home with my kids. I had to keep that a bit quiet."

"It's a great feeling to be back. I'm excited, I cannot wait to meet the lads, get on the training pitch and then get on the pitch to play. I'm ecstatic."

Rooney always maintained that Everton was the only other Premier League club he could contemplate playing for after United.

Everton, though, is not welcoming back a player as energetic and dangerous in front as goal as the precocious teenager who left in 2004. In the twilight of his

FOOTBALL | EPL

Rooney in emotional Everton return after 13 years at United

career, Rooney is only available after dropping out of both the United and England teams he captained.

Rooney's hunger for the game, however, has never diminished. And after having to accept a reduced status over the last year for club and country, a return to Everton signals a fresh start. It could even help Rooney regain his England place in time for the World Cup next June and extend his England goal record of 53.

Rooney will now be a central figure once again in an Everton team that is looking to break the Premier League's elite under coach Ronald Koeman.

"I have come back to Everton because I believe Ronald Koeman is building a team that can win something," Rooney said, "and I look forward to playing my part in making that a reality for the club I have supported since a boy."

"Wayne has shown me that ambition that we need and that winning mentality," Koeman

AP PHOTO



said. "He knows how to win titles and I'm really happy he's decided to come home. He loves Everton and he was desperate to come back. He is still only

31 and I don't have any doubts about his qualities. It's fantastic he's here."

Rooney scored a record 253 goals for United after moving

from Everton for 27 million pounds as an 18-year-old in 2004, winning the Premier League title five times, the FA Cup once, the League Cup three times, the Champions League once and the Europa League last season.

"Thirteen years ago I went to United with the intention of winning trophies," Rooney said, "and I have been fortunate to be a part of one of the most successful periods in the club's history."

In Rooney's final season — Jose Mourinho's first in charge — the United captain only started 15 league games.

He also did not quite reach the heights expected of him when he was arguably at the top of his game in the 2009-10 season, at that time playing at a level comparable to Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Rooney departs United as a peripheral figure but he will still go down as one of the club's greatest players of the modern era. And he has a chance now to cement his status in Everton folklore. **MDT/AP**

AD

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opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

ITALY'S MIGRANT CRISIS IS ALSO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S

Summer makes it easier for migrants to cross the Mediterranean, so Italy is struggling to cope with another influx of refugees. And like before, its European partners are doing too little to help. The Italian government is asking for a new approach, and it's right: The EU should see this as a pan-European issue, requiring a pan-European response.

More than 84,000 migrants have arrived in Italy by sea in the first six months of this year, nearly 20 percent more than in the first half of 2016. In future, the pressure on Italy's southern shores will only increase, as the demographic boom in Africa and Asia leads more young people to risk their lives for a brighter future in Europe.

The EU's Dublin Regulation says the country in which an asylum-seeker first enters the union must process his or her case. This shouldn't mean leaving that country to bear nearly all of the costs. In practice, it's meant something close to that.

Granted, the EU has taken some steps to share the expense. Frontex, the agency patrolling the common border, has seen its budget increase from less than 20 million euros in 2006 to 300 million euros this year. Last week the European Commission approved a financial package with another 35 million euros for Italy to deal with the new surge of migrants, and 46 million euros to help the authorities in Libya, a main point of departure.



Still, this is only a fraction of what Italy is spending and will continue to spend each year. The Commission has graciously allowed Italy to cover this cost by borrowing more than the EU's deficit rules would otherwise permit - adding more debt to a pile that's already one of Europe's biggest. Italy's taxpayers might reasonably see that as adding insult to injury.

The EU should set up a sizable common fund which member states can use to cover costs relating to the migrant crisis. Permitted spending could range from rescuing ships at sea to helping refugees into the labor market. The fund should be able to borrow, with a joint EU guarantee, and with the European Commission overseeing how the money is used.

Many of Italy's EU partners still see the migrant crisis as not their problem. That's grossly unfair - and from Italy's point of view, unaffordable. If European solidarity means anything, the EU will finally, belatedly, put this right.

THE PRO-FASCIST POSTERS AT BEACH NEAR VENICE TO BE REMOVED

Italian government authorities have ordered the removal of pro-fascists posters at a beach near Venice.

Ansa, the Italian news agency, says the ordinance issued yesterday by the prefect based in Venice cited concerns that public order could be disturbed by signs and photos of Benito Mussolini, Italy's wartime fascist dictator. Italian law forbids glorifying fascism. One of the signs proclaimed the area to be an "anti-

democratic and regime zone."

Rome daily La Repubblica reported on Sunday that pro-Mussolini speeches were blasted over the beach's loudspeaker, and that one sign warned that services were for paid customers, otherwise "a truncheon on your teeth." It quoted the 64-year-old owner as saying: "Here my rules count."

Corriere della Sera daily said Venice-based police inspected the establishment on Sunday.

JAPAN

Abe sees popularity sink, seeks Cabinet shuffle

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

WITH his government's approval ratings sinking to their lowest level since he returned to power in 2012, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe says he will reshuffle his Cabinet next month as he looks to rebound from his party's recent crushing defeat in Tokyo municipal elections.

Results published yesterday from a weekend poll by the liberal Asahi newspaper showed support for Abe's Cabinet at 33 percent, down seven points from a week earlier, while disapproval stood at 47 percent, up five points. Polls by the conservative Yomiuri newspaper and NTV, both known as pro-Abe, as well as public broadcaster NHK showed similar results.

Experts say a slew of scandals, including a major one involving Abe, and the railroading of key legislation have hurt the prime minister's popularity, leading to his Liberal Democratic Party's heavy losses in the July 2 Tokyo assembly elections.

According to the Yomiuri poll, which was taken July 7-9, support for Abe's government fell to 36 percent, down 13 points from mid-June, while disapproval rose to 52 percent, from 41 percent. NTV's poll showed support fell to 32 percent, while NHK's showed it dropped to 35 percent.

"The size of the decline is shocking," the Yomiuri said, citing the 61 percent support that



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Abe's government had just two months ago. "While Prime Minister Abe repeats 'deep regret,' the public's distrust is growing more than ever."

Abe, traveling in Europe after the G-20 summit, told reporters Sunday that he would reshuffle his Cabinet in early August. The Cabinet is expected to replace some of the ministers criticized for problematic remarks and scandals.

Defense Minister Tomomi Inada is among those expected to be removed. Inada most recently came under fire over her remark at an election rally in which she sought support from her ministry and the Self-Defense Force for a ruling party candidate, allegedly violating laws stipulating neutrality of civil servants and the military.

In the absence of significant center-left alternatives and strong rivals in his party, Abe's tenure as prime minister is not under immediate threat. But Abe - in his second stint as prime minister, having previously served in 2006 and 2007 - now has to watch out for any development in a ma-

jor ongoing scandal in which he is alleged to have helped a friend gain government approval for his new veterinary school.

Yesterday, a former top education ministry bureaucrat told a parliamentary hearing that Abe's office had significant influence over the school approval. Though Abe was not present, the hearing was apparently a compromise by his party, which has repeatedly refused to hold one, following the July 2 election defeat.

"The decision-making process was in parts extremely unfair and murky," Kihei Maekawa, former vice education minister, said yesterday. "Clearly there was an influence by the Prime Minister's Office."

The veterinary school scandal is the second alleging that Abe or people close to him sought to influence the opening of new schools. Earlier, Abe's wife, Akie, was alleged to have used her influence in a school opening for an ultranationalistic Osaka educational group that she was closely associated with. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd

A double-decker bus on a sightseeing tour went out of control and rolled over on a narrow road in the hills of the Peruvian capital, killing at least nine people and injuring 40. Peru's Ministry of Health says the Sunday night accident happened about 2 kilometers from the presidential palace in Lima.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA The most senior Vatican cleric to ever be charged in the Roman Catholic Church sex abuse scandal returned to Australia yesterday to stand trial in his home state on charges alleging he sexually assaulted multiple people years ago. [More on p12](#)



INDIA Police are patrolling for poachers as rhinoceros, deer and wild buffalo move to higher ground to escape floods devastating parts of northeast India, including a famed wildlife preserve. [More on p12](#)

TURKEY The leader of Turkey's main opposition party has visited a party lawmaker whose imprisonment, for allegedly leaking footage to a newspaper suggesting Turkey smuggled arms to Islamist rebels in Syria, inspired a 25-day protest march.

BURUNDI An official says eight people have been killed in a grenade attack on a bar in the country's rural northern area.



BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May is urging the opposition to help shore up her minority government as it leads the U.K. out of the European Union. The appeal comes nearly a year after May took office, and just over a month after she suffered a setback from voters in a snap election.

BRAZIL The IOC has balked at helping Rio Olympic organizers pay a debt estimated at USD35-40 million. The executive board of the International Olympic Committee, meeting in Switzerland, said it had already contributed a "record" \$1.53 billion to last year's Olympics and questioned giving more.