



SURVEY ON AL RELATED MATTERS

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho is launching a survey on matters related to the Legislative Assembly works

P2



HIGH FLU OCCURRENCE

Data recorded by the Health Bureau shows a significant increase in influenza when compared to the same period of last year

P5



THAI GENERAL CONVICTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

P13



THU.20
Jul 2017

T. 25°/ 31° C
H. 75/ 95%

facebook.com/mdtimes
+ 11,000

MOP 7.50
HKD 9.50



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES The government scrapped preliminary peace talks with communist rebel leaders in Europe due to continuing guerrilla attacks, including new violence yesterday that killed a government militiaman and wounded at least four presidential guards in the country's south, officials said. More on p12

KOREA Police in South Korea's capital yesterday began investigating how a North Korean woman who defected in 2014 and made South Korean TV appearances ended up back in the North. More on p13

AP PHOTO



SAUDI ARABIA announced yesterday that a woman who was detained after wearing a miniskirt in a video that went viral has been released without charge.

YEMEN Medical officials say the death toll from a Saudi-led coalition airstrike on fleeing civilians in the province of Taiz has reached 20. The officials say the names of those killed in Tuesday's strike appear to indicate they were all members of the same family, al-Bareq.

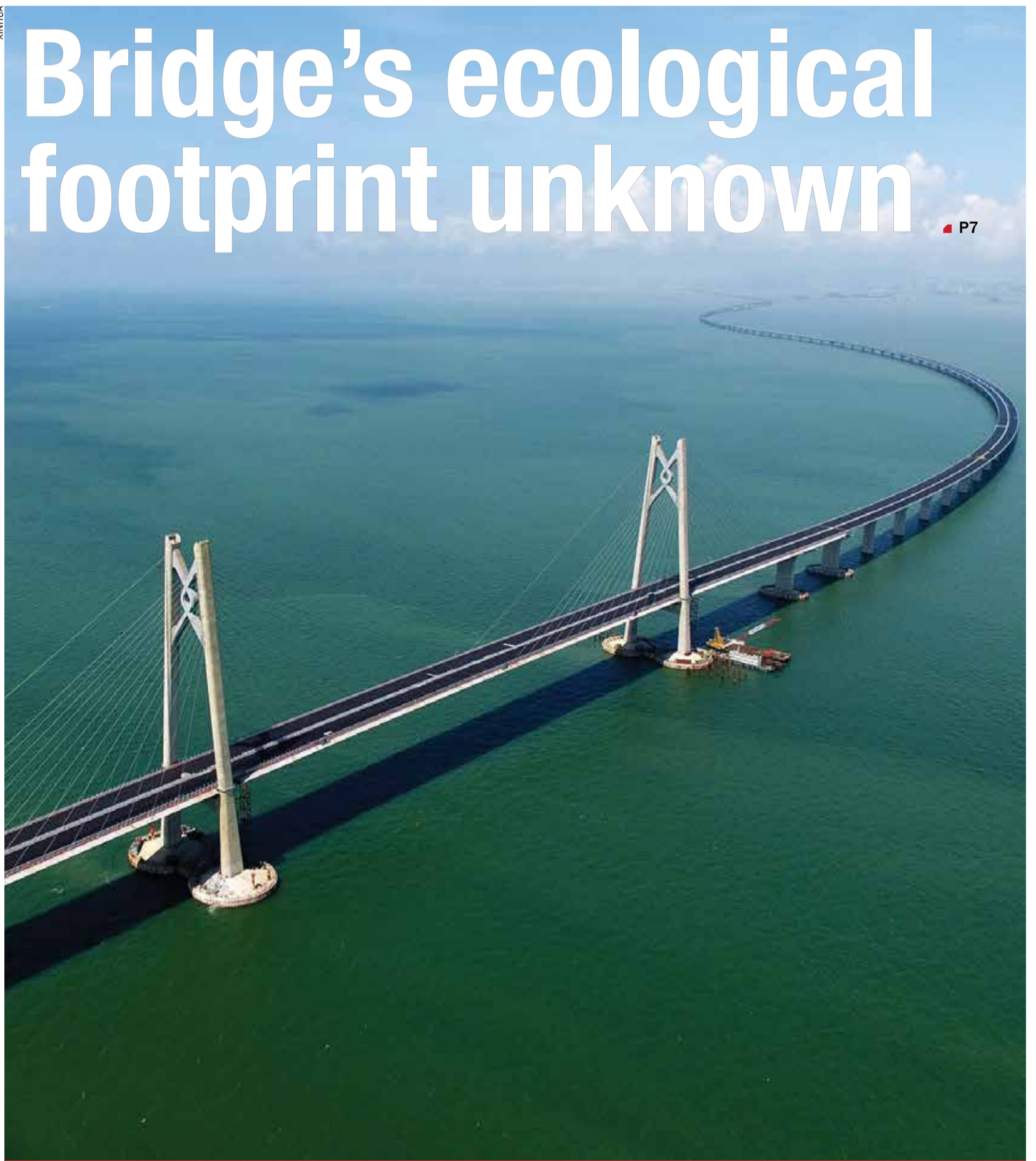
TURKEY's prime minister announced a cabinet reshuffle yesterday, replacing or swapping 11 ministers in the 26-member council of ministers, including the ministers for justice and defense.

More on backpage

XINHUA

Bridge's ecological footprint unknown

P7



Liu Xiaobo supporters mark his death amid concerns for widow

P11



Coutinho criticizes lack of transparency in AL

Lynzy Valles

The Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) is calling for more transparency to be implemented in the Legislative Assembly (AL), particularly over the Standing Committee's closed-door meetings.

Until August 30, the association is conducting a survey on whether lawmakers should be required to work full-time at the AL, and whether parliamentary commissions' meetings should be open to the public. The survey has been distributed on social media platforms.

Lawmaker and president of

ATFPM, José Pereira Coutinho, argued that the media must be informed of the committees' discussions during their closed-door internal meetings.

The lawmaker criticized the AL for its lack of transparency, recalling the previously-discussed bill on banning indoor smoking in casinos.

"At that time when the government submitted the full ban on casino smoking bill, 26 legislators voted in favor. And what happened next? When the bill went through the second commission internal meeting, all of them changed opinions," Coutinho said.

The lawmaker argued that ever since the region's handover to China 18 years ago, it had not improved its legislators' transparency to the public.

"The media must know and must be informed by being present in internal meetings," he said.

According to him, the six working committees of the AL should change their regulations and allow the press to be present, unless discussions are "very sensitive."

He also believed that closed-door meetings would hinder the growth of confidence the public has in its government.

"If you don't have transparency in people's houses, how can the people trust and believe in what you are stating to the AL?" he questioned.

Meanwhile, ATFPM is also calling for the government to issue stricter criteria for its legislators to work as full time lawmakers.

As most of the legislators are busy businessmen or working part-time jobs, Coutinho, who has raised this concern in recent years, stressed that the issue was never discussed on social media, and has not been brought to the government.

The lawmaker believes that legislators should be working full-time for the regions' residents in order to provide high quality decision making.

Coutinho also expressed the opinion that these part-time lawmakers are formulating decisions that serve their self-interest.

"[The] majority of the influential [people] are businessmen in Macau. If they are legislators, it would help them run better the business. It's an added value," the lawmaker explained.

Questioned by the Times on the different factors that may hin-

der the six working committees of the AL to open their meetings to the public, Coutinho condemned the legislators, saying, "Because they are liars, many lawmakers are liars," citing the aforementioned smoking ban bill as an example.

The lawmaker also criticized the fact that only the presidents of the AL Standing Committees are allowed to speak to the press to summarize the meeting's debate. "The media only listens to the president and only tells what he likes [the press] to hear," he commented.

Meanwhile, the lawmaker also commented on the upcoming exit of Uber, along with the approved taxi fare increase, describing it as a contradiction.

"You have to pay more for bad quality service. In many aspects, Macau is light-years away from an intelligent city. Macau is going backwards," he said.

Coutinho recalled that issues such as public housing, health-care, transportation and social provident funds were raised several years ago; and lamented that the public is still raising such issues.

"It just means we're not moving forward," he concluded.

POSTER BANNING AT AL QUESTIONED

DURING THE press conference ATFPM organized yesterday, Coutinho suggested that the proposed ban of the use of posters and banners during AL plenary meetings is a setback to the MSAR's freedom of expression. According to Coutinho, "if we cannot raise cards at the AL and if we cannot express our opinions at the end of

each bill, we are like civil servants inside the AL because the government decides everything." According to the lawmaker, the proposed banning of posters at the AL would not benefit legislators nor the public. He added that such a measure would only threaten Macau's freedom of speech. "That's not good for Macau," he stated.

Money laundering group makes positive assessment

MACAU received a positive assessment in the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) 2017. The report was discussed yesterday in the annual meeting of APG, which is being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Macau's positive results were received in respect of its technical compliance with legal frameworks as well as its effectiveness in implementing measures against money laundering, and terrorist financing.

According to the report, licensing controls are robust in the Macau gaming sector for both concessionaires and junket promoters. The MER states that Macau has applied the international standard-setting body of anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) measures, including licensing as well as 'fit and proper' test requirements to include junket promoters and their formal collaborators.

In addition, the Gaming Inspection and Coordi-

nation Bureau (DICJ) in Macau has set up a double-scrutiny system for the market entry of junket promoters. The DICJ undertakes separate market entry and licensing requirements for junket promoters and their formal collaborators.

Moreover, DICJ provides industry training once every year to the gaming sector with a thematic topic and objective.

According to a statement from the Financial Information Office, the



The local delegation attending the meeting

Macau government is taking a more stringent approach towards the licensing and supervision of junket promoters, which

are subject to AML and CFT requirements. The statement claims that the government will continue to improve and

strengthen supervision of the gaming sector, and require its continuous attention to and compliance with AML and CFT.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

+ 4 Million page views
PER MONTH

Thank You!

+11,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitter, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | **SECRETARY** Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

WARNING! Advertising with Macau Daily Times may be highly addictive.

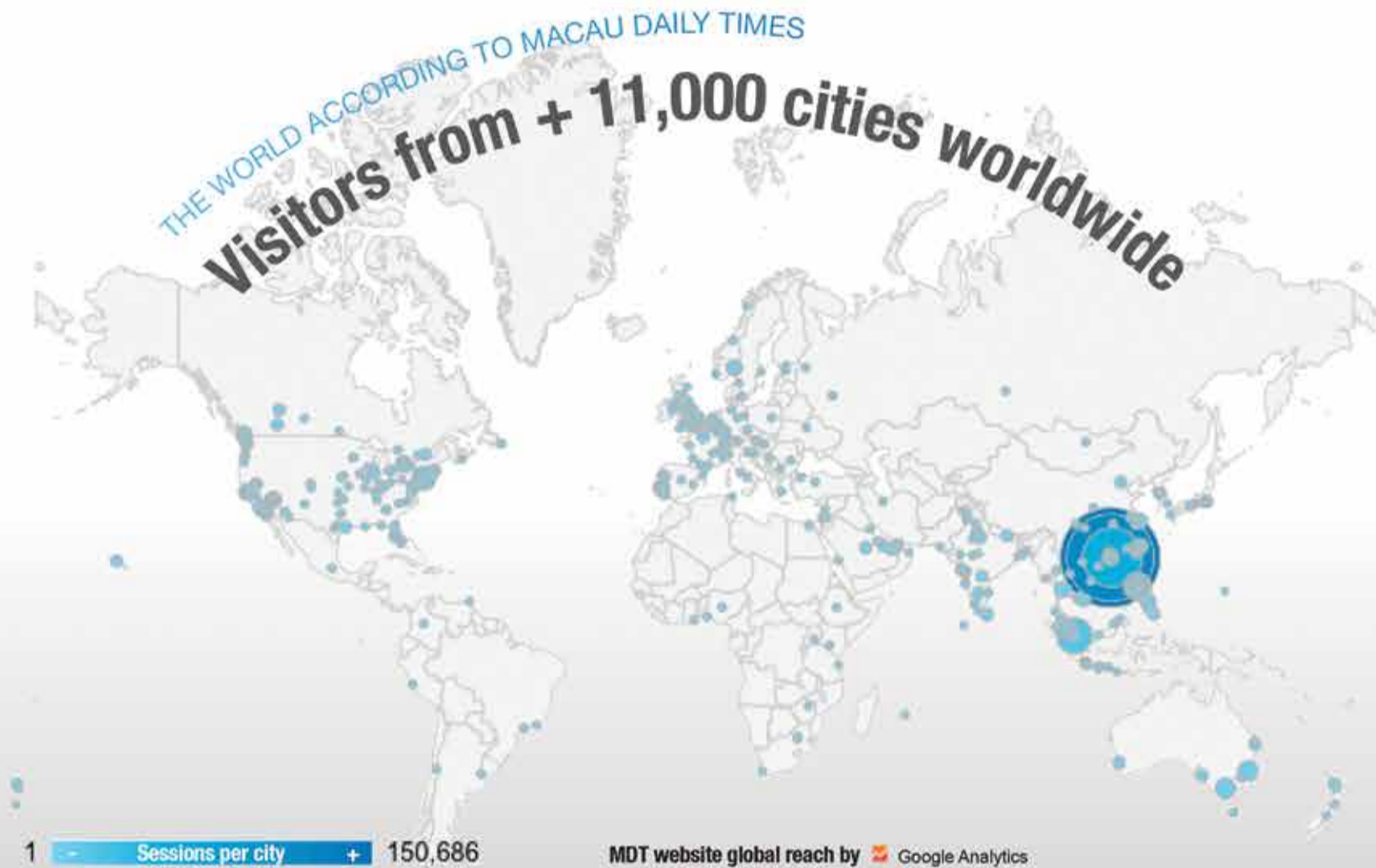


52,872,473 page views in 2016

160,000 in 24 hours



+ 11,000 likes



www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

facebook.com/mdtimes



The top countries of origin for visitors to the MDT website are Macau, greater China and the East Asia region. But the USA, Australia, Great Britain and other European countries are also in the top 10. The Times website has a true worldwide reach welcoming visits from more than 11,000 cities.

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



Bene Food & Wine Mercato

Bene introduces the Food & Wine Mercato, an interactive wine dinner experience inspired by the colorful markets across Italy. Each month embark on a journey to a different region for a showcase of perfectly matched wine and cuisine, live cooking stations, artisanal retail products and more.

6:00PM - 11:00PM

MOP **488*** | MOP **200*** Per adult | Per child aged 6 to 12 years

* Includes entry ticket, unlimited food, wines and drinks.

Retail items will be charged accordingly. Terms & conditions apply.

Bene - Level 1, Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel, Cotai Central
Estrada do Istmo, s/n, Cotai, Macao SAR, P.R. China
+853 8113 1200 | benemacao.com | @macaobene | #benemercato

SPG® Members enjoy
20% Discount



MAGNUS

SECURITY SERVICES
馬格納斯 保安 (澳門) 有限公司

License No. 5/2010

MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69

Edif. Ind. Fok Tai, 12 floor "B", Macau SAR

Tel.: (853) 2822 1341

Fax.: (853) 2822 0824

SECURITY SERVICES
全面保安服務
EVENTS SECURITY
活動場地保安
SPECIAL OPERATIONS
特別行動
SECURITY SYSTEMS
保安及安全系統
RISK ASSESSMENT &
RISK MITIGATION
風險評估及應對措施
SECURITY FORCE TRAINING
& EVALUATION
保安部隊訓練及評核

High flu occurrence recorded in recent weeks

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has stated that data recorded by several SSM monitoring systems show a recent and significant increase in influenza when compared to the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, influenza surveillance data from the Conde São Januário hospital (CHCSJ) showed an increase in the number of cases of influenza in the last week. The number of adults with the flu requiring urgent medical attention reached a ratio of 117 per 1,000 people, almost quadruple the normal rate. For pediatric occurrences, the ratio reached about 214 per 1,000 people, corresponding to twice the normal rate. SSM's Public Health Laboratory of the Health Services last week collected 127 samples from respiratory tracts and found that 57 of these had a positive reaction to the presence of the influenza virus, a positivity rate of 44.9 percent.

With respect to cases of collective influenza infection,



since last January, SSM registered 60 cases, a slight reduction compared to the 88 cases registered in the same period of 2016.

There have been 32 cases of influenza accompanied by pneumonia so far this year. Of these, 18 were female and 14 were male, aged between 10 months and 91 years, four of whom required treatment at the Intensive Care Unit. These same four did not receive the seasonal influenza vaccine

in the years 2016-2017.

So far, one of the cases has resulted in death. Twenty-six cases have already been discharged, and five cases are still being treated in hospital. To prevent influenza, SSM prepared 120,000 seasonal flu vaccines for 2016/2017, and vaccinated the most at-risk people from September 26 of last year.

As of July 17, the number of people who received the vaccination between 2016-2017

was 99,397, corresponding to an increase of about 5,000 people compared to the same period of last year.

According to a statement issued yesterday, in order to respond to an influenza peak, SSM will adjust the work distribution of its departments. SSM will adjust the distribution of human resources within CHCSJ and the city's health centers so as to accelerate medical service procedures.



Double-decker buses were used in the 70s and 80s

Double-decker buses still need to be discussed

The three bus companies in Macau have different opinions about the feasibility of double-decker buses making a return. On a TDM radio show yesterday, bus operator Transmac's deputy general manager Kent Lei revealed that he was open to the introduction of double-decker buses. Operator TCM deputy general manager Chaing Peng Chan explained that it would be more difficult for bus drivers to encourage passengers to move to the top floor of a double-decker bus. Indeed, it is already complicated enough to persuade passengers to walk to the back of current single-decker buses. Operator New Era's deputy general manager Kwok Tong Cheong believes that middle-sized buses are the future of the bus service industry.

CPPCC delegate suggests patriotic power in AL

The President of Macau's Members of the Provincial Chinese People's Political Consultation Conference (CPPCC), Lam Chong, has said that Macau should spread the "Macau spirit," which is in line with the Chinese president Xi Jinping's speech during his recent visit to Hong Kong. "Macau should combine the spirit of Xi Jinping's important speech with Macau's practical situation, with the motto 'Love the Country, Love Macau,' [...] and with democracy and harmonization," said Lam. Lam said that it is of uttermost importance to strengthen the power of the Love the Country and Love Macau mottos in the AL.

DSAL: Middle-aged people face no employment discrimination



Ella Lei

LAWMAKER Ella Lei delivered a written inquiry to the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) questioning the labor authority's policies for ensuring that the employment rights for middle-aged people are well protected.

Lei noted that "DSAL has always claimed to pay attention to the employment situation of middle-aged residents. However, actual cases and data show that employment assurance to

local residents, especially the middle-aged, should be enhanced, in particular the authority should inspect whether age discrimination exists in employment market."

"What are the exact measures the authority has in order to secure the employment rights of local residents, and to help them to not be discriminated or excluded because of their age?" Lei suggests the government should require big enterprises, which

hire non-local workers, to instead hire suitable or well-trained middle-aged local residents.

Lei also questioned if the authority helps middle-aged residents to improve their competences.

Wong Chi Hong, director of DSAL, replied to Lei saying that DSAL ensures middle-aged people are not affected because of their age when DSAL provides employment assistance to these people.

DSAL sends supervi-

sors to interviews in order to check the interview process to guarantee that no discriminating employment issues are occurring.

"In the future, DSAL will open more training courses for middle-aged residents

and residents of other ages according to Macau's actual needs, and DSAL will continue to improve its employment referral service in order to help middle-aged people enhance their employment competences," Wong's reply reads.

DSI sets up self-service station in Coloane

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) set up a self-service station at Seac Pai Van in Coloane that was officially put into use yesterday. There are four integrated self-service kiosks providing 24 kinds of services, involving nine government departments and one "City Guide" information kiosk in the station. Individuals can print health care vouchers, register for proof of identity, enquire about the wealth partaking scheme distribution or apply for the social security fund among other things.

AD

New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.



Residence Cleaning
Glass Cleaning
Carpet Cleaning
Pest Control



Call : 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

Over 200 take part in 'Health Day for Senior Buddies'

MGM hosted the annual "Health Day for Senior Buddies" event for more than 200 local senior citizens this week. The senior citizens, with an average age of 75, were from six local associations under the Caritas Macau and the Macau Tung Sin Tong Charitable Society.

This is the eighth consecutive year that the gaming operator has organized the event. According to MGM, the event has benefited over 1,400 local senior citizens so far.

A total of 20 medical practitioners from the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau were invited to provide free one-on-one health consultations and Chinese herbal soups to maintain the well-being of the attendees.

Over 60 MGM Volunteer Team members assisted in the event to serve and entertain the attendees while they waited for their health consultations.

The event concluded with an endearing and lively lion dance performance presented by the youngest Lion Dance Troupe in Macau - graduates of MGM's Junior Lion Dance Training Program.

Johnwin Lee, an MGM Volunteer Team member who brought along his daughter to volunteer during the summer holidays, said after the event, "This is a memorable day as this is my first time that I can volunteer with my daughter."

"Not only can we enjoy some exceptional family time, but it is also an important les-



Twenty medical practitioners from the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau provided free one-on-one health consultations

son to remind both of us to serve the community, especially the senior citizens who built the community that we live in today. I hope that we can inspire more parents to encourage their kids to lighten up someone else's day together and to pursue a better perspective in life."

In addition to on-site Chinese medical consultations, there were also live performances, interactive games, a lucky draw and refreshments provided.

The president of the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau said that recently there has been a surge in the number of elderly people diagnosed with influenza.

Since the weather has been inconsistent, many elderly people have more frequently been affected by respiratory diseases and other complications. He suggests the elderly do more outdoor exercises, especially in places where the air quality is good.



URBAN RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Building renovation ratio under debate

Julie Zhu

THE Urban Renewal Committee has yet to make a final decision over regulations governing the percentage of owners required to agree to move forward with a building renovation, and whether or not to create a graded criteria according to the building's age.

Talking to the media after the meeting, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said that no specific decision was reached during the Urban Renewal Committee plenary meeting that took place yesterday.

Previously, the committee's third specialized commission presented a proposal that was debated upon, in which a partial consensus was reached stating that all buildings 30 years

old or younger require the agreement of 100 percent of the owners to be renovated or demolished.

Buildings between 30 and 40 years old require the agreement of 90 percent of the owners, and finally, for buildings older than 40 years old, it is required that 85 percent of the owners agree with the decision to renovate or demolish.

Yesterday, Raimundo said that the committee discussed recent works of the three specialized groups of the Urban Renewal Committee.

"We have discussed all three commission's works, in particular, how their works are going," said Rosário.

The secretary added that "in the next meeting, there might be a suggestion from the third commission to be discussed in the plenary meeting [regarding the per-

centage]."

Currently, the law states that major renovation or demolition of a building requires full agreement by all building owners.

This was reportedly one of the biggest obstacles for the renovation and transformation of industrial buildings into buildings designed for other purposes.

When asked about whether the government is considering issuing temporary licenses to industrial buildings, Raimundo said that the government is still discussing it.

"We have discussed that, and we will find several related departments and committee members to research the problems more proficiently, mainly because recreation of industrial buildings is not an easy issue. We have discussed, but there are some difficulties," revealed Raimundo.

Two-week Portuguese interpreting event ends tomorrow

THE Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM) and the Directorate-General for Interpretation of the European Commission have joined forces as organizers of the 7th Conference Interpreting Seminar, which ends tomorrow.

According to a statement issued by IPM, the two-week event aims at nurturing high-caliber talent in the field of conference interpretation as well as training Portuguese university teachers working in Macau and the Chinese mainland.

More than 10 professional translators and Portuguese teachers from Macau and Chinese universities, together with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Marcus Im (right), MPI's vice president, presents a souvenir to Pedro Elston, representative of the European Commission

of the People's Republic of China, are attending this advanced training in interpretation.

During the event, Marcus Im, vice-president of IPM, noted that China recently witnessed a tremendous growth in universities offering undergraduate programs in the Portuguese language,

from merely three in 2003 to over 30 at present. As a platform for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macau should take full advantage of its unique history, culture, and linguistic strengths to support the Belt and Road Initiative, added Im.

KTRANZ

TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE

TRANSLATIONS

Services

TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

Languages

ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



HKZMB raises many environmental questions, authorities answer none

Renato Marques*

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), almost ready to open, has been widely regarded as a “strong development factor” for the entire Pearl River Delta area and especially for the three cities connected by its branches.

The 34 years between the birth of the idea of building the HKZMB and its final completion have seen many high-profile figures praise the mega-structure and highlight its numerous economic advantages.

Since its construction began in late 2009, questions have been asked more and more frequently about the extent of the infrastructure's purported advantages and also regarding the possible environmental consequences of such a large-scale project in nearby waters.

Recently, a conservation group in the neighboring region of Hong Kong called for the creation of a supersized marine park to connect all the existing facilities around Lantau Island in order to stop what they described as a “rapid decline in the population of Chinese white dolphins.”

The group, the Dolphin Conservation Society, is also calling for the diversion of high-speed ferries in the estuary area because of the same ecological concerns, according to the South China Morning Post.

The conservation bells first started ringing after the latest white dolphin headcount, conducted by the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department. A recent report released by the department showed that the number of these marine

mammals in Hong Kong waters has almost halved since 2010, reaching a historical low of 47.

The group attributes this decline to the large-scale infrastructure works around Lantau. These include the HKZMB, the building of the city's third airport runway and the growing frequency of high-speed ferries and other maritime traffic.

This issue is accompanied by several other environmental and ecological challenges posed by the bridge, but the governments of the three impacted regions appear to have little to say on the matter.

An Environmental Impact Assessment study conducted in 2003 by Hong Kong's Highway Department highlighted the infrastructure's impact in several key areas: ecology, water quality, air quality and cultural heritage.

“It is anticipated that surrounding [areas] could be affected by noise, air quality, ecological, water quality, visual, waste and cultural heritage impacts during the construction and operational stages,” the department noted in the report.

Regarding ecological concerns, the report warned that “construction at the bridge-land interface and the construction of piers in west Lantau and the Airport Channel may result in increased release of sediments that could potentially affect the mangroves and seagrass communities at/near the San Tau SSSI, [and also affect the] intertidal mudflats and horseshoe crab nursery area in Tung Chung Bay and the habitat of the Chinese White Dolphins.”

Meanwhile, Macau authorities have not publicized the findings from any preliminary studies or made clear their considerations

of the possible negative outcomes of the HKZMB.

In October 2003, the Preparatory Group for the Construction of the HKZMB decided to establish a new committee to “be responsible for the concretization of the [preparatory] works,” with its members contributing “great experience, technical capacity and profound knowledge of the situation of the Pearl-Delta.”

Local authorities are yet to publicly disclose the results of studies from the Guangzhou-based committee.

■ The bridge has been criticized on both sides of the Pearl River Delta for safety scandals, overrun budgets and ulterior motives

In an email to the Times, the Macau Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) noted that the HKZMB is “an interregional construction project involving the use of the maritime areas of the Mainland. Since the application for the use of the areas is required, their [the Mainland's] national environmental impact assessment rules must be complied with.”

“The promoter of this project is already carrying out the work in this field, in accordance with the national requirements,” the DSPA assured, noting that it could

not provide information on its behalf.

Speaking to the Times, António Trindade, founding president of the Macau Association of Environmental Protection Industry, said that all construction projects – particularly large-scale ones – have an impact on the environment. He also said that while “every construction project has an impact; assessments are needed to find the mitigating factors.”

Some analysts have speculated that the introduction of the HKZMB might reduce the demand for high-speed ferries between the three cities. On this suggestion, the DSPA said it “does not currently have not the information to [advise].”

Asked whether vehicle emissions on the new bridge might compare favorably to those of the jetfoils, Trindade said that it depends. “Both boats and vehicles have harmful emissions,” he said, and it remains to be seen how the two means of transport will contribute to air and sea pollutants in the estuary.

The bridge has also been criticized, on both sides of the Pearl River Delta, for safety scandals, overrun budgets and ulterior, political motives.

Civil engineer Albert Lai, convener of think tank Professional Commons, said that the problems reflect “political considerations overriding professional judgments with regard to the design and construction of the bridge.”

“The sole purpose of this bridge was to cater to the development needs of the mainland. As a result, all professional considerations such as its design have not been fully taken into account,” he told the SCMP.

Opinions on the controversial project are also divided on the Macau side.

While the government and its various departments continue to promise economic advantages from the project, others, such as Rose Lai, a lecturer at the University of Macau (UM), seem to be less optimistic.

“It is difficult to predict the impacts on the real estate market of the region,” Lai said to newspaper Plataforma. Lai noted that “housing prices in the areas near to the bridge connection in Macau have already risen as soon as people started talking about this [infrastructure].”

Lai also raised doubts over whether the bridge would constitute a faster form of transportation to nearby Hong Kong and Zhuhai than the high-speed ferry system.

“To transport [via] bridge does not necessarily mean that it [will be faster]. And the idea of a bridge is more for the transport of cargo and goods [than people],” she said.

Another UM scholar interviewed by Plataforma, Glenn McCartney, assistant professor of hospitality and gaming management, said that above all, authorities required a strategic plan for how to use the bridge.

McCartney feels “an infrastructure such as this one is always a positive thing as it assures an improvement on accessibility to Macau.” However, “infrastructure [by itself] has no meaning if we don't know how to ‘sell it,’” he said, adding that there is an important role to be played by government departments such as the Macau Government Tourism Office.

***With additional reporting by Daniel Beitler**

The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



1.4TSI with 150HP



5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.


Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

Volkswagen showroom : Avenida 1° de Maio N°680, The Bayview , R/C, G, Macau Tel : 2872 1222

Volkswagen service center : Avenida Son On, Paca On, Lote N, Taipa, Macau Tel : 2885 7533



Top oil buyer's demand in peril as OPEC wrestles over output

OIL bulls grappling with OPEC's weakened resolve to curb output are also having to worry about waning demand in the world's biggest buyer of overseas crude.

State-run China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., the globe's largest oil refiner, will process about 1 million metric tons a month less than previously planned over June to August, according to people with knowledge of the matter. That's because of weaker demand and increased competition from privately owned rivals, they said, asking not to be identified because the information is confidential. The reduction is equivalent to about 240,000 barrels a day.

While that's about 3 percent of China's total crude imports, the curbs are being implemented during the summer, when the nation's demand typically peaks just as it does in the U.S. Chinese drivers typically use more fuel as they crank up their vehicle's air-conditioner when the sun is out, but are turning to alterna-

tive modes of transport such as natural-gas fired cars amid efforts to cut pollution. Oil is still in a bear market as some OPEC members comply less with pledged output cuts.

Fuel demand in China is being challenged by alternative transportation such as shared bicycles and natural gas fired cars.

GUO YIFAN
ANALYST

"The oil market seems to have grown immune to news about OPEC output cuts, meaning supply-side stories that normally

affect prices aren't having as much impact now," Gao Jian, an analyst with Shandong-based industry researcher SCI99, said by phone. "It's time to look over to the demand side. And on that front, with China's fuel demand weakening, it basically means oil may stay lower for longer."

U.S. West Texas Intermediate futures in New York traded up 0.3 percent at USD46.55 a barrel by 11:22 a.m. London time, still more than 50 percent lower than three years earlier as a global market glut persists. Brent crude, the benchmark for more than half the world's oil, is languishing near \$49 a barrel, compared with its 2014 peak of more than \$115.

While the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its partners have an agreement to implement output curbs aimed at shrinking the oversupply and propping up prices, the International Energy Agency estimates that OPEC's compliance with the cutbacks fell in June to the lowest level since the deal

started in January. Any sustained rebound in prices will hinge as much on continued growth in China as on reduced supplies.

Before the lower processing plan, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. had a target to process about 20 million tons a month during summer. A Beijing-based spokesman for the company that's known as Sinopec declined to comment.

Gasoline demand growth in China, the world's biggest energy user, will average 95,000 barrels a day in 2017, "dramatically" below gains of 230,000-290,000 barrels a day of the prior two years, the Paris-based IEA said in a report on July 13. Meanwhile, passenger-vehicle sales in the first half dropped for the first time in at least 13 years.

"Fuel demand in China is being challenged by alternative transportation such as shared bicycles and natural gas fired cars," said Guo Yifan, an analyst at Shanghai-based Sinolink Securities. She predicted the use of shared bikes in big cities may replace 1.27 million tons of ga-

soline demand this year while natural gas cars have already displaced 22 million tons of fuel used in transportation in 2016.

The IEA last month cut its estimate for China's 2017 total oil demand growth by 4 percent to 385,000 barrels a day. The nation's apparent oil demand fell by 0.3 percent in April, with gasoline demand slipping by 6.3 percent, the first decline since September, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

"Summer in theory should be the peak consumption season," said Amy Sun, an analyst with Shanghai-based commodities researcher ICIS-China. "But we've seen weak gasoline demand since April as well as huge competition from teapots," she said, referring to the nation's smaller, independent refiners.

Operating rates at Chinese independent refineries rose to 65.14 percent in mid-June, the highest since December, according to data provided by SCI99. Sinopec raised its refining volume each year since 2005 until 2016, when the private processors started boosting operations armed with government approvals to purchase imported oil. Since May, Sinopec's fuel stations have offered a discount of as much as 2.3 yuan per liter in the eastern Chinese city of Zibo, Shanghai Securities News reported last month. **Bloomberg**

AMC tries to distance itself from parent Wanda's troubles

THE U.S. cinema chain AMC has tried to reassure financial markets it is unaffected by its Chinese parent's debts, saying the American unit never has relied on Wanda Group for financing.

Shares in AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc. fell this week following reports Chinese regula-

tors told banks Wanda's recent foreign transactions conflicted with restrictions on capital movement. Wanda bought a majority stake in AMC in 2012 for USD2.6 billion.

AMC said in a statement its three most recent acquisitions were financed by U.S. banks and it never has received loans from

Chinese banks.

The company said Wanda, which also owns Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment, has three seats on AMC's nine-member board but no role in daily management.

"AMC is an American company run from its Leawood, Kansas, head-

quarters by our management teams located in the U.S. and Europe," AMC's chief executive and president, Adam Aron, said in the statement.

"Wanda does not actively participate in the day-to-day running of AMC beyond the board of directors service of three Wanda executives side-

by-side with six American directors," said Aron. "We greatly look forward to Wanda's continued support as an AMC shareholder."

Chinese regulators have tapped the brakes on a multibillion-dollar string of foreign acquisitions by Wanda and other companies, citing concerns they might be taking on too much debt.

Wanda announced on July 10 it would sell most of its theme parks to a Chinese buyer, Sunac China Holdings Ltd., for

63.2 billion yuan (\$9.3 billion) but will continue to manage the properties.

Wanda founder Wang Jianlin told a Chinese business magazine, *Cai-xin*, the revenue would be used to repay loans. Wang was quoted as saying the company's debt load "at this point isn't heavy," but gave no details.

Wanda, which has interests in shopping malls, hotels, real estate and entertainment, became the world's biggest cinema operator with its purchase of U.S. chain AMC. **MDT/AP**

Sino-US trade rifts resurface even after friendly summit

Paul Wiseman, Josh Boak

CAKE and conversation, it seems, can go only so far to mend longstanding economic rifts between the United States and China.

Three months after President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, shared chocolate cake at an amiable summit in Florida, tensions between the world's two biggest economies are flaring again.

Just as officials of the two nations prepare to meet in Washington, the Trump administration is considering slapping tariffs on steel imports, a step that risks igniting a trade war. For the United States, it's a perilous option to address a problem caused largely by China's overproduction of steel.

And Trump is criticizing China again for failing to use its economic leverage to rein in its neighbor and ally, the nuclear rogue state North Korea.

Could this week's U.S.-China Comprehensive Dialogue produce a meaningful breakthrough in economic relations? Most China watchers are skeptical.

"I'm not looking for anything worthwhile," says Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

For one thing, the points of difference between the two countries run deep. For another, Xi faces political pressures at home and won't want to cause a stir in Beijing.

For all the tensions between the two nations, Trump's words about Xi himself have remained warm. He has suggested that the personal bond he formed with Xi when



Donald Trump meets with Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit on July 8

the two met April 6-7 at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort can overcome fundamental differences on trade and national security. Last week, the president called his Chinese counterpart a "friend of mine," "a terrific guy" and "a very special person."

At a White House event Monday, Trump suggested that the relationship is so strong that he asked during the Florida summit to start exporting U.S. beef to China and that the request was quickly granted. Trump said that the beef industry was so pleased to return to China after a 14-year ban that one executive from Nebraska "hugged me, he wanted to kiss me so badly."

"We welcome this opportunity," Kenny Graner, a North Dakota cattle farmer who is president of the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, says of the China market. "They have a middle class that's growing in income. It's big, a lot of people."

After the meeting, the president softened his accusations of abusive Chinese practices, dropped his threat to label China a currency manipulator and expressed optimism that China would pressure North Korea to scale back its nu-

clear program.

Still, the Trump-Xi relationship has yet to deliver the substantive changes that Trump the candidate had promised voters — a core piece of his mantra to put "America first." The economic irritants are likely to vex U.S. and Chinese officials this week.

Trump had campaigned on a promise to shrink America's trade deficits, which he blames for wiping out American factories and manufacturing jobs. The United States last year ran a trade deficit in goods with China of USD347 billion, the amount by which imports exceeded exports. It's by far the widest gap that U.S. has with any country. Trump says China unfairly subsidizes exports.

Take steel. From 2000 to 2016, China accelerated steel production, raising its share of the world market from 15 percent to nearly 50 percent. As Chinese steel poured into the market, global prices fell, hurting American steelmakers. Scissors notes that China has long promised to stop subsidizing steel and to slow production but hasn't delivered.

The Trump administration responded by invoking a little-used

weapon in American trade law that lets the president tax or restrict imports — if a U.S. Commerce Department investigation finds that they imperil national security. (The result of Commerce's investigation of steel imports is expected soon.) The rationale was that the American military relies on steel for airplanes, ships and other equipment. Steel also goes into roads, bridges and other infrastructure.

The problem is that the United States already blocks most Chinese steel imports. So any tariffs or limits on imports would instead hurt other countries, including such staunch allies as Canada and South Korea.

The Trump-Xi relationship has yet to deliver the substantive changes that Trump the candidate had promised voters

Scissors says the United States could try to coordinate sanctions against China by countries that do import Chinese steel.

David Dollar, a former World Bank and U.S. Treasury official who is now at the Brookings Institution, thinks Xi isn't likely to make a bold move to cut Chinese steelmaking capacity — or enact other economic reforms — in ad-

vance of the Chinese communist party's National Congress this fall. At the meeting, Xi will want to further tighten his grip on the party.

What's more, the European Union and others are likely to lash back if the U.S. imposes sanctions on foreign steel, thereby running the risk of a broader trade war.

Then there's North Korea. As a presidential candidate, Trump attacked China for refusing to pressure Pyongyang to back off from developing nuclear weapons. After the Mar-a-Lago summit, though, Trump praised Beijing for agreeing to help deal with North Korea. As a reward, he abandoned his vow to accuse China of manipulating its currency to benefit Chinese exporters.

This month, North Korea defiantly proceeded with its first launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Trump tweeted his complaint:

"Trade between China and North Korea grew almost 40% in the first quarter. So much for China working with us — but we had to give it a try!"

Brookings' Dollar says the administration will likely continue to be disappointed.

"China is not going to do anything dramatic" to pressure North Korea, he says. "They don't want that regime to collapse" and thereby destabilize the Korean peninsula and likely send North Korean refugees into China.

Overall, Dollar expects more turbulence between Washington and Beijing. The Obama administration, he notes, had kept the relationship stable despite economic differences by working with China on such issues as the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal. But Trump has pulled out of the Paris deal and denounced the Iran pact.

"We're going to see more volatility in the U.S.-China relationship than we've seen in years," Dollar says. **AP**

HK shares become refuge from falling mainland markets

Kana Nishizawa

CHINESE investors may be limited from putting their cash overseas, but their link to Hong Kong's stocks is again proving to be a source of refuge at a time of worry.

The latest concerns stem from a strengthening in financial regulations and pressures on liquidity that have crushed small-cap stocks on the mainland. The result: inflows to Hong Kong equities through a trading link with Shanghai, in an echo of moves last year triggered by fears of a tumbling

yuan exchange rate.

With the influx, Hong Kong shares are now trouncing their counterparts north of the border by the most in 2 1/2 years. Net purchases through the program linking Hong Kong and Shanghai climbed to USD2.9 billion in the first two weeks of July, the most in two months, helping send the Hang Seng Index back up to its 2015 high this week.

The selloff in Chinese stocks has been most pronounced in small-cap companies, with the ChiNext gauge down more than 8 percent this month. Smaller enterprises

have a harder time accessing credit than state-owned giants, and have borne the brunt of losses in equities as policy makers continue to focus on reducing leverage in the economy.

President Xi Jinping at the weekend said the central bank will play a stronger role in curbing risks, leading analysts to anticipate a further tightening in financial regulations. Some took a discussion on the need to increase direct financing as a hint for more initial public offerings. The prospect of greater supply would hurt stocks already reeling

from concern that earnings growth will slow.

"If mainland investors want to capture higher potential in the share price rally, Hong Kong will be an alternative for them," said Ben Kwong, executive director at KGI Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "If China's market is under tighter regulation that means there's relatively limited opportunity at least in the near term, so they would prefer to go to another market. Even though Hong Kong stocks have gained 21 percent this year, we're not seeing much correction pressure."



Traders work on the trading floor of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange

Southbound flows to Hong Kong also surged last year, as Chinese investors tried to shift their money out of yuan-denominated assets amid worries the currency will weaken. While mainland investors using the stock-connect program have to be repaid

in yuan when they sell Hong Kong shares, they are shielded from any depreciation in the Chinese currency while their money is on the other side of the border. The inflow then slowed as the yuan appreciated to a seven-month high. **Bloomberg**

Gerry Shih, Beijing

SUPPORTERS of Liu Xiaobo gathered worldwide yesterday to mark the traditional Chinese observance of the seventh day after the imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate's death, amid growing concern over the fate of his widow, Liu Xia, who has been kept under house arrest for more than seven years.

As Liu's supporters prepared for memorials, more than a dozen men have been holding an around-the-clock vigil in a leafy apartment complex in west Beijing with a different purpose altogether: keeping visitors and journalists away from the home Liu shared with Liu Xia.

Though never charged, Liu Xia was kept guarded and isolated in the apartment while her husband was serving an 11-year sentence on charges of incitement to subvert government power.

Last seen in official photos showing her lowering an urn containing her husband's ashes into the sea on Saturday, her whereabouts yesterday were unknown. Numerous foreign governments and rights groups have demanded China lift all restrictions on her movements.

Tienchi Martin-Liao, the president of the Independent Chinese PEN Center and a close family friend based in Cologne, Germany, said there were rumors that Liu Xia has been forced by authorities to take a "vacation" in the southwestern province of Yunnan, where she has friends. Liu Xia and her close circle of confidants in China have gone quiet, Martin-Liao said.

"Before we were able to at least see her weekly through video chat on a friend's phone. Now she's been completely cut off," Martin-Liao said. "What crimes has she committed to be surveilled, controlled and humiliated?"

During a brief visit to Liu Xia's apartment complex on yester-

Liu Xiaobo supporters mark his death amid concerns for widow



A plainclothes security official approaches journalists outside an apartment complex where Liu Xia, widow of late Chinese Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, lives in Beijing

day, there were no signs of supporters. The vast compound and each of its entrances were guarded by more than a dozen young men with buzz cuts who closely followed and filmed anyone who approached. Outside the compound's main gate, a handful of plainclothes agents had installed chairs and an umbrella to sit under while they watched, shooing away anyone who photographed them.

Authorities have also rigorously censored references to Liu Xiaobo on China's internet, with reports that social media posts containing candle emojis and the letters "RIP" have been censored for violating "relevant laws and regulations." WhatsApp, a Facebook-owned service used by Chinese dissidents for a degree of privacy, had patchy

service this week as authorities periodically blocked access to its servers.

On Tuesday, police took away Jiang Jianjun, a Dalian man who had posted online about scattering flowers at Tiger Beach

On Saturday, authorities accompanied by Liu Xia and a few relatives lowered Liu Xiaobo's

ashes into the Pacific Ocean at Tiger Beach near Dalian, a move that his supporters said was designed to erase any physical traces of China's best-known political prisoner and prevent the transformation of Liu's grave into a memorial site. For centuries the practice of cuo-guyanghui — literally "file down the bones and scatter the ashes" — was known as a cruel form of posthumous punishment in traditional Chinese culture, which placed importance on being laid to rest in tombs that could be visited and venerated by descendants and loved ones.

Hours later, Liu's supporters on different continents paid their respects anyway — by going to the seaside.

On Tuesday afternoon, police took away Jiang Jianjun, a Dalian

man who had posted online about scattering flowers at Tiger Beach, his wife said yesterday.

Outside China, however, supporters gathered on beaches to mourn while others turned Liu's sea burial into a meme.

In New York and Taiwan, they posted pictures of memorials by the sea. Zhou Fengsuo, a California-based activist involved in the 1989 Tiananmen student-led pro-democracy protests in which Liu Xiaobo played a key role, posted pictures of himself holding the Lius' portrait while chest deep in San Francisco Bay.

"Many of us were angry, like there was nothing we could do because it was a sea burial," he said. "But when I swam, I felt like we had a connection, like he was there."

Zhou said there were plans to paint a mural for Liu at San Francisco's Ocean Beach. In Australia, an artist known by the pseudonym Baduicao painted pictures of the Lius at the "graffiti tunnel" on the Sydney University campus, where visitors have laid wreaths.

Other supporters found creative ways to mourn online. On a popular Chinese music streaming service, users left a string of comments about a song titled "The Ocean" by the late Taiwanese pop singer Chang Yu-sheng. Some mentioned Liu's name while others were more oblique in their messages.

"Floating with ocean currents, you'll never be forgotten," one said, while another said, "They think it's over, but they don't know that every place that the waves will touch will hold your memory." AP

China, Tunisia call for new efforts to stabilize Libya

THE foreign ministers of China and Tunisia called yesterday for new efforts to reach a negotiated peace in Libya and prevent the unstable North African nation from dissolving into a humanitarian disaster on a level with Syria.

China's Wang Yi said Libya is attracting militants from across the globe now being driven from Iraq and Syria, requiring the international community to step in and prevent the country becoming "a new source of international terrorism."

"We should prevent Libya from becoming the

next Syria," Wang told reporters.

Tunisia's Khemaies Jhinaoui, whose country borders Libya, said a political rather than military solution is needed based on a 2015 United Nations-brokered peace deal.

"Libya should realize its security, independence and territorial integrity and avoid the misfortune of national disruption," Jhinaoui said.

China joined Russia in abstaining on a 2011 U.N. vote that imposed a no-fly zone over Libya to protect civilians amid civil war, but later complained that NATO

overstepped its mandate in enforcing the measure.

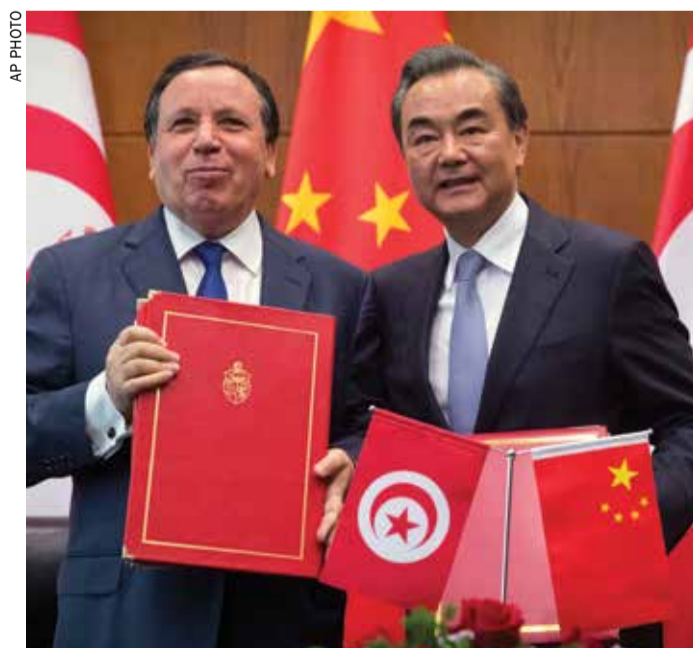
Following that, the two countries have joined to block U.S.-mandated intervention in the Syrian conflict, although Russia has since dispatched forces to back President Bashar Assad.

The 2011 overthrow and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi spawned chaos and created a power and security vacuum that turned Libya into a breeding ground for militias and militants, including Islamic State group and al-Qaida affiliates. It has also made Libya a

gateway for thousands of migrants from Africa and elsewhere seeking to cross the Mediterranean to Italy.

Since 2014, Libya has been split between rival governments and parliaments based in the western and eastern regions, each backed by different militias, tribes and political factions.

The 2015 peace deal sought to create a unity government but failed because the U.N.-backed government now in Tripoli has been unable to win the endorsement of Libya's internationally recognized Parliament in eastern Tobruk. AP



Tunisia's Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui (left) and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi



Chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Al Haj Murad Ebrahim

AP INTERVIEW

Philippine rebel refuses to broker for militants

Jim Gomez, Manila

THE leader of the Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group says Islamic State-linked militants wanted his group to broker their possible withdrawal from Marawi city during the major military offensive against them but he refused to intervene.

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front told The Associated Press in an interview late Tuesday that intervening would have been difficult because President Rodrigo Duterte has declared his government would not negotiate with terrorists.

The nearly two months of insurrection in Marawi is the worst he has seen in his more than four decades as a rebel in the country's south, Murad said, adding the attackers are now wracked by infighting and have expressed through religious emissaries they are ready to fight to the death.

The violence underscores the urgency for the government and the Moro rebel group to implement a 2014 Muslim autonomy deal to help stop the rising tide of extremism, he said.

More than 550 people, including

Rebels submitted draft legislation to Duterte aiming to establish a more autonomous Muslim region in the south

413 militants, have been killed in Marawi since May 23, when hundreds of gunmen, waving Islamic State group-style black flags, stormed into the city center, occupied commercial buildings and villages and took hostages. Duterte ordered troops to crush the attackers and declared martial law in the south for 60 days, which he now wants to extend up to the end of the year to deal with the worst crisis he has faced in his yearlong presidency.

Amid the intense fighting that has forced nearly 400,000 people to flee from their homes, Murad said his group met with the pre-

sident and offered to help rescue hundreds of residents, who have been trapped and starving in their homes in the battle zones. Duterte welcomed the offer, he said, and the government and the rebels worked to establish "peace corridors" through which trapped residents were extricated to safety.

A group of Muslim ulamas, or religious scholars, managed to enter the conflict zone in past weeks and urged some of the militant leaders to end the siege and withdraw from the beleaguered city.

"After a series of dialogue, they came up with a proposal, they said, 'we will leave but the MILF should intervene,'" Murad said of the militants' demand that was relayed by the ulamas to his rebel group.

"I said it'll be hard for us to intervene because the president is very clear in his statements that he will not negotiate with the terrorists," Murad told AP, adding he asked the religious leaders to convince the gunmen "to just withdraw so this will stop" without any mediation.

The gunmen chose to fight it out, he said. "What they said, if nobody will intervene, then we will die

here," Murad said.

After weeks of battle setbacks, the militants have grown desperate, he said. One of the leaders, Abdullah Maute, had a deadly rift with another militant. "What happened was, he was able to kill their member and he was wounded," Murad said, citing information his rebels received.

Maute's brother, Omarhayyam, had also been wounded in battle and is no longer seen on the ground, he said.

Murad's remarks echo earlier military statements that Omarhayyam Maute has been wounded early in the fighting and that the militants have been beset by infighting as the siege dragged on.

A militant leader, Isnlon Hapilon, "is no longer being seen but his whereabouts has not been confirmed," he said. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has said in recent weeks that Hapilon, among the most-wanted terror suspects by the United States, may still be in Marawi, hiding in a mosque.

Murad's rebel group has a vast encampment in Butig town, near Marawi, and hundreds of its fighters have been ordered to stay in a designated zone to prevent them from being entangled in the ongoing clashes. Ceasefire monitors from the government, the rebel group and foreign peacekeepers have been stationed in Butig to prevent any problem, he said.

Murad traveled to Manila to witness government and rebel repre-

sentatives submitting to Duterte a new draft legislation that aims to establish a more powerful Muslim autonomous region in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The autonomy deal would have been a major legacy of Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, but the legislation stalled in Congress in 2015 after some rebels from the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front became entangled in fighting that killed 44 police commandos during an anti-terrorism raid in the south. The massive police deaths sparked public outrage and prompted lawmakers to stall passage of the bill.

Wearing a business suit, the 69-year-old Murad, who says he met late al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden when he was sent as a young insurgent for combat training in Afghanistan decades ago, underscored that, if the autonomy deal was set in place, the more moderate rebels in his group can provide crucial help in dealing with the smaller but radical groups that have emerged in the south.

The deal aims to create a regional police force, which may enlist qualified insurgents, who fought and grew up in the battlefields in the south that may now be transformed into prosperous communities.

"The revolutionaries are very, very, very knowledgeable of the terrain," Murad said. **AP**



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

THE Philippine government scrapped preliminary peace talks with communist rebel leaders in Europe due to continuing guerrilla attacks, including new violence yesterday that killed a government militiaman and wounded at least four presidential guards in the country's south, officials said.

Presidential adviser Jesus Dureza said the meetings between government

Manila cancels talks with communist rebels amid attacks

representatives and the rebels planned in the next few days in Europe were canceled because the conditions "necessary to provide the desired enabling environment for the conduct of peace negotiations are

still not present up to this time."

It's the latest discord that has hampered talks between the guerrillas and the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte, who has criticized the in-

surgents for pressing attacks on government forces and private businesses.

Presidential Security Group spokesman Lt. Col. Michael Aquino said the vehicles were approaching a checkpoint when they

noticed that armed men in military uniforms manning it were rebels in disguise.

The presidential guards opened fire at the gunmen, who numbered around 50, sparking a clash that injured four guards, Aquino

said. Police put the number of injured at five.

A militiaman who was not with the presidential guards was fatally shot when he tried to pass through the same rebel checkpoint, Arakan police chief Argie Celeste said.

Government forces were pursuing the rebels, who fled toward another village. One police agent was abducted by the rebels, police said. **AP**

INDONESIA

Hizbut group seeking global caliphate banned

Stephen Wright, Jakarta

THE Indonesian government yesterday banned Hizbut Tahrir, an Islamic organization that wants to establish a global caliphate, under a new presidential decree criticized as draconian by rights groups.

Hizbut's legal status was revoked to protect national unity, said Freddy Haris, a director-general at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

The decree signed last week by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo gives the government almost unfettered power to ban organizations deemed against the constitution and the official state ideology known as Pancasila, which enshrines democracy and social justice. Rights groups say the decree undermines the right to freedom of association and governments could easily abuse its power. But mainstream Muslim groups have supported it.

Haris said Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia listed Pancasila as an ideol-

ogy of the organization in its articles of association "but in fact on the ground their activities were against Pancasila and the soul of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia."

The measures follow months of sectarian tensions in the world's most populous Muslim nation that shook the government and undermined Indonesia's reputation for

■ **The measures follow months of sectarian tensions that shook the gov't and undermined Indonesia's reputation for Islamic moderation**

practicing a moderate form of Islam.

Hizbut Tahrir, along with groups such as the violent Islamic Defenders Front, was behind a series of massive protests against the Jakarta governor, a minority Christian and Jokowi ally who was accused of blaspheming Islam. He subsequently lost a bid for re-election to a Muslim candidate and was imprisoned for two years for blasphemy despite prosecutors downgrading the charge to a lesser offense.

Hizbut, already banned or circumscribed in some countries, is estimated to have tens of thousands of members in Indonesia.

Spokesman Ismail Yusanto said the group "will not remain silent" and plans to challenge the decree in the Constitutional Court. He criticized the ban as an arbitrary and tyrannical decision.

About 2,000 people from Islamic groups protested against the decree in Jakarta on Tuesday, denouncing the government as repressive and tyrannical.

Police are signaling a hard-line

AP PHOTO



Indonesian Muslims gather during a rally in Jakarta on Tuesday

against members of the disbanded group if they continue its activities.

National police spokesman Setyo Wasisto said all Hizbut activities including protests would be prohibited.

"Police will not allow them to hold protests since their organization is already illegal and unrecognized," Wasisto said. "They will definitely be dispersed."

Jokowi's top security minister announced in May that the government planned to ban Hizbut but

facing the prospect of a lengthy legal battle, Jokowi opted to sidestep courts with the controversial decree.

Separately, Rizieq Shihab, the leader of the Islamic Defenders Front, which gained a national platform for its hard-line views during the Jakarta protests, has fled Indonesia during a police investigation into alleged violations of Indonesia's anti-pornography law, which his supporters say are trumped up charges. **AP**

KOREA

Police examining if defector returned to North willingly

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

POLICE in South Korea's capital yesterday began investigating how a North Korean woman who defected in 2014 and made South Korean TV appearances ended up back in the North.

The woman known as Lim Ji-hyeon in South Korea had appeared on cable talk shows that aired until April. She left the country earlier this year for China and is the same woman who appeared in a North Korean propaganda video that aired Sunday, said an official from the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency.

Police are planning to track her recent activities and interview her acquaintances, while also trying to determine whether she returned to North Korea willingly or was abducted in China, the police official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

In the North Korean propaganda video, the woman introduced herself as Jon Hye



AP PHOTO

Song. She said she was living with her parents again after returning to the North in June and described her life in the South as hellish.

"In a society where money determines everything, there was only physical, psychological pain for a woman like me who betrayed her fatherland and ran away," the woman said in a video posted on the Uriminzokkiri website. The woman also said she was asked to "maliciously slander" North Korea when she appeared on South Korean television.

North Korean propaganda often contains extreme claims and sometimes features former defectors who criticize the South. North Korea also stages news conferences with foreign detainees who confess to hos-

tile acts against the country, and some foreigners have said after their release that their declarations had been coerced.

According to South Korean government figures, more than 30,000 North Koreans have defected and resettled in the South as of June this year, and many say they escaped in search of better lives and freedom. Activists say some defectors return to smuggle out relatives or are abducted in China and taken into the North.

According to Seoul's Unification Ministry, 25 defectors re-entered the North since 2012, shortly after current ruler Kim Jong Un took power, but five of them managed to escape again and return to the South. **AP**

THAILAND

Army general convicted of human trafficking

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Bangkok

A Thai army general was one of the most prominent figures found guilty yesterday in a major human trafficking trial that included more than 103 defendants accused of involvement in a modern-day slavery trade.

Lt. Gen. Manas Kongpaen was convicted of several offenses involving trafficking and taking bribes.

At least one other defendant considered a kingpin in the illegal trade, Pajubun Aungkachotephan, was also found guilty. He was a prominent businessman and former politician in the southern province of Satun.

The defendants were arrested in 2015 after 36 bodies were discovered in shallow graves in southern Thailand. According to investigators, smugglers held

AP PHOTO



In this November 10, 2015, file photo, Lt. Gen. Manas Kongpaen (center) arrives at the Criminal Court in Bangkok

Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar for ransom in jungle camps until relatives could pay for their release.

By late afternoon yesterday, about 50 verdicts had been handed down.

The defendants were charged with human trafficking and had pleaded not guilty.

The case drew special attention when its lead police investigator, Maj. Gen. Paween Pongsirin, fled to Australia and said he feared for his life after his findings impli-

cated "influential people" in Thailand who wanted to silence him.

Thailand's military government has said it is making the fight against human trafficking a national priority.

In a separate case also in 2015, labor abuses in the Thai seafood industry gained in prominence around the globe after a two-year investigation by The Associated Press led to the freeing of more than 2,000 slaves and the arrest of more than a dozen alleged traffickers. Several have been convicted. **AP**

HEALTH | SCIENCE

Brain scans may change care for some people with memory loss

DOES it really take an expensive brain scan to diagnose Alzheimer's? Not everybody needs one but new research suggests that for a surprising number of patients whose memory problems are hard to pin down, PET scans may lead to changes in treatment. The findings, reported yesterday, mark a first peek at a huge study under way to help determine if Medicare should start paying for specialized PET scans that find a hallmark of Alzheimer's — a sticky plaque called amyloid.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, and classic symptoms plus memory tests often are enough for a reliable diagnosis. But unusual symptoms could mark another form of dementia that, while there are no cures, could require different symptom care. And on the other end of the spectrum, it's hard to tell if mild memory loss might be an early Alzheimer's signal, a more treatable condition such as depression, or even age-related decline.

"We're not accurate enough," said Dr. Gil Rabinovici of the University of California, San Francisco,

who is leading the new research.

"Patients know there's something wrong. Often they can sense in their gut that it's not normal aging," he added. Without a clear-cut test, "doctors are very reluctant to make the diagnosis in many cases."

Until a few years ago, amyloid build-up could only be seen during autopsies. Older types of PET scans show what region of the brain appears most affected, of limited help.

Yet it's not clear how best to use the new amyloid-detecting scans, which can cost up to \$6,000. They can rule out Alzheimer's if there's little amyloid. But cognitively healthy seniors can harbor amyloid, too, and Medicare won't pay for the new scans outside of a few research studies.

One of those is the IDEAS study, which is testing the impact of amyloid-detecting PET scans in more than 18,000 Medicare beneficiaries. To enroll, patients either must have atypical dementia with an unclear cause — or have particularly puzzling "mild cognitive

AP PHOTO



Cynthia Guzman plays dominoes at her home in Napa, Calif. Guzman underwent a special kind of PET scan that can detect a hallmark of Alzheimer's and learned she didn't have that disease as doctors originally thought

impairment," or MCI, early memory problems that raise the risk of later developing dementia. Researchers check if doctors' initially recorded treatment plans — medications, counseling or additional testing — were altered by patients' PET results.

That happened in about two-thirds of the cases, according to preliminary findings from nearly 4,000 patients who were the first to enroll.

Most changes involved medications that can temporarily ease

Alzheimer's symptoms, said Rabinovici, who presented the findings at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London. The PET scans found 70 percent of the dementia patients indeed had amyloid build-up, pointing out those who might benefit from those drugs and those who won't.

More intriguing, just 54 percent of the MCI patients had amyloid build-up, putting them at higher risk for later Alzheimer's. For the rest, "Alzheimer's disease was ef-

fectively ruled out, so it's something else," Rabinovici said.

The early findings don't prove PETs affect health outcomes.

But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services helped plan the research and insisted on this midpoint check to be sure the study should continue, said Maria Carrillo, the Alzheimer's Association's chief medical officer. Researchers also will compare the 18,000 study participants with Medicare records of similar patients who didn't get PET scans, seeking final evidence of benefit.

"To get that right diagnosis, that's really important," said Cynthia Guzman of Napa, California, whose initial Alzheimer's diagnosis was ruled out in an earlier PET scan study.

Guzman had unusual fluctuating memory problems. Some days she functioned normally. Others, she'd stop her car at a stop sign without knowing how she got there or where she was going. Eventually, tremors and hallucinations led specialists to conclude she has Lewy body dementia. Knowing, Guzman said, has allowed her to avoid a list of common medications that could worsen her symptoms.

While any treatment changes today may be modest, researchers are hunting drugs that eventually might at least slow Alzheimer's rather than just treat symptoms, more impetus for a precise diagnosis. **AP**

AD



SUMMER ESSENTIALS

Stay cool with the summer's must-have novelties! Add some color to your outdoor fun in the shape of giant Sunnyslife inflatables, FinFun Mermaid Tails and Shark Fins. The summer's coolest accessories will enhance your life under the sun. You'll receive a complimentary Facial Mask from MaskKingdom with any MOP1,000 purchase of Sunnyslife and FinFun items.

Call now for inquiries at (853) 8802 3838

TRIA 福源

MGM 美高梅

mgm.mo

2017

大湾区创意创新盛典

2ND EDITION DELTA CREATIVITY & INNOVATION CONTEST

DCIC

主办方 An event by

组委会 Organising Committee

WWW.DCIC.ASIA

Susannah George, Mosul

IRAQ

Officer seeks vengeance in Mosul, where killings mount

FOR one Iraqi lieutenant, the fight against the Islamic State group in Mosul has been a slow, methodical quest for revenge. For three years, he has hunted for two IS militants from his village who he believes killed his father. Along the way, he has shot to death detained militants after interrogating them, he acknowledges unapologetically.

And if he catches either of the men he is searching for, the lieutenant vows he will inflict on him "a slow death" and hang his body from a post in the village after forcing him to reveal where his father's body is buried.

That sort of thirst for vengeance in the wake of military victories is fueling extrajudicial killings of suspected IS members at the hands of Iraqi security forces in and around Mosul. Videos that emerged last week showed troops in Mosul taking captured IS suspects and throwing them one by one off a high wall next to the Tigris River, then shooting their bodies below.

Speaking to The Associated Press, four Iraqi officers from three different branches of the military and security forces openly admitted that their troops killed unarmed and captured Islamic State suspects, and they defended the practice. They, like the lieutenant, spoke on condition of anonymity because they acknowledged such practices were against international law, but all those interviewed by AP said they believed the fight against IS should be exempt from such rules of war because militant rule in Iraq was so cruel.

However, the killings risk tipping Iraq back into the cycles of violence that have plagued the country for over a decade, according to Belkis Wille, Iraq researcher with Human Rights Watch. The Islamic State group was able to attract recruits in the past because of people's anger over abuses, including arbitrary detentions, torture and extrajudicial killings, she said.

If abuses continue, "all you're going to see is [that] young Sunni Arab men are going to want to join whatever the next extremist group looks like," she said. Despite the military's vows not to tolerate it, she said no soldier or commander has been held accountable for any killings.

The bloodshed reflects the deeply personal nature of the fight against IS. When the militants overran Mosul and large parts of northern and western Iraq in 2014, they specifically targeted members of the military and security forces and their families for brutal atrocities. Near Tikrit, IS massacred some 1,700 captured military recruits and buried them in mass graves that have been uncovered since. Hundreds of policemen and soldiers in Mosul are believed to have been killed after the takeover. Militants made no attempt

AP PHOTO



An Aerial view of the destroyed al-Nuri mosque during fighting between Iraqi security forces and IS militants in the Old City of Mosul

to hide atrocities.

Defense Ministry's spokesman, Brig. Gen. Tahseen Ibrahim, said that authorities "have not registered any incident of revenge killing, whether carried out by security forces or residents. The situation is under full control and we will not allow such incidents to happen because this issue is very sensitive and leads to violent reactions."

But a senior Iraqi officer said his troops regularly killed men who were said to be IS among civilians fleeing the city at screening centers in and around Mosul. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the possibility it could prompt legal repercussions.

"When an entire group of civilians tells us, 'This man is Daesh,' yes, we shoot him," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"When you're facing a man who has killed your friends, your family, yes, sometimes the men get rough," he added. "But for us, this is personal."

The lieutenant said the two men who killed his father were well known in his hometown, a small village south of Mosul. He agreed to share his story with the AP because he wanted to show how personal the fight is for Iraqi troops. Two of his colleagues confirmed his version of events. The AP is not revealing the names of the men he is pursuing because there is no way to confirm independently

they belonged to IS.

The lieutenant said his father was an officer in the security forces who fought al-Qaida, the predecessor to IS, in 2007, at the height of Iraq's sectarian violence. After the Islamic State group seized the village in 2014, the tribes that were once kicked out for al-Qaida ties moved back in, and IS installed them in security and administrative positions.

■ Videos show troops in Mosul taking captured IS suspects and throwing them one by one off a high wall next to the Tigris River

According to the lieutenant, two men grabbed the lieutenant's father outside his home. The two were among those previously expelled for al-Qaida ties, he said.

The lieutenant was away, and his neighbors told him his father had been killed and who did it. He said he was told the men boasted about it in public. IS fighters also killed the lieutenant's uncle and more than a dozen other friends and relatives.

The lieutenant keeps an old picture of the two men on his phone. He said a handful of other troops know about his hunt and have helped him interrogate and kill IS suspects.

As Iraqi forces advanced toward the lieutenant's village last year in the lead-up to Mosul, he began interrogating captured IS suspects.

"Most of them I just asked questions," he said, "but for those who I knew had blood on their hands, I killed them on the spot."

He said he has killed more than 40 militants, whether in combat or in interrogations on the sidelines of the battle. He acknowledged most were not directly responsible for his relatives' deaths.

"I'm not selfish with my revenge, what I'm doing is for all Iraqis," he said.

Early on in the Mosul operation, he said he learned that one of the two men was in Tal Afar, a town west of Mosul that remains in IS hands, or had fled to Syria.

In early July, as Iraqi forces pushed into Mosul's Old City, he received a tip on the location of the second man. He said a colleague, an intelligence officer, called and said he was holding an IS suspect from the lieutenant's home town. "I told him don't do anything, keep him there. I'm on my way," the lieutenant said.

The detainee was the uncle of the lieutenant's second target. The man was left alone with the lieutenant in a bare concrete

room without a table or chair.

"I didn't torture him. I cut the plastic handcuffs from his wrists and gave him water," the lieutenant said. The man was elderly, with a grey beard and hair.

"He begged me not to kill him as I questioned him," he said, smiling. "He could barely walk [he was so scared]."

Eventually, the man told the lieutenant that his second target was alive and in Mosul's Old City.

"After I questioned him I sent him to hell," the lieutenant said flatly. He said he shot the man with his side arm and left his body on the floor.

The first reports of revenge killings appeared within weeks of the launch of the Mosul operation last year and continued throughout. But the government and rights groups do not have an exact number.

In June, Human Rights Watch said at least 26 bodies of blindfolded and handcuffed men had been found in dumped in government-held areas in and around Mosul. A month later, HRW said it had further reports of extrajudicial killings. Wille of Human Rights Watch said it was taking place "basically everywhere that is touched by this conflict" and by every armed force involved in the fight.

The military says troops have orders to hand any captured IS over for interrogation ahead of future trial.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Tuesday acknowledged that rights violations took place during the Iraqi forces' battle in Mosul but described them as "individual acts" by persons who were either "ignorant" of the consequences or who had struck a deal with Daesh with the intent "to defame us and the security forces." He pledged the government would punish the perpetrators.

The lieutenant dismissed the idea of going to the courts, saying they are corrupt and suspects could bribe their way to freedom.

"I know some people believe that this kind of killing is wrong, but Daesh, they are not human beings," he said. "I am the one who still has my humanity."

When al-Abadi declared "total victory" in Mosul last week, the lieutenant said he believed his target is still in one of the last IS pockets in the Old City.

"I hope I find him alive," he said, "because I want to make sure he dies a slow death, not quick. I want him to tell me where my father's body is buried, and then I want to take his body and hang it from a post in my village." **AP**

what's ON



A GLIMPSE OF MACAU - BLACK AND WHITE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LEI
TIME: 2pm - 7pm
UNTIL: July 22, 2017
VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHIES
DONATED BY JAO TSUNG I
TIME: 10am-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

BRAND STORY - POP-UP SHOP
TIME: 10am-8pm
UNTIL: October 1, 2017
VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH THE MAM
COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 10, 2017
VENUE: Macau Art Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE 19TH MACAU INTERNATIONAL SALON OF
PHOTOGRAPHY
TIME: 9am-7pm
UNTIL: July 28, 2017
VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion, Lou Lim Ioc Garden, No. 10, Est. de Adolfo Loureiro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 2770

LOOKING THROUGH THE FOG - JOSÉ DORES
SOLO EXHIBITION
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: August 21, 2017
VENUE: IFT Cafe, Anim'Arte Nam Van
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

Offbeat

POLICE OFFICER WITH STUN GUN SETS
NAKED MAN ON FIRE

Police say an officer using a stun gun to restrain a naked man accidentally set the man's chest hair and beard on fire.
Officers found the 32-year-old naked man standing in the street in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, on Sunday evening. They say the man yelled that he wanted to harm people living nearby.
Officers suspected he was impaired by drugs and placed him in handcuffs, but the man struggled and refused to enter a squad car.
That's when one officer deployed a stun gun, striking a lighter in the man's hand. The lighter fluid and electricity combined to spark the fire in his beard and chest hair.
As officers extinguished the blaze, the man punched one of them in the face.
Manitowoc is 40 miles (65 kilometers) southeast of Green Bay.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Revenge Sr 4
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

20- 21 Jul

PRIPARA THE MOVIE

ROOM 1
2:00, 5:00pm
Director: Okubo Is Male
Starring:
Language: Cantonese (Chinese)
Duration: 58min

DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1
10:00pm
Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin
Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 90min

MEOW

ROOM 1
6:00pm
ROOM 3
10:00pm
Director: Benny Chan
Starring: Louis Koo, Mary Ma, Jessica Liu, Andy Huang
Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 109min

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1
9:45pm
Director: Jon Watts
Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.
Language: English
Duration: 133min

WAR OF THE PLANET OF THE APES

ROOM 2
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: Matt Reeves
Starring: Woody Herrelson, Sara Canning, Judy Greer
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 140min

CARS 3

ROOM 3
2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00pm
Director: Brian Fee
Starring: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper
Language: Cantonese
Duration: 102min

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



1982 IRA BOMBS CAUSE
CARNAGE IN LONDON

Eight soldiers on ceremonial duty have been killed in two IRA bomb blasts in central London.
The first blast, in Hyde Park, killed two soldiers and injured 23 others and the second explosion, in Regents Park, less than two hours later killed six soldiers instantly and injured a further 24 people.
The IRA admitted carrying out the attacks in a statement echoing Margaret Thatcher's declaration of war on Argentina over the disputed Falklands.
It repeated her phrase about the right of self-determination and continued: "The Irish people have sovereign and national rights which no task or occupational force can put down."
In the first incident a nail bomb in a blue Austin car was detonated as members of the Household Cavalry made their way to the changing of the guard from their barracks in Knightsbridge. Seven horses were killed or so badly maimed they had to be destroyed.
Another device exploded underneath the bandstand in Regents Park as the Royal Green Jackets played music from Oliver to 120 spectators. It was the first of a season of lunchtime concerts for tourists and nearby office workers, four of whom were amongst the injured.
Anti-terrorist experts believe the second bomb had been planted some time ago and was triggered by a timer. But they think the first explosion was operated by remote control to cause the maximum devastation.
Bystanders and people in neighboring shops and hotels rushed to help, but the police were keen to clear the area as they searched for further devices.
Most of the injured were treated in Westminster Hospital as striking hospital workers called off their action to deal with the casualties.
Detectives from the anti-terrorism squad were interviewing survivors and witnesses and security has been stepped up across the British capital.
The British and Irish prime ministers have condemned the attacks as "callous and cowardly crimes" and "inhuman acts".
Police say MPs were warned of a renewed IRA bombing campaign two weeks ago after an eight-month lull in their activities.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final death toll was 11 and a total of 50 people were injured. In October 1987 physics graduate Gilbert McNamee, 27, was sent to jail for conspiracy to cause explosions between 1982 and 1984.
The judge at the Old Bailey found him guilty of bombing offences that included the Hyde Park bomb and he was sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was released in 1998 under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.
Later that year Mr McNamee's conviction was overturned by the Court of Appeal, who ruled it had been unsafe.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Okay, so there's only one more night left for you to spend celebrating. Does that mean you won't be able to relax and enjoy it? Oh, sure. Like you've ever had a problem letting go before...



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You might have thought you'd be able to call it a night early, and have some nice, quiet fun with a party of two tonight, but you might just as well forget about that. The stars are livening up your friendships.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It's a wistful, romantic kind of day, which is right up your alley. You can thank the stars for these wonderful feelings - they're currently stirring up all kind of lovely trouble among your long-distance friends and lovers.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Okay, so your party time is almost over. Doesn't matter. The stars are dancing a happy little jig in your house of one-to-one relationships. And speaking of relationships - which just so happen to be your specialty.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You've had the pedal to the metal all week at work, and just yesterday, you finally were able to kick back and relax a little. Just when you've started to get good at it.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

With the stars feeling fiery and impulsive and currently whooping it up in your house of conversation and communication, be warned that keeping quiet may be even more difficult for you now.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

The emotional Moon will finish off your leisure time with just one more red-hot dose of passion, which doesn't sound too hard to take for a sign as sensual and earthy as yourself.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Just recently, you've been feeling or acting pretty darned rebellious and willful in the presence of some of your friends. Does that mean you're really done with their nonsense, and perfectly willing to let them know it?



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Prepare yourself for an extremely busy day. Even if you wanted to spend today with the newspaper and some good coffee, that's not in the cards this time out. You've got a list of chores a mile long.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Are you still thinking about work? You're raring to go - you're more than willing to do your job, the job of the person next to you and anything else the powers that be could toss your way.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

While your family members are not boring individuals and you love them for that, you may need to ask them nicely to tone their 'enthusiasm' down just a bit - at least for tonight.



Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Get out the checkbook, credit and ATM cards, and take a good, long look at them. If they're not quite as sound as you'd like them to be, don't wreak any more havoc on them.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rent-___; 5- Marriott competitor; 10- Entr'___; 14- Deep affection; 15- Unit just above a yard; 16- Digits of the foot; 17- Statesman Abba; 18- Bony prefix; 19- Fruit-filled pie; 20- "Gunsmoke" star; 22- Loss of appetite; 24- Islamic decree; 25- Mathematical diagrams; 26- ___ want for Christmas...; 28- Lucy's landlady; 32- Auditorium; 35- ___ been had!; 37- Fortified feudal residence; 38- Pay stub?; 39- ___ evil...; 41- Leaves in a bag; 42- Humbert Humbert's obsession; 45- Barbie's boyfriend; 46- Copied; 47- Pine; 48- Caught in the act; 50- Weights; 54- Unfettered; 58- Large hill; 61- Stifled laugh; 62- ___ many words; 63- More peculiar; 65- German Mister; 66- ___do-well; 67- Verdun's river; 68- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 69- Shipping deduction; 70- ___ my case; 71- Highway;

DOWN: 1- Shake like ___; 2- Army attack helicopter; 3- ___-garde; 4- Subscription continuation; 5- Med. care providers; 6- Affirmative answer; 7- Rose essence; 8- "Lovegirl" singer ___ Marie; 9- Scout unit; 10- Certifies; 11- Wheedle; 12- TV's Hatcher; 13- This, in Tijuana; 21- Mineo of "Exodus"; 23- Perlman of "Cheers"; 25- Bestow; 27- Actress Kudrow; 29- Web address starter; 30- Robt. ___; 31- Show the way; 32- Consecrated; 33- Lotion ingredient; 34- In ___ land; 36- A mouse!; 37- Volcano shape; 40- Nitti's nemesis; 43- Blast furnace input; 44- Hardware fastener; 46- One more; 49- New Haven student; 51- Model Campbell; 52- Apple juice; 53- Provide; 55- Alamogordo's county; 56- Perfect Sleeper maker; 57- Messed up; 58- Money maker; 59- Draft status; 60- Consumer; 61- Waste allowance; 64- Pothook shape;

Yesterday's solution

N	A	S	A		U	E	A	T	S		H	I	R	E
A	L	E	C		O	W	L	E	T		O	N	E	L
N	E	V	E	R		N	E	V	E	R		P	T	A
A	R	E	T	O		A	N	A	T	H	E	M	A	
S	T	R	I	A	T	E		S	T	E	E	R		
L	O	G												
L	O	G												
A	G													
H	E	N	R	I		O	E	I	L		S	T	A	S
R	E	G	I	N	A		S	E	E	D				
A	M	I	T	O	S		T	A	L	L	O			
C	I	A	O											
E	T	T												
D	E	E	S											
T	O													
W	A	N												
S	E	E	P											

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

Telephone - Report 1000

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

FOR SALE
www.JMLProperty.com

FOR RENT

More info, please contact us
Info@JMLproperty.Com
(853) 2835 2699 Office

Old Taipa, Nam Long (I Unit)
Taipa
515 sq ft / HKD 7,378 sq ft.
HKD 3.8M
Furnished Throughout
Ref: 16095500

Macau, One Central
Residences, Macau
3 Bedroom Apartment
Fully Furnished
HKD 25,000 / 1,819 sq ft
Ref: 16050589

Chun Hung Garden L Unit
Taipa
840 sq ft / HKD 7,500 sq ft
HKD 6.3M
3 Bedroom with Balcony
Ref: 17075526

Riveira H Unit, Tower 1
Macau
2 Bedroom Apartment
Stunning Views
HKD 16,500 / 1,238 sq ft
Ref: 17060650

Lok Pou
Macau
700 sq ft / HKD 4,257sq ft
HKD 2.98M
Lovely Top Floor Apartment
Ref: 17065523

Nova Taipa , Block 27
Taipa
4 Bedroom Apartment
Fully Furnished
HKD 23,000 / 2,105 sq ft
Ref: 17070652

Pou Long Fa Un T5, Taipa
Taipa
885 sq ft / HKD 6,892 sq ft
HKD 6.1M
3 Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 17075525

Cheoc Van
Coloane
Multi-Storey Property
Dazzling Sea Views
HKD 79,800 / 6,222 sq ft
Ref: 17060651



CRICKET

Kohli says he doesn't feel added pressure

VIRAT Kohli said yesterday he did not feel the added pressure of captaining India as he gears up for the upcoming series in Sri Lanka with new head coach Ravi Shastri.

Shastri has replaced Anil Kumble as head coach and the former test allrounder also brought in Sanjay Bangar as his deputy, Bharat Arun as bowling coach and R Sridhar as fielding coach.

Kumble described his partnership with Kohli as "untenable" before stepping down last month after the Champions Trophy.

"There's lot of speculation and lot of things fly around and those things are not in my control," Kohli said in apparent reference to his differences with Kumble.

"My job is to go out there on the field and try to bring the best out of this team along with the management, and try to perform to the best of my abilities."

India will play three test matches, five ODIs and a Twenty20 in Sri Lanka with the first test starting at Galle on July 26.

AP PHOTO



Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli (right) and head coach Ravi Shastri

India couldn't defend its Champions Trophy title in England, losing the final to its archrival Pakistan before winning an ODI series 3-1 in the West Indies and losing the one-off Twenty20.

But Kohli said there's no added pressure from captaincy as well as performing.

"I don't think [...] because what has to happen will happen, I believe in that regardless of what happens on the outside world," he said.

Shastri played down Kumble's departure and said players deserved the credit more than anything else.

"The team has done exceedingly well over three years and they are the people who deserve the credit more than anybody else. These Ravi Shastri's, Anil Kumble's will come and go," he said.

Kohli led India to 2-1 victory in the test series in Sri Lanka two years ago after losing the first test. **MDT/AP**

SAILING

Team NZ likely to defend America's Cup in 2021

TEAM New Zealand has indicated it will likely host the next America's Cup regatta and challenger selection series in Auckland in early 2021.

In a statement yesterday, the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron and Italy's Circolo della Vela Sicilia — representing team New Zealand and challenger of record Luna Rossa — said the protocol governing the 36th America's Cup regatta will be issued in September.

The statement said "the proposed dates for the event will be further detailed in the protocol but the defender and the challenger of record are considering the possibility of the 36th America's Cup match and the preceding challenger selection series being conducted in Auckland in early 2021, during the New Zealand summer."

Team New Zealand has also indicated that nationality rules will likely be reinstated.

"In recognition of the fundamental condition of the deed of gift that the Cup be preserved as a perpetual challenge cup for friendly competition between foreign countries, the protocol will contain a "constructed in country" requirement for competing yachts and a nationality requirement for competing crew members."

For most of the history of the America's Cup — the oldest trophy in sports which was first contested in 1856 — competing teams were required to build yachts in their own country.

Team USA changed that rule to require that a minimum of only a small portion of the bow of each yacht be built in the nation of origin. **MDT/AP**

AD

THE ONLY TOPLESS CLUB IN TOWN
w e d n e s d a y n i g h t s
BOYZ NIGHT OUT
1 free drink for boyz
D2無上裝酒吧 逢禮拜三男士之夜 免費贈飲1杯

D2CLUB
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans III
澳門漁人碼頭新奧爾良館 III
Tel: (853) 2872 3777

SATURDAY SUPERSTACK

STILL THE BIGGEST POKER NIGHT OF THE WEEK

PokerStars LIVE Macau hosts the Saturday SuperStack with a HK\$100,000 guaranteed prize pool. With a buy-in of HK\$3,000, you start with a huge 15K starting chip stack.

Don't miss out on the biggest tournament of the week.
Every Saturday from 5th July to 19th August.

Level 2,
Estrada do Istmo,
Cotai

POKER STARS LIVE MACAU



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy speaks during a press conference ahead of the British Open Golf Championship



Rory McIlroy (left) and Darren Clarke

GOLF

Rory McIlroy hoping to catch his wave at British Open

Doug Ferguson, Southport

JUST three years ago, Rory McIlroy was the best player in the world without a trace of argument. He won the final two majors of the year, with a World Golf Championship title in between. He had reason to believe his reign would last as long as he wanted it to.

Now he's simply trying to get back into the conversation.

The starkest reminder of the state of his game was not so much missing three cuts in his last four tournaments. It was being told on the eve of the British Open that the bookies listed him at 20-1 to win at Royal Birkdale.

"Good time to back me," McIlroy said. "I mean, look, if I was a betting company and I saw my form over the past few weeks, yeah, that's probably a fair enough price. But again, all it takes is one week for those odds to go back."

He has been through these mini-slumps more than once in the 10 years since he first played the British Open at Carnoustie. McIlroy missed four of five cuts in 2012, including his title defense in the U.S. Open, and ended the summer by winning the PGA Championship to return to No. 1 in the world.

This one has been the most aggravating because it involves injury.

The hairline rib fracture he suffered in January during the South African Open is no longer an issue, but it forced him to sit out nearly two months, and then he played only once in two months between the Masters and the U.S. Open in part because it was acting up.

It's not as if I can't see myself shooting a good score. [...] It's just a matter of putting it all together.

RORY MCILROY

It all led to what McIlroy describes as a start-and-stop year, one that to this point doesn't include a trophy.

"But I'm in good spirits," McIlroy said. "I feel like it's all coming together. I'm just waiting for that round or that moment or that week where it sort of clicks and I'll be off and running."

I've had little periods like this before in my career, and I've been able to bounce back from them. I'd say I was in worse positions than this. I feel like my game [...] the pieces are all there, it's just about trying to fit them together."

As for his odds?

That speaks to a broader picture of the 146th edition of the British Open, which starts Thursday at Royal Birkdale. Dustin Johnson, the No. 1 player in the world, and Jordan Spieth have taken turns as the favorite by the bookies. Right behind them is Jon Rahm, the dynamic 22-year-old from Spain who already has won twice this year. Masters champion Sergio Garcia is right up there.

There is no clear favorite.

There is no clear plot that is any different from the previous few majors, except for the U.S. Open held on a new course in Wisconsin.

Johnson was close to being a dominant figure when he won three straight tournaments against the strongest fields of the year at the time, and then he slipped down the stairs on the eve of the Masters, wrenched his back and didn't swing a club for a month.

Jason Day ended last year at No. 1 in the world, and then four

nd himself emotionally wrapped up in tending to his mother, who was diagnosed with lung cancer.

McIlroy wouldn't have seen this coming at the end of last year when he won the FedEx Cup.

"But these things sort of crop up out of nowhere and they challenge us," he said.

Maybe it's one shot, one round, one week to get that spark. That's what Johnson is looking for since his return from back injury.

"It's taken me a long time to get everything back to feeling where it was," Johnson said. "I'm trying to get back to that point. It's definitely a lot harder."

When he won the British Open down the coast at Royal Liverpool in 2014, McIlroy mentioned an adage he first heard from Tom Weiskopf. When a player is going well, he can't imagine what it was like to play poorly. And when he's playing badly, he can't imagine what it was like to play great.

So where is he now?

"I feel like I can hit the ball in the fairway, and from there I can hit the ball on the green," McIlroy said. "And if I get my line, I can put the ball in the hole from there. So it's not bad. It's not as if I can't see myself shooting a good score. It's all there. It's just a matter of putting it all together."

He has slipped so far from the dominant force in golf — McIlroy hasn't been at No. 1 since September 2015 — that he could win the next two majors and still probably not reach Johnson at the top of the ranking.

His odds would certainly get better, just like when he was the favorite at just about every major. He still remembers those days.

"When you ride on the crest of a wave, it's easy to get caught up with those expectations and you start believing them," he said. "When I won those three tournaments in '14 and I was where I was in the game, of course I thought, 'OK, I really can keep this going.' [...] And some things just come along that you don't expect."

"I'm in a place where I'm trying to figure out how I get back to that position where I was," he said. "I'm trying to get back there and I'm doing everything I can. And hopefully the start of that crest of a wave happens this week." **AP**

BRITISH OPEN FACTS AND FIGURES

Site	Royal Birkdale
Field	156 players
Par	70
Prize money	USD10.25 million
Winner's share	USD1.84 million
Defending champion	Henrik Stenson

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING CLOSE TO WORK

How many people in Macao woke up this morning and wondered how they were ever going to get to work? These are gloomy days with constant unexpected showers, extremely hot and humid temperature, an uncountable number of construction works on the roads, and no Uber!

In a city of approximately 30 km2, the proximity of one's abode and workplace should not affect our quality of life. And yet, results of numerous discussions showed that commuting has, on many occasions, been the greatest annoyance of our day-to-day lives. It takes approximately one and a half hours to walk from one end of the peninsular to the other, and less than three hours to walk around Macao. So, how can commuting be that difficult?

It is easy to say that people living in Macao are spoiled. We are used to going from one place to another within a few minutes; anything longer than thirty minutes is considered far. However, what used to be a ten-minute drive now may take over thirty minutes during rush hour. And it is not just about the amount of time spent on the road, but the quality of it as well. So, what is the cause of our frustration in commuting that has so negatively affected our quality of life?

Unlike nearby cities such as Hong Kong or Tokyo, we do not have a reliable public transportation system. Huge "people-movers" like the metro or trains are able to take a large number of passengers, are relatively safe and, most importantly, on time. So, even if it takes over an hour to commute from Kowloon to Central every morning, the time needed for commuting can be expected. Unfortunately for Macao, the majority of us can only depend on public buses. The arrival time of buses may not be easy to predict and, if we miss one, we may need to wait for another 15 minutes.

It is worse on rainy days when bus-stops get even more crowded, and buses stop longer at each stop as passengers need to open and close their umbrellas getting on and off. Not to mention having to worry about one's own safety whenever bus drivers stamp on the brakes; we could have hit someone or perhaps a police car. So, it is not hard to imagine how the stress from taking buses to work can ruin the day for most people.

For the lucky few who have invested in parking spaces at home and have free parking at work, driving could be an option. This does not mean it's not annoying being caught in traffic for half an hour when you know you can be there in five minutes if only all the cars in front of you disappeared.

For the less lucky drivers, those who do not have private parking spaces, there are only two choices: face the frustration of driving around looking for parking - which may take longer than the time spend on the road - or invest in renting parking spaces which nowadays is more expensive than taking a taxi every day. Well, taxis should solve the problem then. True, not having to be overcrowded or look for parking every morning would certainly make our days happier. If only we had taxis available in town.

So, the best way to go to work post-Uber would be to walk, but that is only for people who live within walking distance, that is within 20 minutes' walk to work, and are healthy. Otherwise, the long walk in such hot and wet weather can cause heart attacks, heat strokes or muscle strain. Ok, this may be a bit exaggerated. But going into an air-con filled office when one is soaking wet from sweat may cause one to get a cold too.

THE FULLY CHARGED: BUZZ CENSORING P**H BEAR

It's official. The Chinese government appears to have banned Winnie the Pooh. Apparently, the cartoon bear looks too much like President Xi Jinping—something few may have noticed.

Earlier this week, we learned that Beijing also partially blocked WhatsApp messages in the country because they're encrypted. A popular workaround used to be to use a virtual private network to access the internet free from snooping eyes. But last week,

the government decided those have to go as well, demanding carriers block all VPNs by February 2018. This latest censorship streak reinforces China's Great Firewall ahead of the 19th Communist Party Congress this fall, when a certain president who resembles a bear will consolidate his power.



SOURCE: D5MG

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

WORLD BRIEFS



US-RUSSIA The White House has confirmed that President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin had a second, previously undisclosed conversation at the summit in Hamburg on July 7, this one at an evening dinner following a concert.

ISRAEL Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was caught yesterday by a live microphone railing against the European Union's "crazy" insistence on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a precondition for closer ties.

POLAND's lawmakers voted overwhelmingly yesterday to send a contentious draft law reorganizing the work of the nation's top court for more work by a special parliamentary commission, as European Union leaders expressed concern about rule of law in Poland.



FRANCE Gen. Francois Lecointre, a career military officer, has been nominated France's military chief, after his predecessor quit yesterday in a dispute with President Emmanuel Macron over budget cuts in a new challenge to Macron's administration and his economic reforms.

SPAIN's Civil Guard said yesterday that a former chairman of one of the country's largest banks has been found dead with a gunshot to the chest in a private hunting estate in southern Spain.

VENEZUELA rejected President Donald Trump's call to halt a rewriting of the constitution that would consolidate the power of its socialist government, which said that it was reviewing its relations with the United States in response to Trump's threat of sanctions.

Final table set for World Series of Poker Main Event

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

THE World Series of Poker is down to its final nine. The final table for the marquee no-limit Texas Hold 'em main event in Las Vegas was set early Tuesday. The nine men who emerged from a field of more than 7,200 participants after 10 days of play now have a chance to win a grand prize of more than USD8.1 million and a gold title bracelet.

The youngest player remaining in the tournament, 25-year-old Scott Blumstein, is the chip leader with more than 97 million in chips. This is the first time that Blumstein, a resident of Brigantine, New Jersey, has played the event.

"I have no words," Blumstein tweeted. "The support from everyone means the world to me. Three days of much needed rest and then back to work."

Chips have no monetary value in the tournament — each player will have to lose all his chips before he is eliminated from the final table.

The famed tournament is the end of this year's series, where dozens of tournaments drew 120,995 entrants from around the world, shattering attendance records. The remaining men represent the United States, Argentina, France and the United King-



dom.

Unlike the past several years, the players won't have to wait until November to take their spot at the final table. The champion will be crowned this weekend after the players return to the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino on Thursday following a two-day break. The winner will receive a guaranteed prize of \$8.15 million, while the other eight players will share more than \$18 million. Each player will earn at least \$1 million.

Two previous third-place finishers, Benjamin Lamb of Las Vegas, and Antoine Saout of Morlaix, France, made the final table again. Lamb, 32, won more than \$4 million after he outlasted 6,863 players at the 2011 main event. Saout, 33, had a more than \$3.4 million payday in 2009, when he bested 6,492 participants.

The player with the second most chips is John Hesp, also a first-time main event player. Hesp, 64, has more than 85 million chips. He is the oldest competitor, a cara-

van home salesman from Bridlington, United Kingdom, a coastal town off the North Sea.

The married father of four and grandfather of seven has played poker recreationally for more than 20 years. Should he win the tournament, he would be the oldest main event champion since 1974.

"I am to poker what Donald Trump is to politics — an amateur," he recently told PokerNews.com.

Blumstein and Hesp are followed by Benjamin Pollak, a London resident with more than 35.1 million in chips; Bryan Piccioli, of San Diego, with 33.8 million in chips; and Daniel Ott, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, with more than 26.4 million in chips.

Last year, Las Vegas resident Qui Nguyen bested the competition to take home more than \$8 million and the bracelet made from 427 grams of white and yellow gold and more than 2,000 diamonds and rubies totaling more than 44 carats. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) held a welcome ceremony for visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Following talks between the two leaders, Xi has called for the establishment of a Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital. He also announced a series of multibillion-dollar investment plans for the wider Middle East.