



BEIJING-MACAU-LISBON FLIGHTS TAKE OFF

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MUSIC FESTIVAL HAS ITS BUDGET CUT

The 31st Macao International Music Festival will be held from September 29 to October 30

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MAINLAND LAW IN HONG KONG

A quarter of the West Kowloon Terminus of the future high-speed rail link will turn into mainland territory

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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



MALDIVES Security forces locked down parliament on orders from the president Monday, leading to clashes after opposition lawmakers stormed the compound in an attempt to vote on whether to impeach the parliamentary speaker. President Yameen Abdul Gayoom has been accused of rolling back democratic gains the Maldives has made since becoming a multiparty democracy in 2008. **More on p13**

VIETNAM A court yesterday sentenced an activist to nine years in prison on charges of producing videos that defamed the country's leadership, in the latest crackdown on dissent. **More on p12**

AP PHOTO



MYANMAR Health officials in Myanmar say the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, has killed three people out of 13 confirmed cases this month. Confirmation of the new cases has been widely discussed on social media and more people than usual have been wearing surgical masks in crowded areas of Yangon, the country's commercial capital.

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Architects slam leisure areas management

P3 MDT REPORT

PAULO BARBOSA



Chan Meng Kam opposes prohibition on banners

Lawmaker Chan Meng Kam expressed his opposition towards the proposal to ban lawmakers from displaying posters and banners at the Legislative Assembly's (AL) plenary meetings. Chan asked, "What is the problem with displaying [banners] to the government officials?" Moreover, he remarked that these methods help lawmakers to explain themselves better, and that displaying banners do not affect the solemnity of AL meetings.

DSEJ accused of unfair treatment of therapists

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has been accused of treating its hired therapists unfairly, according to a report by TDM. DSEJ has issued a statement denying the accusation and emphasizing that the bureau places high importance on all therapists working in local special needs education. According to DSEJ, the bureau has hired therapists for its own special needs education and therapy consultation centers, as well as for public schools. In total, there are five speech therapists, six occupational therapists and five physical therapists.

New rules for tuition centers being drafted

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) will start drafting rules for private tuition and related after-school services by the end of this year. According to TDM, there are around 80 centers in Macau providing private tuition and after-school care services but only 30 are properly registered with a tutorial license. The head of DSEJ's Continuing Education Department, Kong Ngai, told TDM that there are grey areas in the current law, in which many private tutoring and childcare services are not properly regulated. He added that when the new law comes into effect, these tutorial centers will need to obtain licenses. The new law aims to regulate the education level of individual service providers and have requirements regarding tutorial spaces. Officials say that once the law comes into effect, service providers will have two years to meet the new requirements.

Julie Zhu

THE first Beijing-Macau flight from Beijing Capital Airlines landed at Macau International Airport (MIA) yesterday, marking the beginning of flights bringing passengers to Macau from Beijing and then to the Lisbon terminal.

Beijing Capital Airlines held an inauguration ceremony at MIA to launch its new routes, Beijing-Macau-Lisbon and Lisbon-Beijing-Macau.

An additional four flights per week will fly the Beijing-Macau route every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and are now available to all passengers. Considering the new route and all the others, there is now a total of 25 flights every week from Macau to Beijing.

The Beijing-Lisbon route, which is also operated by Beijing Capital Airlines, will start its journey today with the first Lisbon flight departing from Beijing.

The Beijing-Lisbon route will be operated thrice per week, on every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. The flight from Macau to Beijing takes approximately three and a half hours, while it takes approximately 13 hours to fly from Beijing to Lisbon.

Flights between Beijing and Macau are operated by the Airbus A319/A320, and flights between Beijing and Lisbon are operated by the Airbus A330, giving travel-

Beijing-Macau-Lisbon flights officially take off

ers a journey on a "new Airbus A330-200 twin-aisle, wide-body aircraft that can accommodate 475 passengers".

It is not realistic for Macau to open many long-distance direct flights in a short time.

SIMON CHAN
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF
MACAU

On the sidelines of the inauguration, Simon Chan, president of the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau, said that Macau's aviation departments are working continuously to expand the city's aviation network.

"However, due to the characteristics of the market, maybe it is not realistic for Macau to open many direct long-distance flights in a short time," explained Chan.

Chan then commented on the Beijing-Lisbon route, saying that "it is the first



flight between an Asian city and Lisbon." Chan claimed that the route will be extremely convenient for transportation between China and other countries, adding that the route helps Macau serve as the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

The flight from Macau to Beijing departs from MIA at 4.40 p.m., and arrives at Beijing Capital International Airport at 8.05 p.m.

The flight from Beijing to Lisbon departs from Beijing at 1.10 a.m., and arrives at

the Lisbon airport at 7.30 a.m., Lisbon time, on the same day.

The flight from Lisbon to Beijing departs from the Lisbon airport at 10.15 a.m., and arrives in Beijing on the next day at 5.55 a.m., Beijing time.

The flight from Beijing to Macau departs from Beijing at 7.50 a.m. and arrives in Macau at 11.20 a.m.

At yesterday's ceremony, Beijing Capital Airlines officials declined to speak to media about the sales for the aforementioned routes.

Zonta Club celebrates second anniversary

THE Zonta Club of Macau recently held a dinner in celebration of its second anniversary at the official residence of the Consul General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong.

The Zonta Club is a member of Zonta International, a global non-profit organization of empowering professional women worldwide through service and advocacy.

Guests of honor included Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, Consul-General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong, Vitor Sereno, and De-



puty Head of the Coordination Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, Bian Tao.

During the dinner, the Chartered President of the Zonta Club of Macau, Christiana Leong,

highlighted the activities the club had carried out in the past year and expressed her gratitude to the Macau government for inviting the club to participate in the committee of women and children's affairs.

Leong added that Zonta Macau will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the law on preventing and combating domestic violence, and expressed her hopes that the government will look into the need to revise the adoption regulation and establish legislation against sexual harassment.

Zonta Macau regularly holds community events to support women and children. The club is a supporter of the Macau Breastfeeding Association and the Macau Down Syndrome Children Association. The club often visits local

orphanage, Cradle of Hope, as well as orphanages in mainland China.

Zonta International has more than 30,000 members and 1,200 member clubs in 67 countries and regions. According to its official website, the organization envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights, where every woman is able to achieve her full potential, has access to resources, is represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, and lives in a world without the fear of violence.

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Lynzy Valles

THE lack of recreational facilities in Macau, a city of high population density, is providing the public very few options for public spaces in which to spend their leisure time. This is exacerbated by the many rules imposed in Macau's leisure spaces, particularly some that are now being managed by the Sports Bureau (ID).

The Nam Van Nautical Center is one of the few leisure areas in downtown Macau which can accommodate several leisure activities for residents.

Launched in July 2005, the center was established to organize international-standard competitions.

As per the ID website, the center is a "training ground for water sports athletes and an ideal venue for cultural and recreational activities, and carnivals."

Management of the Nam Van Nautical Centre and the recreational and sports areas around it was officially transferred from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) to the ID in 2016.

Very recently the ID introduced new rules for the users of the Nautical Center which is one of the few traffic-free spaces in the downtown area where, for example, children could learn how to ride a bicycle. These rules include the prohibition of cycling, fishing and bringing in pets. Given the new measure, children now cycle at the square upstairs, close to vehicle traffic.

The Times contacted ID to ask for the reasons behind the new prohibitions.

"Since the management of the Nam Van Nautical Centre was transferred to the Sports Bureau, the Sports Bureau has adopted the same management measures for users of the Centre, that, due to safety and sanitary reasons, it is not allowed to bring in pets, nor cycling and fishing within the Centre," it briefly replied.

However, experts argued that the government might likely have a misunderstanding of the term "leisure areas", as several recreational activities are now forbidden in the public space.

Chair of Docomomo Macau and president of the International Council of Portuguese-speaking Architects (CIALT), Rui Leão, contended that such a move restricts the ability of residents to use recreational spaces.

"In a city like Macau where there aren't many options for people to cycle and skate, namely the fact that the skating rinks that were demolished, it's a really pity and a kind of step backwards because we all feel like we're losing some of our liberties," said the expert, who is also a member of the Urban Planning Committee, told the Times.

Leão warned that the local government should be cautious of introducing such regulations, as several of them infringe on the freedoms the MSAR citizens believe they are entitled to.

Architects slam management of public leisure areas

PAULO BARBOSA



"There are a lot of things that are not regulated in Macau that corresponds to freedoms that have not been exercised [...] by the communities in Macau," he concluded, hinting that some regulations need to be discussed more thoroughly before they are implemented.

So if there are so many little options, this way of micromanaging and imposing all these little rules [...] just harm the image of the government in the end.

RUI LEÃO
ARCHITECT

He suggested that the government should not be leading the prohibition of leisure activities in public spaces. In the absence of practicable regulations, Leão stressed that the strict implementation of rules by the bureau is a "step backwards" in Macau's development as a city. He also cited Macau's degrading quality of life.

Questioned about whether similar regulations would be applied if the recreational and sports areas were managed by a different bu-

reau, the architect only noted that if the ID forbids citizens to freely use the space, then "it is a sign that they are not very capable to do the management."

With Macau being one of the densest cities in the world in terms of population, such imposed regulations are not beneficial to residents and in particular families.

With only a few options for residents to use public recreational and leisure spaces, experts argue that measures imposed on such facilities will hurt the image of the government.

"Macau is an overpopulated city and there aren't many options for families to have a day out [for] leisure," said Leão. "So if there are so many little options, this way of micromanaging and imposing all these little rules [...] just harms the image of the government in the end."

According to the architect, such measures only stress the issue of Macau's lack of sufficient public facilities for leisure – which should work as an impetus for the government to commission more pools and parks for residents' use.

"But instead what we see is this kind of micromanagement of small regulations and rules. The population is being harmed by the lack of options, so I think it's the wrong way to address the issue," he clarified.

Due to what he claimed was a mismanagement of regulations, Leão noted that the matter also raises the issue of the region's absence of a master plan.

"There is no micro-strategy for dealing with these problems, instead we have government departments who have to handle alone and solve these issues by them-

selves. They do it without a kind of holistic view," he said.

The architect suggested that the non-existence of a master plan in the region would likely affect residents' quality of life in an "unimaginable way," adding that the territory needs to acquire a collective reflection on several issues, and learn how they could properly be addressed for the development of the city.

Facilities run by bureaucrats are managed with an orientation to avoid potential troubles than to serve the public.

FRANCISCO VIZEU PINHEIRO
ARCHITECT

Echoing these sentiments, Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro, an architect and an assistant professor of the Faculty of Creative Industries at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) noted that there are also several government departments that avoid having to deal with public facilities.

According to him, such measures run contrary to Macau's goal of becoming a world center for leisure and entertainment.

"The prohibitions could be replaced with more surveillance, allowing the possibility for citi-

zens and tourists [to do more activities], like riding bicycles, [or] bring their pets around," Pinheiro suggested.

"Facilities run by bureaucrats are managed with an orientation to avoid potential troubles [rather] than to serve the public," he added.

The expert suggested that instead of forbidding citizens to practice several activities, Macau could have a centralized system that includes the cooperation of several departments that would be responsible for the management of public areas.

"The focus is to make the city a pleasant and enjoyable place [by providing] more areas for boats and bicycles, as well green and sport places [...] to compensate the high density and pollution in the city center and in most parts of the city," the architect proposed.

"Like the yin and yang harmony, open spaces are necessary for a city with the minimum life quality," he continued.

The ID was also criticized last year following its enforcement of what were considered overbearing rules at the public swimming pools that were previously managed by IACM.

After the management of public pools was transferred to ID, signage detailing new regulations included, "No Eating", "No Drinking" and "No Photo Taking."

Recently, a mother of four slammed the bureau's new regulations at the pool, which forbids an adult from accompanying more than three children. The move has prevented some schools from holding their regular summer activities.

FSS introduces new fund system to gambling enterprises

The Social Security Fund (FSS) has introduced the contents of the "Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System" to representatives of the six gambling enterprises in Macau. The Vice-President of the Administrative Committee of the FSS, Chan Pou Wan recently had a meeting with the heads of legal affairs, human resources and financial departments of major gambling enterprises at the headquarters of the FSS. The meeting focused on topics such as the interface between the private pension fund and the central provident fund, protection for the gambling enterprises and employees' rights and interests under the new system, and the practical operations of the system. The FSS hopes to deepen the gambling enterprises' understanding of the new law in order to facilitate their voluntary participation into the non-mandatory central provident fund system.

UM's science summer camp begins

The University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) recently held an opening ceremony for its Summer Camp 2017. According to a press release from the university, the event attracted over 100 people, including local secondary school teachers, students and their parents. Dean of FST, Philip Chen, stated at the opening ceremony that the camp aims to help participants discover their interests and potential in science and technology and to improve their organizational skills and teamwork. Chen added that this year's camp attracted 140 students from 26 secondary schools. He encouraged young people to keep dreaming and learning about science. This year's six summer camps will cover various topics, such as civil engineering, 3D reconstruction with quadcopters, and robot and artificial intelligence.

Film fair helps local producers in search of investors

Julie Zhu

THE 2017 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Film Production Investment and Trade Fair kicked off yesterday at the Regency Art Hotel Macau.

The two-day fair is exclusively for members of the film industry.

The event features 26 film projects. More than 70 investors from all three regions are participating.

During the fair, film producers will present their projects and meet with potential investors in order to explore pairing services, investment and development opportunities for their film projects.

Three awards will be presented at the end of the Investment Fair to recognize promising projects.

The winning projects will be decided by individual investors' votes after the interviews.

A seminar themed "New



Trend in Online and Theater Film Distribution" will also be held during the fair.

Prior to the fair, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) met local film producers in preparation for the event.

The fair was first held in 2014, and aimed to offer a quality platform for exchange between producers and investors from the three regions, creating a shared film investment and cooperation channel; supporting small and medium-sized film production, training industry professionals, and promoting the development of the film industry in the

three regions according to organizers.

IC president Leung Hio Ming said, "There are young film producers from Macau who are chosen by the film investors each year [since the Fair's first edition]."

According to the IC's vice-president Ieong Chi Kin, the fair accepts a maximum of 10 movies a year from the three regions.

"We hope that each place [Guangdong, Macau, Hong Kong] can arrange a minimum of 20 film producers, or investors, [...] to meet with our producers," said Ieong, adding that the Fair

has accumulated more than 190 successful matches between producers and investors since its first edition.

The movies that were selected during previous editions of the fair have already been produced and released.

In addition, Ieong told the media that films produced by local teams and subsidized by IC's financial support programs have already been released across many regions.

This year marks the second time that the IC has handed out a specific subsidy to film producers. This year's round of subsidy applications has already commenced, with the IC receiving 15 applications so far. The selection process has entered its second and final round.

The subsidy is granted to four films each year, with winners being offered MOP1.5 million to complete their movie production process, including the release of the final feature film.

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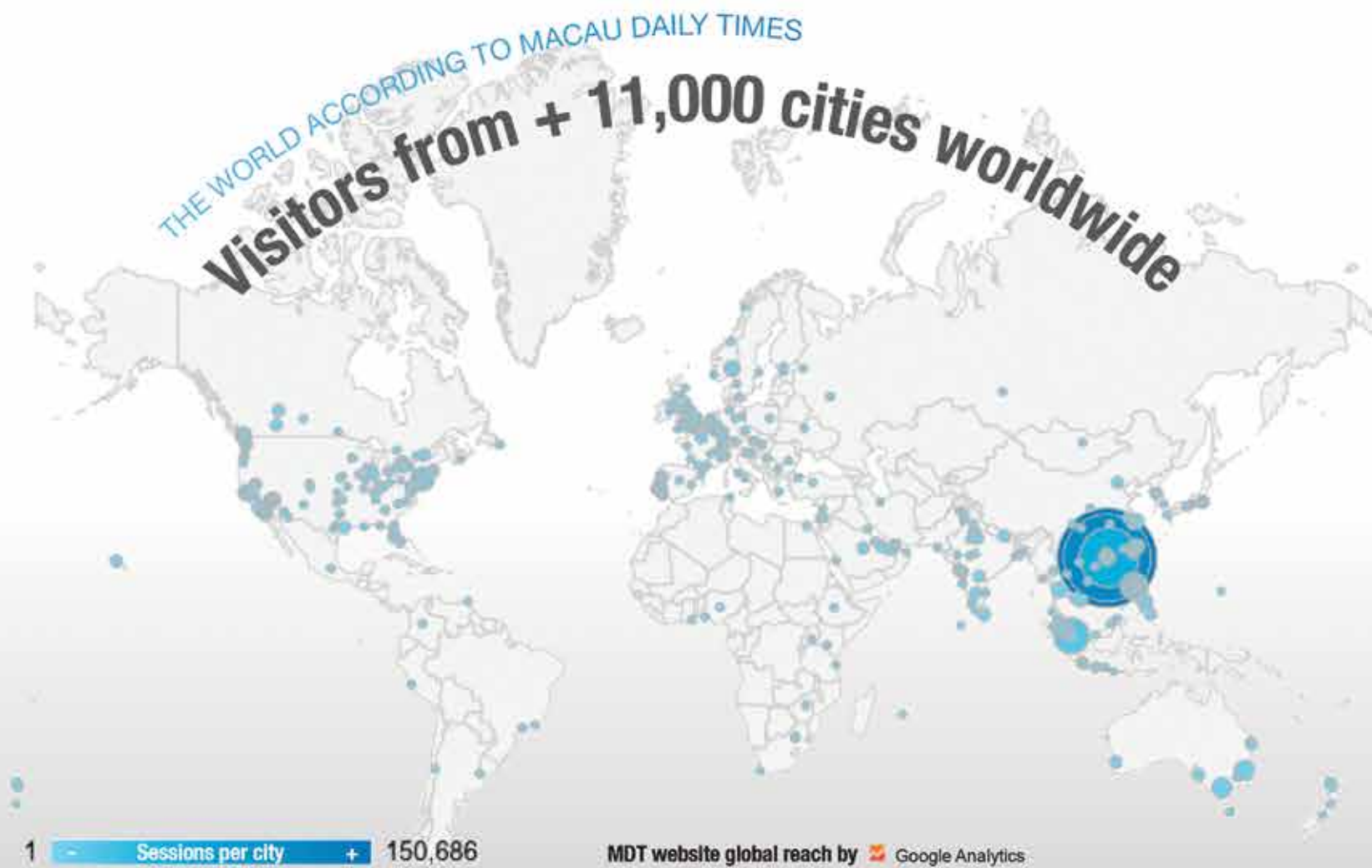


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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

Music Festival reduces budget for this year's edition

Lynzy Valles

THE 31st Macao International Music Festival (MIMF) will be held from September 29 to October 30, with a lower budget of MOP30 million, Mop8 million less than the last three years, when the budget stood unchanged at MOP38 million.

Taking the theme of "Rising Stars" this year, musicians and ensembles from countries and regions including Italy, South Africa, Germany, Russia, United States, Austria, Portugal, South Korea, mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau will offer 17 programmes across 20 performances.

The festival will kick off with a production of Umberto Giordano's four-act opera 'Andrea Chénier' by Teatro Regio di Torino, marking the 150th anniversary of Giordano's birth.

Contemporary conduc-



Leung Hio Ming (center)

tor Andris Nelsons will lead the renowned Vienna Philharmonic in the interpretation of Beethoven, Strauss and Wagner's classics for the closing concerts, showcasing Austro-German essence and delicate Viennese music.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said that a number of "international rising stars" have been invited for this edition, including award-winning South Korean chamber ensemble Novus String Quartet, which will pre-

Leung explained that the reason behind the lower budget was due to reduced advertising costs

sent maestros' works by Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Ravel, among other composers.

Young pianist Lukas Geniušas, who won the second prize at both the International Frédéric Chopin Piano Competition and the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition, will present masterpieces by Chopin, Ravel and Prokofiev.

In a press conference yesterday, IC president Leung Hio Ming said, "As for the festival in Macau, it's been ongoing for 30 years. Each year we have an opera, we hope not to repeat the opera pieces. We hope through this, we can introduce more opera pieces to the public."

He also explained that the reason behind the lower budget was due to reduced advertising costs, as they have mainly advertised through online platforms.

According to organizers, the MIMF is a platform for local singers to participate in the programmes, although it has yet to feature any from the terri-

tory. Four instrumentalists from Macau will join this year's festival.

Local production 'A Dream of Fragrance' premiered at last year's festival to critical acclaim. This year, local artists will partner world-renowned singers again to bring a new one-act opera, 'A Fragrant Dream', to the MIMF stage.

In turn, the 'Bravo Macao!' concert series will feature performances by violinist Lo Cheng Io, pianist Suiong Wong, harpist Leong Cheok Wun and cellist Ho Chun.

Additionally, 'The Erhu Family' gathers three generations of erhu interpreters from the same family, namely Chen Yaoxing, Chen Jun and Chen Yimiao, fusing western musical instruments and elements.

Hong Kong singer William So will also present popular classics with the Macao Chinese Orchestra.

Meanwhile, the festival's Outreach Programme features 19 activities in six categories, including talks, pre-show talks, backstage tours, master classes, workshops and community activities.

Pianist Geniušas was invited to conduct a master class for this edition of the MIMF. Germany-based Japanese vibraphonist and composer Masayoshi Fujita, also known as "el fog", and American jazz star Jazzmeia Horn will host workshops and meet local musicians.

The festival also offers a music therapy workshop and percussion instrument workshop for families, where there will also be meeting and exchange opportunities with music fans.

Tickets will be on sale from August 6 at Macau Ticketing Network outlets.

Group calls for cycling infrastructure



FOLLOWING a proposal for a bicycle-priority route system three years ago, a cycling association is still waiting for the government to provide them with designated cycling lanes and areas.

Back in 2014, New Macau Association proposed that the existing two bicycle lanes should be extended, and that a bicycle lane network should be built based on the pedestrian systems throughout the central area of Taipa. However, such lanes have yet to be implemented.

Macau has two cycling lanes in Taipa: the Waterfront and Lotus cycling lanes. However, the Cycling General Association of Macau is still urging the government to enhance these lanes in a bid to deliver safer cycling tracks.

Since the Waterfront and Lotus cycling lanes are not connected to each other, cyclists are still at risk of injury.

As cited in a TDM report, Chan Kuai Son, member of the Cycling General Association of Macau called for the government to provide them with a safer road to cycle on.

"The government cou-

ld set up some facilities to slow down heavy vehicles and allow them to ride on the left hand side, so that heavy vehicles are apart from the cyclists," said Chan.

"This will enhance the safety of cyclists," he added.

Meanwhile, a bicycle rental owner in Taipa Village noted that some residents still cycle on the sidewalk even when forbidden – including children – due to the lack of bicycle lanes.

The 2014 proposal from ANM stated that bicycle lanes should be made available on the roads and designated as part of the future mass transportation infrastructure.

The association also called for facilities to be integrated for bicycle transport in the urban planning of North Taipa and in the Seac Pai Van public housing complex.

"It's easier to establish this green transport system in the new reclamation lands; and the government can consider formulating policies that encourage commercial and residential places to add public facilities for bicyclists," the group said. **LV**

IC taking steps to ensure recruitment fairness

LLEUNG Hio Ming, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), has stated that the IC will terminate the contracts of workers whom it had recruited through a controversial system over the past few years. The majority of these workers will see their employment with the bureau terminated by the end of the month.

Of the 90 employees recruited under the controversial rules, 23 will continue to work temporarily, he said. "At most, they will work for one year, these people are basically the designers, or project leaders for important events, such as the international music festival," Leung said.

"IC, after all, is a entity which provides cultural services to the residents. Regardless of what we do, we can't affect our cultural services to the residents, we can only adjust our job."

The president also promised that the IC will ensure fairness in its future recruitment and noted that it is currently organizing examinations to hire new employees in the arts sector.

"We have already emphasized repeatedly, after the CCAC report, that we must hire people through an open and fair rule. I hope that we can be fair in our future recruitment regardless," Leung clarified.

Leung also revealed that they are cooperating with the University of Macau in a bid to create more spaces for local music groups.

He said the bureau plans to set up a black box for drama artists, and is looking to establish an acting center at the upcoming urban zone A.

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Honda Macau



Benjamin Katz

AIRBUS SE is working on vital sales campaigns aimed at extending the life of its flagship A380 superjumbo, with outgoing marketing chief John Leahy seeking to secure orders by the Dubai Air Show in November, people familiar with the matter said.

Key to the push is a requirement for 20 jets worth USD8.7 billion at leading A380 customer Emirates, with follow-on orders from British Airways owner IAG SA, Japan's ANA Holdings Inc. and Thai Airways International PCL also in the mix, according to the people, who asked not to be named as the talks are private.

Airbus may not feel that it can proceed with the smaller sales, likely to be for five to 10 planes apiece, without the Emirates deal to bolster the program, the people said. In the absence of new orders the company is set to pare output to less than one A380 a month, most likely sounding the death knell for the jet amid a dwindling backlog, and could detail the envisaged cut in an earnings update this week, they said.

An Airbus spokesman declined to comment ahead of the financial report, which the Toulouse, France-based company has scheduled for Thursday. The double-decker A380, which entered service in 2008, ranks as the world's biggest passenger plane, seating

Future of Airbus superjumbo said to hinge on Emirates order

BLOOMBERG



550 in a standard cabin layout.

Boeing has already said it could end production of the rival 747, where the rate has been cut to just one plane every two months so that the current backlog will last almost four years. At the same time the original jumbo is also offered as a freighter, giving it a wider potential market than the passenger-only A380.

Landing a life-extending deal for the A380 would help cap the career of Leahy, 66, who announced in May that he'd be stepping down after 23 years as marketing boss and more than \$1 trillion in sales. The American remains

adamant that fast-growing markets will favor the model in years to come if it can be kept going, and is holding off on his departure to focus on the Emirates talks, one person said.

Emirates is evaluating an upgraded version of the superjumbo unveiled at the Paris Air Show in June and dubbed the "A380 plus." The design adds fuel-saving winglets, which combined with an already-announced layout revision accommodating 80 more people would shave 13 percent from per-seat costs, though Tim Clark, the airline's president, says he doesn't need

extra berths.

Airbus's head of programs Didier Evrard said in May it would decide by the end of this year whether to reduce production of the A380 - which has a list price of \$436.9 million - to fewer than 12 jets a year. A failure to get the Emirates deal done could see output fall to a 0.7-a-month equivalent rate, a figure reported by France's Challenges magazine last week.

The planemaker may still be forced to cut the A380 rate even with a follow-up order from Emirates if the airline opts to take the jets at a later date because of

overcrowding at its Dubai hub. That said, Clark has suggested the planes would most likely replace older superjumbos coming off lease from 2020.

Even the move to one plane a month, known as "rate one" and currently due to take effect from 2018, was widely viewed as the beginning of the end for the struggling A380 program when it was announced last year, though Airbus says that it's able to break even at that production level on a per-plane basis.

The company has handed over 213 A380s to date, including 28 last year, to 13 customers. Of the remaining 104 still listed in the official backlog, as few as 57 could actually be delivered, according to Jefferies analyst Sandy Morris, representing less than five years of production at one plane a month. That includes 47 for Emirates.

Airbus shares rose as much as 1.4 percent Tuesday and were trading 1.1 percent higher at 72.45 euros as of 11:04 a.m. in Paris. That extended their gains this year to 15 percent, valuing the planemaker at 56 billion euros. **Bloomberg**

China's newest stock connect sees foreigners beating index

FOREIGN investors have proved to be good stock pickers so far when it comes to their newest entry channel for Chinese stocks, but things may get rougher the rest of this year.

In the seven months since China started a trading link between Hong Kong and Shenzhen, the top

purchases of overseas investors have been Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co., Gree Electric Appliances Inc. and Midea Group Co. Each of the three has risen more than 50 percent this year, as the Shenzhen Composite Index retreated 6 percent - one of the world's worst performances in a

year of record highs for many equity gauges.

With such big surges, analysts are warning about excessive valuations on the three. Other hurdles loom for investors in the final months of the year, including a potential economic slowdown and a once-in-five-years senior leadership

gathering of the Communist Party.

"The buying was a little bit irrational - they are good stocks, but investors may have priced in too much earnings upside," said Zhang Gang, a Central China Securities Holdings strategist based in Shanghai.

Overseas investors have

purchased a net 104 billion yuan (USD15.4 billion) worth of stocks listed in the technology hub of Shenzhen as of Monday, since the trading link enabled them to buy the city's stocks in December.

"These companies managed to establish their domestic champion po-

sitions and they will continue to strengthen their competitive advantage, leveraging their size," said Francois Perrin, portfolio manager at East Capital Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "For long-term investors, they offer a safe access to the second-largest equity market in the world."

MDT/Bloomberg

corporate bits

JACKY CHEUNG ADDS SIXTH CONCERT AT THE VENETIAN MACAO



Hong Kong singer and actor, Jacky Cheung, will add a sixth show to his "Suncity Group Presents: A Classic Tour Jacky Cheung World Tour Ma-

cau" at The Venetian Macao, due to popular demand and sell-out shows. The new concert will be held on August 20 after those held on August 11

to 13, and 18 to 19.

According to a press release from The Venetian, Cheung is one of the biggest names in Hong Kong's dynamic music industry and a successful international star, and the demand for a new concert is a testament to his enduring appeal.

Cheung's last tour was five years ago, which broke the Guinness World Records for most tickets sold and for most concerts held within a single tour by a Chinese singer.

For his upcoming tour, Cheung plans to combine his past, present and future to create a new international Chinese music extravaganza. Visually, he plans to use fire as a major element in symbolizing eternity and representing his own classic songs.

Tickets for the concert are priced at MOP1680, MOP1280, MOP280 and MOP380.

BMW TO BUILD ELECTRIC MINI IN OXFORD DESPITE LOOMING BREXIT



Germany's BMW will make the electric version of its Mini compact cars at its factory in Oxford, England, a decision that comes at a time when

automakers are scrutinizing investment plans due to Britain's impending departure from the European Union. BMW AG said yester-

day the battery-powered Mini would be based on the three-door model. Most of those are already made at the Oxford plant. The electric drivetrain is to be made in Germany at factories in Landshut and Dingolfing, Germany.

The company said it had neither sought nor received assurances that it would not be hit with border taxes when it ships parts to Britain. Currently Britain enjoys tariff-free trade with the other 27 members. Britain's future trade relationship with the EU is uncertain and will be the topic of complex negotiations over the coming months and possibly years. The two sides have until March, 2019 to reach a new agreement, unless an extension is agreed.

Beijing fires back at US accusations over aerial encounter

AP PHOTO



CHINA yesterday denied its fighter jet pilots operated dangerously during an encounter with a U.S. surveillance plane in international airspace in which the American pilot took evasive action to avoid a possible collision.

Spokesman Ren Guoqiang said in a statement on the defense ministry's microblog that the performance of the pilots of the two J-10 fighters was "legal, necessary and

professional."

Ren criticized frequent close-in surveillance runs by U.S. planes as raising the chance of accidents, saying such missions "threatened China's national security, harmed China-U.S. sea-air military safety, endangered the safety of pilots from the two sides and were the root cause of China-U.S. sea-air unexpected incidents."

The U.S. should stop such "unsa-

fe, unprofessional and unfriendly military activities," Ren said, in a repetition of China's standard policy toward U.S. surveillance missions intended at collecting Chinese computer and voice data in hopes of gaining insight into the workings of the People's Liberation Army.

Asked about the incident at a daily briefing, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said

Beijing objected to such missions but remained "committed to building military mutual trust with other countries."

U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis said the Chinese fighters intercepted the U.S. EP-3 surveillance plane Sunday in international airspace between the East China Sea and the Yellow Sea, in an area he described as west of the Korean Peninsula.

Davis said one of the Chinese planes approached at a high rate of speed from beneath the American plane, then slowed and pulled up, prompting the EP-3 pilot to take evasive action. He called the Chinese pilot's move unsafe.

China in 2013 declared an air defense identification zone over a partly contested portion of the East China Sea, demanding foreign aircraft declare their presence and follow Chinese orders. The U.S. and others swiftly dismissed the zone as invalid and have largely ignored it. It wasn't clear if Sunday's encounter took place inside the zone.

Such incidents continue to occur despite an agreement between the two sides to prevent them from sparking an international crisis, as happened in April 2001 when a Chinese jet fighter collided with a U.S. EP-3. That led to the death of the Chinese pilot and China's detention of the U.S. air crew for 10 days after their crippled plane landed at a PLA Navy air base on the island province of Hainan.

While China has long chafed at U.S. surveillance operations targeting its military, the PLA itself has been conducting such missions further and further from its home ports.

Earlier this month, China sailed a spy ship through the narrow Tsugaru Strait separating the Japanese islands of Honshu and Hokkaido, while another was spotted last week within Australia's exclusive economic zone where allies Australia and U.S. were conducting major war games. **AP**

HNA mystery man gives away fortune, raising fresh questions

OF all the mysteries surrounding HNA Group Co., one of China's most acquisitive companies, the 29 percent stake held by Guan Jun has been among the most puzzling.

How did a little-known Chinese investor become the biggest shareholder in a sprawling global conglomerate with USD150 billion of assets and major stakes in Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. and Deutsche Bank AG?

This week, HNA watchers finally got some answers. But what they learned has raised fresh questions about the company's governance and ownership structure at a time when it's facing heightened regulatory scrutiny in the U.S. and China.

It turns out that Guan never intended to retain control of the stake that HNA had attributed to him in corporate filings

late last year. He was holding it on behalf of HNA executives, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg on yesterday. This year, Guan distributed the entire position to five individuals and a foundation affiliated with HNA, one of the people said.

Guan's transactions, along with subsequent donations by the five individuals, resulted in a

new shareholding structure unveiled by HNA on Monday. The company is now controlled by two affiliated charities - one in New York and the other in China. The rest of the business is split between Hainan Airlines Holding Co. and twelve HNA officials, including founders Chen Feng and Wang Jian.

While the disclosures from HNA have given

the public more information, Monday's announcement does little to address a longstanding concern about the company: Outsiders struggle to understand how the business is managed and how it interacts with shareholders, said Lyu Pin, a credit researcher at Citic Securities Co. in Beijing. "The disclosure does more to raise questions about some of its largest

shareholders than to answer questions about its ownership structure," Lyu said.

Among the biggest remaining mysteries: Who's in charge of the charities that now own a controlling stake in one of China's most prolific overseas dealmakers? And why did HNA executives park their shares with Guan in the first place?

Those questions could hang over HNA as the company tries to assuage unease among regulators, lenders and investors around the world.

U.S. officials are said to be reviewing HNA's purchase of the hedge-fund firm founded by White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, while the European Central Bank is considering a review of the company's stake in Deutsche Bank and Chinese regulators are assessing the risks posed by HNA and other active acquirers to the nation's financial system. Some of the biggest U.S. and Chinese banks have distanced themselves from

the company. The dollar bonds of HNA Group International Co., an offshore unit of the conglomerate, are trading near record lows.

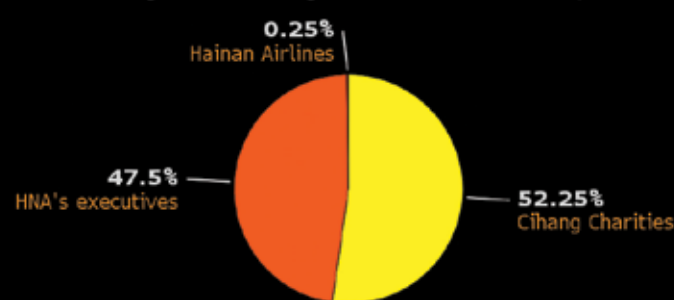
Little is known about how HNA's philanthropic organizations are managed, or how votes related to its shareholdings are cast.

HNA, which has taken on at least \$73 billion of debt to fund its global acquisition spree, said it plans to update its ownership status annually and that executives plan to donate all their shares to the charities should they resign or die. Eventually, the company expects the foundations to own 100 percent of the group.

For Citic Securities' Lyu, HNA needs to do a better job explaining how its new owners will influence the business, which has grown more complex in recent years as the company expanded beyond its roots as Chinese airline operator. "It's a complicated company," Lyu said. "There is still not enough information." **MDT/Bloomberg**

HNA Ownership Unveiled

Two Cihang charities emerge as controlling shareholder of HNA Group



Source: HNA
NOTE: "Cihang Charities" adds up stakes held by Hainan Cihang Charity Foundation and Hainan Province Cihang Foundation

Bloomberg

THE controversial plan, approved yesterday by the Executive Council, will effectively turn a quarter of the West Kowloon Terminus of the future high-speed rail link into mainland territory. Mainland officers will be allowed to carry out customs and clearance duties at the terminus. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), the public broadcasting service of Hong Kong, reported that the HKSAR government is claiming that the new move will not violate the constitutional ban on applying national laws in Hong Kong.

Several Basic Law articles that explicitly bar mainland officials from interfering in local affairs or enforcing national laws will not apply to the Terminus area leased to the mainland, which will be called the 'Mainland Port Area' (MPA). In a joint statement, the Justice, Transport and Security bureaus said: "Since the MPA is legally regarded as outside the territorial boundary of the HKSAR, stipulations of Article 8, 18, and Article 22 of the Basic Law... do not apply and therefore the co-location arrangements would not be contravening the Basic Law." According to RTHK, the government said all mainland laws will be enforced within the

Plan allows officials to enforce mainland law in Hong Kong

105,000-square-metre area that includes trains and platforms, except for specific cases where Hong Kong law will be applied – such as for civil matters between passengers, or between passengers and the railway operator. Hong Kong construction, fire safety, and insurance standards will continue to apply, and railway staff will be allowed unfettered access to this area.

The Mainland Port Area is legally regarded to be outside the territorial boundary of the HKSAR.

HK GOV'T STATEMENT

Officials claimed that it is 'impossible' to only apply mainland laws that relate to clearance procedures instead of all national laws, because no clear distinction can be set. Hong Kong Secretary for Justice Rimsy Yuen organized a press conference to dismiss concerns over the new arrangement.

"The implementation of co-location arrangement is neither a directive nor an order by the Central People's. Besides, the implementation of co-location would require the consent of both the Hong Kong SAR government and the Central People's Government before it can be done," he said. Yuen said that the local legislature and the HKSAR citizens will then be given time to discuss the matter, before the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) makes a decision endorsing the arrangement. According to the government, Article 20 of the Basic Law will provide the legal basis for such a law



Hong Kong photograph enthusiasts set up tripods to take photos of buildings standing on the Shenzhen side of the border

to be enacted, as it allows the NPCSC to confer unspecified 'other powers' upon the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Legislative Council is expected to enact this law sometime during its 2017-18 session, so the Express Rail Link can open on schedule by the third quarter of 2018.

Yuen stressed the convenience of the plan, saying that by allowing mainland officials to clear passengers in advance in Hong Kong, they will gain quick and easy access to a vast array of mainland cities by rail, which will foster closer social and economic ties between both sides.



Economists raise GDP forecast after growth beats estimates

ECONOMISTS raised their forecasts for China's economic output after growth in the first half beat estimates. That robust activity is giving policy makers' room to curb excessive and speculative borrowing.

China's gross domestic product will expand by 6.7 percent from a year ago in the third quarter and 6.6 percent in the fourth quarter, according to the median of 57 economist estimates in a July 17-24 Bloomberg survey. Both forecasts were 0.1 percentage points higher than a month ago.

The expansion in the second quarter beat market expectations and with growth this year on track to meet the government's target, policy makers will have more leeway to act to contain risks and achieve stability, a priority that was identified at a top-level financial work conference earlier this month.

"The expansion in the second quarter is a positive sign, as it highlights the resilience of China's economy in the face of Beijing's efforts to curb excessive borrowing to diffuse financial risks," Carlos Casanova, economist at Coface in Hong Kong wrote in a note. "The authorities need to maintain a well-oiled machine" ahead of the 19th Party Congress in the fall, he said. "For this reason, we do not envision an abrupt deceleration in the third quarter, but there is little room for further policy tightening going forwards."

Expectations for inflation slowed slightly, with forecasts for both consumer and producer prices lower than last month. Consumer prices will rise 1.8 percent in the third quarter, and then 2 percent in the fourth quarter. Factory gate inflation has peaked, and PPI will slow to 4.8 percent in the three months through September, before dropping further to 2.5 percent in the final quarter. **Bloomberg**

Several others are also said to be interested and in various stages of conversation with Bigbasket, including global retail titan Amazon. com, said a different person familiar with the matter. Morgan Stanley is advising Supermarket Grocery Supplies Pvt, which owns the Bigbasket brand, on the fundraising, that person said. Bigbasket's existing investors include the Dubai-headquartered Abraaj Group and Sands Capital. The talks were reported earlier by local media, including the Economic Times. Bigbasket has been pushing Indians to shop for everyday essentials via their smartphones, and roped in Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan to market its services. Khan, who has a massive following, declares in the commercial, "Mein ek Bigbasket

Alibaba, Paytm are said in talks to invest in India's Bigbasket

Saritha Rai

CHINESE e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and its Indian associate Paytm E-commerce Pvt are in talks to invest about USD200 million for a stake of roughly 20 percent in India's leading online grocer, Bigbasket, according to a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations.

Alibaba and Paytm are in a 60-day exclusive pact with Bigbasket and are conducting due diligence, said the person, who did not want to be quoted as the negotiations are private. The two could invest as a team or separately, the person said.

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-er hoon, aur aap?" (I am a Bigbasket -er, and you?). The grocer's express delivery feature brings regularly-needed essentials to customers' door in 60 minutes.

As time-starved urban Indians ditch the neighborhood kirana (grocery) stores and the crowded supermarkets in favor of buying daily staples and produce online, the country's online grocery segment is heating up.

Amazon, which recently acquired specialty grocer Whole Foods Market Inc in the U.S., has got the government's nod to invest \$500 million into food retailing in India. An Ama-

zon spokeswoman said in an email, "We have received the government approval for food retail based on our application for the same. We are excited by the government's continued efforts to encourage FDI in India for a stronger food supply chain".

The world's leading online retailer is making a series of moves to capture the vital Indian market where e-commerce is growing at a rapid pace. Currently, Amazon has tied up with local kirana stores and its Amazon Pantry offering promises next-day delivery of groceries.

An investment in Bigbasket will give the Alibaba-Paytm duo the strategic arsenal to take on Amazon in India and the two have a broader collaboration in the digital payments space where the Alibaba and Ant Financial-backed Paytm Payments Bank Pvt is the dominant player. Meanwhile, Flipkart too is ramping up in the online grocery space. **Bloomberg**

INDONESIA

World's biggest Muslim country puts more women into senior roles

IN the late 1980s, Pakistani clerics beseeched Indonesia to pray for them after Benazir Bhutto became prime minister and the first woman to govern a Muslim majority nation.

Khofifah Indar Parawansa, now a cabinet minister in Indonesia, recalls the incident with some irony. The cleric told Abdurrahman Wahid, who would later become Indonesia's president, that Pakistan would be "unlucky for being ruled by a woman," she said.

Parawansa, 52, is one of nine female ministers in the world's most populous Muslim nation, exemplifying the country's success in breaking gender and religious stereotypes.

At 26 percent, Indonesia has the largest ratio of female ministers among the 10 biggest countries based on population size, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union or IPU, a global organization of parliaments based in Geneva.

Women have made grounds in Indonesia from politics to central banking. High profile officials include Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi - a first in the country's history - and Maritime and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti. Rosmaya Hadi became Bank Indonesia's only female deputy governor this year.

Part of Indonesia's success has been setting gender quotas for



candidates that political parties put forward for public office. Females now hold almost a fifth of the seats in Indonesia's national parliament, up from 8 percent in 2003 when a non-compulsory quota was first introduced, according to IPU.

In countries like Rwanda, Cuba and Iceland, women lawmakers make up more than 40 percent of parliament. Among the most populous nations, China leads the way with about a quarter.

But there is still a long way to go for Indonesia to boost gender diversity in its economy. The Southeast Asian nation has one of the lowest female participation rates in the labor market in Asia at 38 percent, compared with 44 percent in China and 43 percent in Japan, according to the World Bank.

Women's participation in the labor force, particularly in developing nations, has remained low despite significant progress in boosting economic growth, lowering fertility rates, and improving education. In places like Indonesia and the Philippines, social norms still dictate what kind of jobs women can do, with many

restricted to handling mainly housework and childcare responsibilities.

This social structure has economic costs. The removal of gender bias in education, the labor market, and the household would increase per capita income by 70 percent over a generation in a typical Asian economy, according to the ADB.

Parawansa, who is now social affairs minister, said her advance up the political ranks has had its challenges. She was a young member of the parliament in 1998 at 32 when she stood up

to speak out against then-dictator Suharto, calling for "political reformation." The speech was controversial enough that her husband worried for her safety, she recalled.

"The seniors were trying to block me: This little kid, a woman, what is she up to?" Parawansa said in an interview from her office in Jakarta, dressed in a modest long-sleeve Batik shirt and pumpkin-colored headscarf.

■ In places like Indonesia and the Philippines, social norms still dictate what kind of jobs women can do

"Many people were surprised with my speech. I could see that not all people liked the speech."

Women in public office in Indonesia also need to contend with growing religious conservatism in the country. The election of Jakarta's governor this year was marred by religious and ethnic tensions, and President Joko Widodo last week banned an Islamist organization in the country, adding to political risks in the country.

For Parawansa, opportunity is key to getting more women into high profile roles.

"Today, I see both men and women are equally tenacious," she said. "It shouldn't be waited, opportunity must be pursued." **MDT/Bloomberg**

VIETNAM

Activist sentenced to 9 years in prison

A Vietnamese court yesterday sentenced an activist to nine years in prison on charges of producing videos that defamed the country's leadership, in the latest crackdown on dissent.

Tran Thi Nga was convicted of spreading propaganda against the state in the one-day trial at the People's Court in Ha Nam province in northern Vietnam, her lawyer said.

Nga, 40, campaigned against environmental pollution, police brutality and illegal land confiscation, and called for a tougher stance toward China's assertive territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The court also imposed five years of house arrest following her prison term,

lawyer Ha Huy Son said.

"I think this is an unjust verdict," Son said. "She did not commit the crime for which she was convicted by the court."

Nga maintained her innocence during the trial, saying she did not oppose anyone, but was only against corruption and injustice, Son said.

Son said there was no proof that 13 videos used against Nga in the trial — 11 taken from the internet and two allegedly found on her computer — were hers.

The videos were about subjects such as toxic chemicals dumped last year by Formosa Plastics Group's steel complex in central Vietnam in one of the country's worst environmental disasters, Chinese aggression in the

South China Sea, and corruption, Son said.

Human Rights Watch has called for her release.

"The Vietnamese government consistently goes to extremes to silence its critics, targeting activists like Tran Thi Nga with bogus charges that carry a long prison sentence, and subjecting their families to harassment and abuse," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said in a statement Monday.

International human rights groups and some Western governments often criticize Vietnam for jailing people for peacefully expressing their views, but Vietnam's government says only law-breakers are punished. **MDT/AP**

THE European Union plans to open a delegation in Mongolia this year, the 28-nation group said yesterday, in a move that will expand its relationship with the resource-rich country wedged between China and Russia.

The decision to have a presence in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, marks a milestone in European-Mongolian relations, and will help enhance political dialogue and cooperation between Europe and Mongolia, the EU said in a statement.

High Representative Federica Mogherini said Mongolia has "an important role in a complex region, with a unique geostrategic position," according to the statement.

Following a peaceful democratic revolution in 1990 that remo-

MONGOLIA

EU plans delegation in capital to enhance ties

ved it from the Soviet orbit, Mongolia has sought for decades to expand trade and diplomatic relations with "third neighbors" other than Russia and China, two powers that have historically exerted enormous political and economic influence.

The landlocked country of 3 million people boasts vast mineral wealth but has struggled in recent years to court foreign investment due to plunging commodity prices and high-profile disputes between the government and large investors such as mining giant Rio Tinto.

The government has

also been weighed down by massive debt and recently obtained a USD5.5 billion bailout led by the International Monetary Fund.

Earlier this month, Mongolia elected a populist business tycoon and ex-judo champion as its new president. In a runoff election, Khaltmaa Battulga of the Democratic Party edged out his establishment opponent, Miyegombo Enkhbold of the Mongolian People's Party.

Battulga said after his victory that he would boost ties with China and Russia but also seek to expand ties with "third neighbors." **AP**

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

MALDIVES

MALDIVIAN security forces locked down parliament on orders from the president Monday, leading to clashes after opposition lawmakers stormed the compound in an attempt to vote on whether to impeach the parliamentary speaker.

President Yameen Abdul Gayoom has been accused of rolling back democratic gains the Maldives has made since becoming a multiparty democracy in 2008.

A no-confidence motion against Speaker Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed was scheduled to have been taken up Monday, according to the opposition. It said the motion had support from 45 lawmakers in the 85-member house, which if it had succeeded would have challenged the president's power.

The government, however, said no voting had been scheduled for Monday.

Members of the armed forces padlocked the gates of parliament on orders from Yameen, and lawmakers "were forcibly prevented from entering the parliamentary compound," the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party said.

Some opposition lawmakers broke through the barrier, but they were forcibly thrown out by military and police who even pepper-sprayed them, said party spokesman Hamid

Abdul Ghafoor.

In a statement, the opposition party called Yameen's action "desperate, illegal and unconstitutional."

The president's office said all the members have been informed that the next parliament sittings will be on July 31.

The parliament secretariat asked Maldives forces to strengthen security in the parliament building premises due to security concerns as certain parties were calling for protests near parliament, the office said in a statement.

Maldives police said the government restricted access to the parliament building as the session was canceled and that police were asked to intervene by Maldives National Defense Force in "clearing out individuals who forcefully entered the parliament building."

In a statement, police also said they are investigating the obstruction of police duty by the lawmakers who broke into the restricted area.

The support for the no-confidence motion was uncertain after

the election commission announced last week that four members who supported the motion had lost their seats because they left the ruling party.

Yameen's control over parliament is threatened by a new understanding between the Maldives' former strongman and its first democratically elected president, Mohamed Nasheed. The Maldivian Democratic Party routed Yameen's party in local council elections earlier this year.

A similar opposition bid to oust the speaker was defeated in March with no dissenting votes after opposition lawmakers were either evicted or walked out from the vote following a dispute over problems with the electronic voting system.

The opposition coalition's plan to wrest the parliamentary majority was aimed at reforming the judiciary, elections commission and other bodies perceived as being partial toward Yameen.

In March, Nasheed and former strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and two other parties signed an agreement to form an opposition alliance.



Police block the road leading to the Parliament building in Male on Monday

Maumoon runs a rival faction within the Progressive Party of Maldives, which is led by the current president, his half brother.

Nasheed was jailed in 2015 for 13 years for ordering the arrest of a senior judge when he was president in 2012.

He received asylum in Britain

last year after traveling there on medical leave. Three other leading politicians have also been jailed after trials criticized internationally for a lack of due process.

Maldives is a South Asian archipelago known for its luxury tourist resorts. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Suicide bombing in Lahore kills 26, wounds 54

Zaheeruddin Babar, Lahore

A suicide bomber struck near a police team in the eastern city of Lahore Monday killing at least 26 and wounding another 54, many of them police officers. An outlawed Taliban faction claimed responsibility.

Senior police officer Haider Ashraf said a suicide bomber on a motorcycle targeted police guarding a demolition site at Kot Lakhpat's vegetable market on the outskirts of Lahore.

Ashraf said it was believed earlier that the bomb was in a car, but it was later discovered that the vehicle belonged to a police officer, among the eight officers killed.

He said many of 54 wounded are policemen and several bystanders were wounded by the impact of the powerful blast. Ashraf added that near the blast site a high rise building houses important information technology offices but the apparent target was the police gathering.

The outlawed militant



Pakistani rescue workers prepare to remove a body from the site of the deadly bombing

group Tehrik-e-Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, confirming they used a suicide bomber on a motorcycle.

Rana Sanaullah, the home minister of eastern Punjab province of which Lahore is the capital, said anti-state elements who want to see instability in the country were behind the attack.

"No matter what name they use, these terrorists are one but they cannot demoralize the Pakistani nation," said Sanaullah.

Malik Mohammad Ahmed, a spokesman for the Punjab government, said

the blast occurred near the secretariat of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif but that he was not in the office at the time.

Sharif in a statement condemned the attack and called for the best possible medical service for the survivors.

The U.N. Security Council condemned "the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in the strongest terms and underlined the obligation of all countries to help Pakistan bring those responsible to justice. Members reiterated that "any acts of terrorism are criminal and

unjustifiable."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned attack in Lahore and called for those responsible to be brought to justice, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

"He supports the efforts of the government of Pakistan to fight terrorism and violent extremism with full respect for international human rights norms and obligations," Haq said.

Lahore has faced scores of terror attacks in recent years. A suicide bombing earlier this year killed 16 police on a busy road while another killed over 70 people during Easter last year.

Elsewhere in Pakistan Monday, gunmen riding on a motorcycle in Karachi opened fire on traffic police officers, killing one and critically wounding another, said Rao Anwar, a senior counterterrorism police officer.

Anwar said the gunmen also snatched away a dead officer's rifle and fired on another nearby police patrol but caused no casualties. **AP**

INDIA

Heavy monsoon rains cause evacuation of 24,000

AT least 16 people have been killed this week in heavy monsoon rains that have lashed western India, including the desert state of Rajasthan, with more than 24,000 villagers evacuated to higher ground, officials said yesterday.

Hundreds of rescuers using motor boats saved 789 people, including some pregnant women, from being swept away by the swirling floodwaters in six districts in Gujarat state, said Ranvijay Singh, a government official.

The rescuers found six bodies in flooded villages this week, raising the death toll in Gujarat to 70 since the start of the monsoon season, which runs from June through September.

Mount Abu, a popular hill station in Ra-

jasthan, received 80 centimeters of rain on Monday, surpassing a 1992 record of 66 centimeters of rain in a 24-hour period, according to the state flood relief department.

At least 10 people have died in the past two days due to drowning and house collapses in Rajasthan, where air force helicopters evacuated 450 people from inundated areas in Jalore, Pali and Sirohi districts, the flood relief department said.

At least 60 people have died in northeastern Assam state due to flooding since the start of the monsoon season in June. Another 14 people died in the nearby state of Arunachal Pradesh last month after a mudslide swept through a village. **AP**



Winston Blackmore shares a laugh with six of his daughters and some of his grandchildren

CANADA

Polygamous leader found guilty of having 25 wives

TWO former leaders of an isolated polygamous community in Canada were convicted Monday of practicing polygamy after a decades-long legal fight, setting up another potential court battle over the constitutionality of Canada's polygamy laws.

Winston Blackmore, 60, and James Oler, 53, were found guilty by British Columbia Supreme Court Justice Sheri Ann Donegan, who said the evidence was clear that Blackmore was married to 25 women at the same time and that Oler was married to five women in the tiny community of Bountiful.

Blackmore, 60, never denied having the wives as part of his religious beliefs that call for "celestial" marriages. His lawyer Blair Suffredine has already said Blackmore would challenge the constitutionality of Canada's polygamy laws if his client was found guilty.

"I'm guilty of living my religion and that's all I'm saying today because I've never denied that," Blackmore told reporters after the verdict. "Twenty-seven years and tens of millions of dollars later, all we've proved is something we've never denied. I've never denied my faith. This is what we expected."

Blackmore and Oler were prosecuted as part of an investigation first launched in the early 1990s by the provincial government.

Under Canadian law, the maximum penalty they will each face is five year in prison. The two will be sentenced at future hearings.

Blackmore and Oler are members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a breakaway Mormon sect that believes in plural marriage. The group's main base is in a small community on the Utah-Arizona border in the United States.

Oler was chosen to lead the Canadian community just north of the U.S. state of Idaho following Blackmore's excommunication from the sect in 2002 by Warren Jeffs, considered the prophet and leader of the group.

I'm guilty of living my religion.

WINSTON BLACKMORE

Authorities have said Jeffs still leads the sect from a Texas prison, where he is serving a life sentence for sexually assaulting underage girls he considered brides.

The mainstream Mormon church renounced polygamy in the late 19th century and disputes any connection to the fundamentalist group's form of Mormonism.

At the 12-day trial earlier this year, witnesses included mainstream Mormon experts, law enforcement officials who worked on the investigation and Jane Blackmore, a former wife of Winston Blackmore who left the Canadian community in 2003.

Justice Sheri Ann Donegan

praised Jane Blackmore as a highly credible and reliable witness.

"She was a careful witness," Donegan said. "There was nothing contrived or rehearsed in her answers. She was impartial."

Much of the evidence in the trial came from marriage and personal records seized by law enforcement at a church compound in Texas in 2008. Donegan disagreed with assertions by Blackmore and his lawyer that the records should be given little or no weight, saying she found them reliable.

Donegan said Winston Blackmore's adherence to the practices and beliefs of the religious group were never in dispute, nothing that he did not deny his marriages to police in 2009. Blackmore even made two corrections to a detailed list of his alleged wives, she said.

"He spoke openly about his practice of polygamy," Donegan said. "Mr. Blackmore confirmed that all of his marriages were celestial marriages in accordance with FLDS rules and practices."

The investigation and attempted prosecution of Blackmore and Oler dragged on for years due to uncertainty about Canada's polygamy laws.

After a constitutional reference question was sent to the British Columbia Supreme Court, the court ruled in 2011 that laws banning polygamy were valid and did not violate religious freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. **AP**

Parents ask court to let them take Charlie Gard home to die

A lawyer for the parents of Charlie Gard told a judge yesterday their last wish is to take their critically ill son home to die.

Lawyers for the family of the 11-month old infant and the hospital treating him returned for a hearing before Britain's High Court, a day after the baby's parents said they were dropping their long legal battle to get him experimental treatment.

The family attorney, Grant Armstrong, told a judge that Chris Gard and Connie Yates have held discussions with Great Ormond Street Hospital

about sending Charlie home, but that there were obstacles.

Yates was in court for the hearing before Judge Nicholas Francis.

Charlie suffers from mitochondrial depletion syndrome, a rare genetic disease, and cannot breathe unassisted. His parents accept that his condition has deteriorated to the point where the experimental treatment would not work.

Francis presided over the case revolving around the family's wish to seek medical treatment



This is an undated photo of Chris Gard and Connie Yates with their son Charlie Gard provided by the family

in the United States. The London children's hospital opposed that, saying it would not help and would cause Charlie suffering.

British courts and the European Court of Human Rights sided with the hospital. The parents abandoned their bid for the experimental treatment on Monday, saying that time had run out for Charlie.

The case drew international attention after Charlie's parents received support from Pope Francis, U.S. President Donald Trump and some members

of the U.S. Congress. U.S.-based pro-life activists flew to London to support Charlie's parents, and the case became a flashpoint for opposing views on health-care funding, medical intervention, the role of the state and the rights of the child.

Outside court on Monday, Chris Gard said the couple wanted to spend their final hours with their son.

"We are about to do the hardest thing that we will ever have to do, which is to let our beautiful little Charlie go," he said. **AP**

ONE SHOT NEWS



A dry fountain is seen in St. Peter's Square. The Vatican says it is shutting off all its fountains, including those in St. Peter's Square, because of Italy's drought.

FRANCE

Macron plays peacemaker, hosting top Libyan rivals

Elaine Ganley, Paris

PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron is hosting a meeting of the two main rival leaders of chaotic Libya, trying to play peacemaker for a country where the stakes are high for both Europe and Africa.

The series of meetings at a chateau in La Celle Saint-Cloud, west of Paris, will bring together Fayez Serraj, prime minister of the U.N.-backed unity government, and Gen. Khalifa Hifter, the Egyptian-backed commander of Libya's self-styled national army. Macron plans separate meetings with each ahead of an encounter between the two Libyans in the presence of U.N.'s newly appointed special envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salame.

French officials hope the meetings will facilitate a political entente. The encounters are to end with a joint declaration stating, among other things, that there can be no military solution to the crisis. It would also lay down the principle of a cease-fire — except for fighting Islamic militants, an

AP PHOTO



In this Sept. 22, 2016 file photo, fighters of the Libyan forces affiliated to the Tripoli government rest and reload weapons during combat against IS militants

official of the French presidential palace said. The declaration would be "simple but constructive," according to the official, and be a first between the two protagonists despite past meetings. The official could not be named in keeping with presidential policy.

The encounter is not expected to resolve the knotty problems of

Libya, politically fractured and awash in militias and human traffickers preying on migrants who use the Libyan coast as a jumping off point to Europe, mainly Italy. But it would be a basis for the U.N. envoy to come up with proposals in the weeks and months ahead.

Libya's instability, triggered by the fall of leader Moammar

Gadhafi in 2011, has an impact beyond its borders, for Europe and for France, and for African neighbors. Macron's bid to work toward laying the groundwork for a state with a functioning government and institutions is a priority of his presidency.

For French officials, the time is ripe for forward movement in the search for a resolution to the Libyan crisis. Sharing the international spotlight with Macron, elected less than three months ago, could boost the resolve of the Libyan rivals to seek a way out of their impasse.

Serraj and Hifter met in early May in Abu Dhabi, and the United Arab Emirates said later there had been a "significant breakthrough." Libya TV said the men agreed on holding presidential and parliamentary elections next year in the fractured country.

Paris has made clear that the French initiative is not meant to brush aside numerous initiatives by others, including the European Union, the African Union and individual countries, like Morocco.

NIGERIA

Ailing president gives thanks for nationwide prayers

Nigeria's government says President Muhammadu Buhari has written to Guinea's leader thanking him for organizing nationwide prayers for his health and saying "I am making good progress." Buhari has been in London for medical treatment for more than two months.

UK

Brexit minister: progress made in talks on citizen rights

Britain's Brexit minister said yesterday that progress has been made in talks with the European Union on the rights of citizens living in each other's nations once the country leaves the bloc. But after meeting Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek, David Davis said disagreements remain over the role of the European Court of Justice. The EU wants the court to be the final arbiter on many issues after a Brexit agreement, something Britain rejects.

AD




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what's ON



EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI
TIME: 11AM-6PM (CLOSED ON MONDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)
UNTIL: August 7, 2017
VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

STORY OF CANNON MAKING - CHILDREN EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 20, 2017
VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor of Macao Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

FLOAT INTO THE FLOW - THE EXHIBITION OF SOU CHON KIT
TIME: 1pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)
Until: September 17, 2017
VENUE: Artistry of Wind Box Community Development Association, Rua Tomas Vieira 3A R/C
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 6685 9215

MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2017 - HUNDRED SPECIES - WORKS OF PEGGY CHAN
TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: August 13, 2017
VENUE: Macau Art Museum
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

TOKYO TO BEGIN SEEKING NAMES FOR STAR GIANT PANDA CUB



Japan's capital says it will start collecting suggestions this week for the name of a recently born giant panda cub.

Tokyo's Ueno Zoo, Japan's oldest, has not shown the cub directly to the public. But it released a video of the cub born on June 12 showing the squeaky baby snuggling with its mother, ShinShin. The female cub already has the characteristic black and white panda pattern in its fur and its eyes have opened.

ShinShin's last cub was born in 2012 and survived only six days. The newcomer appears to be thriving, and is sure to draw huge crowds once it goes on display.

The city government has said it will accept name suggestions online and also in a suggestion box at the zoo. Local reports said the panda will be named when it is about 100 days old.

About 420 giant pandas live in captivity, mostly in their native China, while about 1,860 live in the wild.

For decades, China gifted friendly nations with its unofficial national mascot, in what was known as "panda diplomacy." The country more recently has loaned pandas to zoos on commercial terms. Eventually, the cubs born overseas must be returned to China.

But in the meantime, Japan is rejoicing in having a new giant panda to coo over.

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	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

20- 26 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

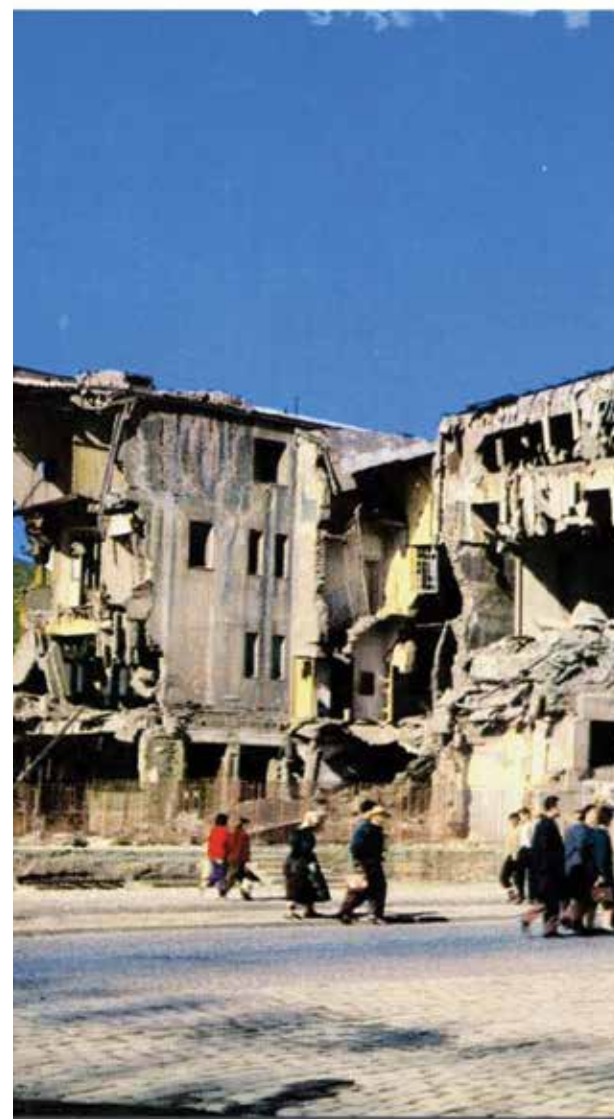
Director: Jon Watts

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

Language: English

Duration: 133min

this day in history



1963 THOUSANDS KILLED IN YUGOSLAV EARTHQUAKE

Thousands of people are feared dead after a massive earthquake rocked the Yugoslav city of Skopje. The first quake occurred in the Macedonian capital at about 0500 and lasted for 20 seconds.

Tremors from the earthquake were felt some 90 miles along the Vardar valley. More than 100,000 people were made homeless immediately as three-quarters of the city's buildings were damaged or destroyed.

Early reports suggest hundreds are trapped beneath the rubble. The city's hospitals are already at breaking point and medical supplies and blood plasma are urgently required.

The city's main railway station has been destroyed as has the post office, cutting off all communication with the outside world. Rescue teams from across Yugoslavia are making their way to the stricken city.

Eye-witnesses said buildings collapsed like packs of cards and people were running through the city to flee the carnage.

Skopje, which is on the banks of the Vardar river, is the capital of the Macedonian republic of Yugoslavia and is home to more than 200,000 people.

President Tito of Yugoslavia said in a message of condolence sent immediately after the tragedy: "Together with all the peoples of Yugoslavia we will endeavor to mitigate the misfortune that has befallen your republic."

Seismological stations in Yugoslavia recorded the strength of the earthquake as 9.0 on the Mercalli scale (equivalent to 6.9 on the Richter scale).

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 1963 earthquake was the second to hit the city of Skopje - chroniclers have noted that the city was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 518 A.D.

The 1963 earthquake damaged or completely destroyed about 80% of the city's buildings and killed more than 1,000 people.

However, the city was quickly rebuilt around the shattered railroad terminal, which was left as a memorial to the tragedy.

A broken clock marking the time of the earthquake, 5:17am, remains at the scene.

Many of the historic memorials have been restored, including the 15th-century Stone Bridge across the Vardar river.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You need some sleep, you need some soft music and low lights - and you need the affectionate attention of someone who'd like nothing better than to share it all with you.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

If something has been bothering you recently at work, don't invest too much time and energy into it. In a matter of weeks, it will all straighten out. You'll begin to see the signs of this happening as of tomorrow, by the way.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Someone you've been admiring from afar for a variety of reasons will say or do something now to let you know that the feeling is mutual and over the next few weeks.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

The pace of your life is about to slow down, for at least the next few weeks. This will be a very pleasant change for you, especially since things may have been more than a bit stressful for you at work lately.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If someone seems to be hesitating when it comes to tell you something, it may be because they've heard you discuss some extremely personal matters quite openly.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You've been thinking about making a change for a while now. You haven't mentioned it to anyone, but you've been mulling it over and doing a bit of investigating in private.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

For the next month or so, you'll become more deeply involved with a group of people you've been seeing a lot of lately. These individuals will become increasingly dear to you, and you to them.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It feels as if Valentine's Day started early, doesn't it? Like it's disconnected itself from February 14th and traveled back in time to get the lovey-dovey feelings flowing early? Hey, it could be worse...



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're about to be made privy to some top-secret information - some extremely sensitive material, to say the least. This may not be a matter of national security.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If you haven't been taking your vitamins lately, you'd better double up on them now. A dear one will rope you into a situation that's brimming over with intrigue, mystery and behind-the-scenes adventure.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

For the moment, you'll begin to realize just how important each and every word you utter really is - to one person in particular. Take this very seriously. And if you're not interested in them, don't pretend you are.

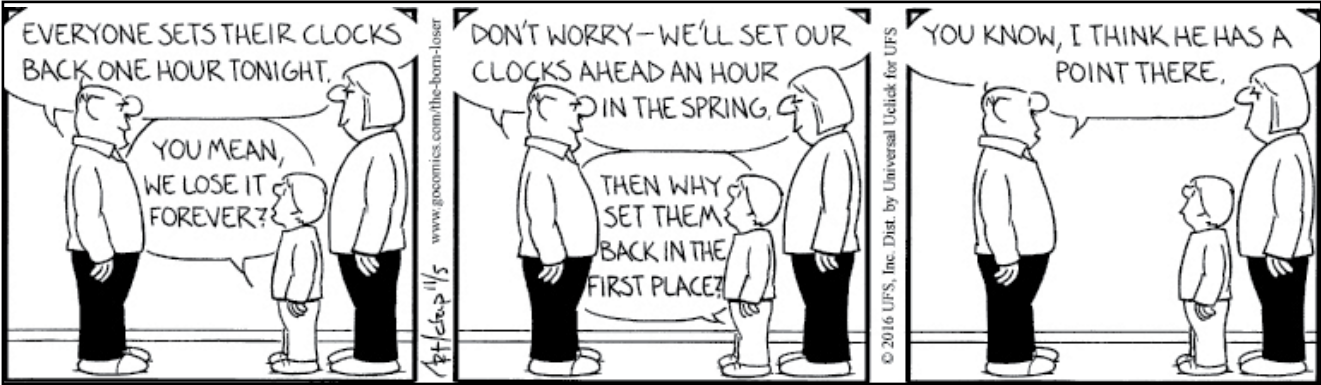


Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Oh, my. You're definitely in the mood for romance - but not just romance. It's time for passion of the most intense kind! And this is definitely a long-term proposition.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

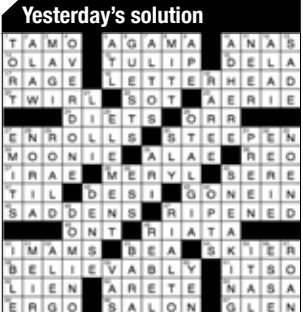
Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Heath; 5- Pertaining to Benedict XVI; 10- Balkan native; 14- Wings; 15- Pong maker; 16- Hipbones; 17- Profits; 18- Eliot's Manner; 19- Adroit; 20- Pearl Harbor locale; 21- Musical note; 23- Actor Ayres; 25- Parking place; 26- Like a close neighbor; 31- Audacity; 35- Consumed; 36- Command; 38- Paris divider; 40- Free from contamination; 42- Actor Leary; 44- Son of ___!; 45- Be gaga over; 47- Organization; 49- Leftover; 50- Be; 52- Nomad; 54- Poivre's partner; 56- Beetle juice?; 57- Prior to birth; 62- Protruding tooth; 66- Hydrox rival; 67- Greek marketplace; 68- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 69- Like a line, briefly; 70- Drat!; 71- Alaska's first governor; 72- Social misfit; 73- Low cards; 74- Take ___ your leader;

DOWN: 1- Look ___ hands!; 2- Olive genus; 3- Pledge; 4- Outcome; 5- Watchword; 6- End in ___ (draw); 7- Inner surface of the hand; 8- Thin as ___; 9- Capital of Portugal; 10- Pro or con; 11- Mtn. stat; 12- Rampant; 13- Cave dweller; 22- Hwys.; 24- Tokyo, formerly; 26- Wine valley; 27- Chopin composition; 28- Brand name for a copying machine; 29- Keats creations; 30- Continue a subscription; 32- "Michael Collins" actor; 33- Vitality; 34- Accustom; 37- Hayworth or Moreno; 39- ___acte; 41- ___tu" (Verdi aria); 43- Eyeglasses with tinted lenses; 46- Latin being; 48- Palm Pilot, e.g.; 51- Occupant; 53- Respect; 55- Pilsner; 57- "Artaxerxes" composer; 58- Not e'en once; 59- Sweeney ___; 60- Sped; 61- Pretentious; 63- Impulse to act; 64- Strip of wood; 65- Lotto-like game; 66- Suffix with ball;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

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Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Ref: 16050589

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Taipa
840 sq ft / HKD 7,500 sq ft
HKD 6.3M
3 Bedroom with Balcony
Ref: 17075526

Riveira H Unit, Tower 1
Macau
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Stunning Views
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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



Ciaran Fahey, Budapest

FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

HE'S done it again.

Britain's Adam Peaty set a world record of 26.10 seconds in the preliminaries of the men's 50-meter breaststroke at the world championships this week.

Peaty, who won gold in the 100 breaststroke on Monday, shaved 0.32 of a second off the record he had previously set at the previous worlds in Kazan, Russia, two years ago.

"I was quite relaxed. I wasn't going out there this morning for a world record, just going out there to race and qualify for the semis," said the 22-year-old Briton, who added that it was "quite early [in the morning] for a world record. But I'm very happy with that swim."

Peaty is bidding to be the first man to retain the 50 breaststroke title at a worlds, and he wasn't surprised to beat his previous best-mark.

"That world record is two years old. It was kind of due another push on," said Peaty, still buzzing after Monday's gold. "Last night gave me the confidence. I was out in 26.5 and I was like, 'This is so easy.' I can definitely push on for a 50. That didn't really feel like my best race."

Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa was next fastest in the non-Olympic event, a significant

Peaty breaks 50 breast record; Ledecky sets up big night

0.44 behind.

It's the second world record set at this year's championships after Sweden's Sarah Sjöström established a split of 51.71 in the women's 4x100 free relay on Sunday.

That world record is two years old. It was kind of due another push on.

ADAM PEATY

Meanwhile, Olympic and world champion Katie Ledecky eased to victory in her heat of the women's 200 freestyle, clocking 1:56.27, two tenths of a second slower than world record holder Federica Pellegrini, who finished ahead of home favorite Katinka Hosszu in their heat.

"I knew where I wanted to be," Ledecky said. "The only thing I had to do this morning was get a lane for tonight. Just wanted to go out and win my heat. It didn't really matter what the time was. I knew that would put me in a good position for tonight."

Ledecky, who cruised to a dominating victory in the 400 free and put the U.S. ahead for gold in the 4x100 free relay on Sunday, is facing her most challenging day at the championships. She also has the 1,500 free final later, less than an hour before she returns for the 200 free semifinal.

The American star needs to get her times right outside of the pool, too.

"Just planning it all out, making sure I know where I'm going at all times," Ledecky said. "Lot going on when there's medal ceremonies and warmdown and getting to the ready room. Just all those little things. Try to limit the walking and stay off my feet as much as I can during that whole process."



Britain's Adam Peaty celebrates after setting a new world record in a men's 50-meter breaststroke heat during the swimming competitions of the World Aquatics Championships in Budapest

Ledecky is pleased with the setup in terms of distance between pool, ready room and practice pool at the purpose-built Duna Arena.

"Yeah, it's pretty good. Just lining it all up beforehand and making sure I can get everywhere I need to go pretty quickly. It's pretty warm

upstairs," Ledecky said. "Just tryin' to stay cool and manage it all really well."

Also, Hungary's Laszlo Cseh comfortably finished first in the men's 200 butterfly heat, enjoying the atmosphere among the enthusiastic home fans. **AP**

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Michael Marot, Indianapolis

MOTORSPORT

THE IndyCar Series is going retro.

On a day series leaders released the first images of a new generation of cars, they also explained how drivers and fans helped create the new look by bringing back some designs from past decades. The result: a sleeker design, higher-performance technology, fewer body parts and presumably safer cars.

"Hopefully we've hit a home run on the aesthetic part. We've hit a home run hopefully on the performance part of the car," IndyCar president of competition and operations Jay Frye said Monday. "The safety part of the car is well-advanced. The driver's side-impact piece that's in this car is moved forward. The radiators are moved forward, so it's also a much more robust protection piece for the side impact for the drivers."

Changes include smaller, lower wings, weight shifted to the front of the car, more downforce from underneath the car and reduced costs for teams because the kits will be used from 2018-20.

The cars were seen publicly and tested for the first time yesterday on Indianapolis Motor Speedway's 2.5-mile oval. A second testing session is scheduled for Wednesday (U.S. Eastern Time). Two-time Indianapolis 500 champion Juan Pablo Montoya and Spain's Oriol Servia will drive this week.

New IndyCar aero kits bring back retro fit for fans, drivers



A scene from an IndyCar race at Pocono Raceway, Pennsylvania, in 2015

Series officials also will hold tests Aug. 1 at Iowa, Aug. 10 at Mid-Ohio and Sept. 26 at Sebring.

But there might be almost as much interest in subtle alterations.

The engines will be more visible to fans wandering through Gasoline Alley.

Fewer body pieces should reduce debris on and around tracks following crashes.

Series officials believe the newly-designed side-impact protection will prevent injuries like the life-threatening one Canada's James Hinchcliffe sustained when a broken suspension pierced his leg in Indy in 2015.

And engineers are still working on a wind screen that could help protect drivers.

"The cars have been built and designed around having some

sort of application like that, so at some point between now and the end of the year we'll test something," Frye said, referring to the wind screen. "When we get it on, we want to make sure we've got it right, and we want to make sure it's ready to go. At that point, then we'll decide is it an '18, '19, or are we going to use it in the future."

Manufacturers also will be able to conduct tests before

teams receive the kits — one for superspeedway ovals, the other for all other race courses — in November.

Teams are scheduled to begin testing in January.

The new kits also could have another effect: generating interest from another engine manufacturer to compete with Honda and Chevrolet.

Changes include smaller wings and weight shifted to the front of the car

"I'm not sure if we're close. I would say we're closer," Frye said. "There were some hurdles that we had, and hopefully we've removed the hurdles, so there seems to be more enthusiasm about the direction, and they see our five-year plan, they see where we're going. That doesn't mean they're coming. It's just, maybe, there's now an opportunity that they could come." **AP**

Russia enters 19 for athletics worlds despite doping ban

James Ellingworth, Moscow

RUSSIA plans to send 19 athletes to the track and field world championships in London next week despite its suspension from international competition for widespread doping.

The 19, including three former world champions, have been given exemptions from Russia's suspension after the IAAF reviewed their history of drug testing.

Maria Lasitskene is the overwhelming favorite to retain her high jump title, following an unbeaten season in the Diamond League. No other woman has leapt over two meters this year, but Lasitskene has done it at 11 different competitions.

Sergei Shubenkov leads the charge for

Russia's men as he tries to win a second world title in the 110-meter hurdles.

Russian Athletics Federation sporting director Elena Orlova told Tass news agency on Monday that, besides the 19, it also filed paperwork for doping whistleblower and 800-meter runner Yulia Stepanova, though she was rejected by the IAAF. Stepanova has barely raced this year and does not appear to have met the qualifying standard for the championships.

Since they're officially "neutral athletes" under IAAF rules, the Russians won't be allowed to wear national colors and the Russian anthem won't be played if they win gold.

A total of 38 Russians had exemptions that could have allowed them



In this Jan. 22, 2016 file photo, Russia's Maria Lasitskene smiles with her gold medal after winning at a track and field indoor event in Moscow

to compete at the championships, but many didn't make the qualifying standards. Eleven more were approved only for youth events, and 106 applications were declined.

Russia has been suspended since November 2015, when the first in a series of World Anti-

Doping Agency investigations alleged drug use and cover-ups were common on its track team.

The IAAF said it couldn't confirm the definitive number of Russian entries for the world championships until closer to the competition. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Brazil's 1982 World Cup goalkeeper dies after heart attack

FORMER Brazil goalkeeper Waldir Peres, a member of three World Cup teams, died on Sunday at the age of 66 after a heart attack. His death was announced by his family.

Peres was having lunch with friends in the city of Mogi Mirim in Sao Paulo state when he passed out and was taken to hospital.

He was a starter in the 1982 Brazil team that contained greats Zico, Socrates, and Falcao. Brazil was knocked out by eventual winner Italy in the second round.

The goalie was initially criticized for a mistake in the opening match against the Soviet Union, but Brazil eventually won 2-1 and his performances improved until the 3-2 defeat against the underdog Italians.

Peres was the second player in that team to die, after Socrates in 2011.

He also was in the Brazil squads at the 1974 and 1978 World Cups. At home, he was also remembered for his long spell at Sao Paulo FC from 1973 to 1984.

"He was a great partner of all of us of the 1982 squad," left wing Junior said during a broadcast on TV Globo. "He overcame that mistake of the debut and became one of the reasons we were so confident to charge hard against our adversaries in Spain."

After beating the Soviets, Brazil beat Scotland, New Zealand and Argentina with impressive performances.

Peres' family said he will be buried on Wednesday in Sao Paulo. **AP**

opinion

World Views

Max Nisen, Bloomberg

MERCK, SAMSUNG ACCELERATE
A BIOSIMILAR DRUG PRICE WAR

Well, that was a short honeymoon. Back in November, when Pfizer Inc. launched its biosimilar - a generic version of a drug made with living cells - of Johnson & Johnson's blockbuster inflammation drug Remicade, it priced the copy at just a 15 percent discount to the original's list price. That disappointed anyone hoping biosimilars would bring a golden age of cheaper drugs. But it was also relatively friendly, as far as legally risky launches of copycat versions of flagship products go. It left J&J not having to fear losing too much in the way of sales, while giving Pfizer a healthy margin on its own sales.

But then Merck & Co. and Samsung Bioepis had to ruin the party on Monday, by launching a competing biosimilar - developed by the Samsung biotech unit and marketed by Merck in the U.S. - at a 35 percent discount to Remicade's list price.

This has effects beyond Remicade and its imitators. The biosimilar market is developing just as Allergan PLC CEO Brent Saunders predicted: As more versions of drugs hit the market, prices will rapidly drop, eating away at the profits of everybody involved.

Pfizer will likely be forced to match Merck and Samsung price cut. And then J&J will have a harder time getting people to pick its more-expensive original, which is expected to be J&J's largest medicine through 2019.

Just look at what happened to Merck, which has a license to sell branded Remicade in Europe. Since biosimilars first hit the market there about three years ago, Remicade sales are down more than 60 percent from their peak.

Analysts expect J&J's sales to decline at a slower rate than that - about 32 percent from 2016 to 2019 - but they may be too optimistic. Yes, there are still some regulatory barriers to broad biosimilar uptake in the U.S. Then again, Remicade didn't face two biosimilar launches in Europe in such a short time period. And insurers eager to cut costs, along with Merck and Samsung's massive biosimilar price cut, should smooth patient uptake of Remicade competitors.

Along with other firms that make competing inflammation drugs - such as Amgen Inc.'s Enbrel and AbbVie Inc.'s Humira - biosimilar manufacturers should be feeling antsy, too.

Firms that make biosimilars like these drugs because they have high margins and pricing relative to traditional generics. But they are also more expensive to develop and bring to market.

Merck and Samsung are setting a scary precedent by more than doubling Pfizer's discount in the lucrative U.S. market despite being only the second biosimilar to arrive there. That discount comes before large insurers and pharmacy benefit managers have started negotiating their own price breaks - the total cut may be even larger.

Meanwhile, a huge crop of biosimilars is on the way for a variety of drugs, threatening an even bigger race to the pricing bottom. Want a scary precedent for the industry? Look to Norway, where a Remicade biosimilar is available at a nearly 70 percent discount to the original.

Pfizer's brief period of having the only U.S.-approved Remicade biosimilar will likely be the norm in the future, as the FDA gets quicker about approving biosimilars. The agency is gaining experience in evaluating them, and new chairman Scott Gottlieb has made bringing more competition to expensive medicines a priority. Biosimilars are a logical place to start.

Eventually there may not even be a short honeymoon period of modest discounts for new biosimilars before cutthroat competition starts. This is likely not what firms anticipated when they committed years and big budgets to breaking into this market.

The big positive of all this, of course, is that lower prices mean many more patients will get access to these medicines. But the biosimilar pie may be smaller and split more ways than some drugmakers expected.

THE TAIWANESE MINISTER VISITS
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO BOOST TIES

Taiwan's minister of foreign affairs is visiting the Dominican Republic to boost diplomatic ties in the region after recently losing Panama as an ally.

David Lee Tawei is scheduled to meet with Dominican officials and Taiwanese ambassadors based in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of a two-day trip that began on Monday.

Officials did not release further details about the meetings except to say Lee is scheduled to visit on-

going development projects in the Dominican Republic.

The visit comes a month after Panama broke diplomatic relations in favor of China. Taiwan has 20 remaining official allies, including 11 in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Taiwan is a self-governing democracy that China has long claimed as its territory after both sides split amid civil war in 1949.

Met exhibit looks at
Japan's fine craft of
bamboo basketry

Katherine Roth, New York

BAMBOO is getting attention these days as a versatile and sustainable material for housewares, so the timing is good for a Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit that explores Japan's ancient craft of basketry.

"Japanese Bamboo Art: The Abbey Collection" is devoted to masterworks, including a half dozen works by two artists designated as Living National Treasures in Japan. To highlight the works' virtuosity and context, they have been displayed alongside paintings, ceramics, bronzes, kimonos and other pieces from different genres.

The exhibit also explores other traditional Japanese arts that are entwined with bamboo basketry, such as ikebana flower arranging and tea ceremony. Bamboo is so central to Japanese culture that the Japanese and Chinese character for bamboo is part of over a thousand other characters, including those for many items traditionally made of bamboo, such as flutes, writing brushes, boxes and baskets.

The Met's show, organized by Monika Bincsik, assistant curator in the department of Asian art, tells the story of bamboo through almost 100 works dating from the late 19th century to the present. It focuses on the refined beauty and technical complexity of Japanese basketry. The exhibit will remain on view through Feb. 4, 2018.

Although the oldest Japanese baskets date to the 700s and were mainly used as offering trays and holders for lotus petals, there was little focus on Japanese bamboo art in the Western world until relatively recently, Bincsik says. Most of the works featured in this show are taken from the Diane and Arthur Abbey Collection, and most have never before been shown to the public. More than 70 of the works exhibited were recently promised as gifts to the Met.

The show opens with a dramatically curvaceous floor-to-ceiling sculpture by master craftsman Tanabe Chikuunsay IV. With its voluptuous shape, the site-specific piece is woven out of rare tiger bamboo, which is mottled with



This photo provided by The Metropolitan Museum of Arts shows "Dancing Frog Flower Basket" by Hayakawa Shokosai III

dark spots.

The introductory section shows how bamboo was used for hundreds of years for everyday utensils as well as refined containers. It was a craft generally honed by specific families, with expertise handed down from one generation to the next. Some leading bamboo artisans created their own schools, many still active today.

■ Bamboo
was used
for hundreds
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everyday
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as well as
refined
containers

But it was not until the late 19th century, the exhibit explains, that bamboo craftsmanship began to be recognized as, first, a veritable Japanese decorative art and, later, as a bona fide art form. Later masters such as Iizuka Rokansai created innovative works that were the foundation for contemporary bamboo art.

The show includes textiles passed from bamboo basketry mentors to their students as a sort of diploma, or graduation gift, signaling an apprentice's elevation to the rank of skilled craftsman.

These precious textiles were passed down time and again over generations.

Most of the exhibit is organized geographically into three major Japanese regions; Kansai (mainly Kyoto and Osaka), Kanto (mainly Tokyo) and the southern area of Kyushu.

Highlights include "Basket for Transporting Tea Ceremony Utensils," made in the late 1800s by Hayawaka Shokosai I. He is believed to be the first bamboo craftsman to sign his work, paving the way for increased recognition of the works of individual masters.

"Moon reflected on Water" was made in 1929 by Sakaguchi Sounsai. It was the first bamboo work accepted into a government-sponsored art exhibition, that year.

Another major work is "Offering or fruit tray with intersecting circles design," made in about 1947 from smoked timber bamboo by Shono Shounsai, who in 1967 became the first Living National Treasure of bamboo art.

There are baskets that incorporate ancient arrows, still revealing their red or black lacquer. A vase called "Dragon in Clouds" by Iizuka Shokansai is twisted out of a single stick of bamboo. Another work, "Woman," made in 2004 by Nagakura Ken'ichi, is also formed from a single stick of bamboo, and resembles a sculpture by Giacometti.

One takeaway from the show is that the possibilities of bamboo may turn out to be as vast and limitless as the form is ancient. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN A suicide bomber struck near a police team in the eastern city of Lahore Monday killing at least 26 and wounding another 54, many of them police officers. An outlawed Taliban faction claimed responsibility. [More on p13](#)



ISRAEL-PALESTINE Muslim leaders urged the faithful yesterday to keep up their prayer protests and avoid entering a contested Jerusalem shrine, even after Israel dismantled metal detectors that initially triggered the tensions. Israel said it would replace the metal detectors with new security arrangements.

LIBYA French President Emmanuel Macron will host a meeting of the two main rival leaders of chaotic Libya, his office said Monday, to try to "contribute to an end to the Libyan crisis," which is feeding Islamic militants, people traffickers preying on migrants and instability in the region. [More on p15](#)



SOMALIA-based al-Shabab is mocking President Donald Trump in a new video that calls him a "brainless billionaire" as his administration steps up military efforts against what has become the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA media say rescuers have recovered the bodies of four miners who were trapped underground during an earth tremor.

EUROPEAN UNION The International Monetary is more optimistic about the economy of the 19-country eurozone after a run of elections saw populist politicians defeated and risks to its outlook abated.

BRAZIL Police have arrested five teenagers on suspicion of gang-raping a 13-year-old girl on multiple occasions at a Rio de Janeiro public school.