

FAIR WITH EXTENDED ENGLISH BOOK OFFERING A wide range of books will be available at the Macau Polytechnic Institute's Multisport Pavilion from July 10 to 19

e P5





LAW REINFORCES GOV'T CONTROL OF CYBERSPACE The vaguely worded National Security Law is one of several new regulatory moves by China that worry privacy advocates



## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA's manufacturing** was weak in June and employers cut more jobs, two surveys showed yesterday, in a new sign the world's second-largest economy is struggling to emerge from a slump. HSBC Corp. said its purchasing managers' index stood at 49.4, largely unchanged from May's 49.2 on a 100-point scale on which numbers below 50 show activity contracting. A separate index by an industry group, the Chinese Federation for Logistics & Purchasing, was unchanged from May's 50.2 on a similar 100-point scale.

CHINA A bus carrying a group of South Koreans fell off a highway bridge yesterday afternoon in northeastern China, killing 7 South Koreans, the Chinese driver and a Chinese guide, the official Xinhua News Agency said. South Korean officials said the 26 South Koreans on the bus were part of a 140-person delegation of mainly South Korean government employees.

**CHINA-TURKEY** China is expressing its displeasure with Turkey's complaints about restrictions on worship and fasting by minority **Chinese Uighur Muslims** during the holy month of Ramadan. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said yesterday that Beijing had demanded that Ankara clarify the matter after the **Turkish Foreign Ministry** on Tuesday said Turkey's "deep concerns" about the restrictions were relayed to the Chinese ambassador.

# Revenue slumps to lowest level in over 4 years and the statement of the st



TAIWAN The father of an American who was badly burned in a fire at a Taiwan water park says the family is anxious about how the young man will fare in the next few days. Roger Haas of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, said his son Alex Haas, 26, is fighting for his life after 90 percent of his body and his lungs were burned. He said the family faults the park management for the fire last Saturday that killed one person and burned hundreds more.



# Sparse crowds in Hong Kong as democracy movement struggles . P11

# Health Bureau stresses priority in protecting non-smokers

**CEVERAL** reports and opi-**D**nion-makers argue that the full smoking ban on casinos will have a negative impact on the economy, but the Health Bureau director, Lei Chin Ion, stated that this is only "a forecast" and "a hypothetical question."

Lei explained in a statement, published on the Government Information Bureau website, that there are many factors affecting the economy, but as the Health Bureau head, he must prioritize the protection of citizens' health. He stated that the government's decision to abolish smoking lounges in casinos, a measure announced on Tuesday by the Executive Council, serves to protect nonsmokers from the harm of passive smoking.

"According to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s statistics, medical care attributable to smoking costs a tremendous amount in each country and region; the cost is greater than

any economic gains. Furthermore, the physical and mental suffering caused by tobacco hazards for people is incalculable, even causing immeasurable loss to individuals and societies," noted Lei in the bureau's statement.

The bureau's draft amendment to the Regime of Tobacco Prevention and Control was finalized by the Executive Council yesterday. The amendment proposes the expansion of the smoking ban to all casino floors, thus abolishing smoking lounges. Should the amendment be passed by the Legislative Assembly, smoking will also be prohibited in outdoor areas of higher education venues, at public bus stops and inside tobacco shops.

"Any methods other than [maintaining] a 100-percent smoking-free environment have been again and again proven ineffective, including ventilation, air filtration and designa-



ted smoking areas that are equipped with an air filtration system or not," stressed the Health Bureau, citing the WHO.

"As long as indoor smoking is allowed, no techniques or methods can effectively prevent people from being exposed to tobacco smoke; no ventilation system can reduce the harm of secondhand smoke and thirdhand smoke," it added.

In addition, the bureau stressed that Macau should pass a law to ensure the general public's right to breathe smokefree air at public bus stops, particularly given that many passengers are schoolchildren, adolescents, infants and preg-

nant women. Meanwhile, the bureau suggested that educational institutions should promote a positive image and enforce health habits against smoking.

Aside from expanding the smoking restrictions to more venues, the government has toughened penalties also for smoking regulations. It has suggested raising the fines imposed on violations to anywhere between MOP1,500 and MOP200,000, up from the current fines of between MOP400 and MOP100,000. An individual found smoking in a prohibited area will be fined MOP1,500 once the new regulation takes effect.

According to the Health Bureau, a total of 10,445 violations were recorded between the year 2012 and May 2015, with nearly 40 percent of offences being repeated breaches. "The most severe case of repetitive violation was a lawbreaker who offended 22 times, which shows that the current penalty was not a sufficient deterrent, leading to many repeated violations," said the bureau, adding that it will double the manpower available for the enforcement of smoking regulations, with 85 appointed inspectors next year. BY

**ONE SHOT NEWS** 



## **COOPERATION**

# Portuguese medical institute opens European market for local firms

**PORTUGAL'S** Institute of Traditio-nal Medicine (IMT) has collaborated with the Hengqin-based Guangdong-Macau Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park to establish an international exchange and cooperation centre within the park, which aims to promote Chinese medicine into the European market.

The center was unveiled to the public in an inaugural ceremony on Tuesday. Yesterday, representatives from mainland China, Portugal and Brazil inked multiple partnership agreements over the bilateral cooperation.

Frederico Carvalho, training and qualification director at IMT, told the media that Portugal was the first European country to have enforced regulation for seven Chinese medicine therapies. He expressed his belief that Macau was an ideal location from which to open the European market to Chinese investors, given its role as a platform for the Portuguese-speaking countries. Also priding his nation upon its broad knowledge of Europe's medical scene, Carvalho claimed that the West was

curious not only about Chinese medicine, but also about the traditional ways in which people in China maintain their well-being and health over the years.

IMT's local branch was set up at the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute on June 11, with almost all its staff from Portugal. The consultancy provider does not intend to sell products in the city. Instead, it aims to provide healthcare-related training for local practitioners, and to serve as an agency for companies seeking to expand into the European market.

Lu Hong, currently in charge of the industrial park in Hengqin, told media after the ceremony that the authorities were recruiting business operators both in the city and in the mainland. At the moment, around 10 local enterprises are in talks with them. However, interested mainland entrepreneurs have to register in Macau in order to launch their business in the park, according to the entry prerequisites set by both governments. The medicine development-focused park commenced operations last July. Staff reporter

A Macau delegation of two athletes and one coach attended the Carlton Irish Para-Badminton International, which was held between June 24 and 28 in Dublin, Ireland. After several days' competition, athlete Ip Chi Keong won third place in the WH 2 MS category.

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### GAMING

# **Revenue slumps to lowest level in over four years**

#### **Daryl Loo**

**OCAL** casino revenue fell to the lowest in more than four years amid China's slowing economy and a graft crackdown that deterred high rollers. A surprise easing of Chinese travel restrictions to the MSAR may bring some relief. Gross gaming revenue in June fell 36.2 percent to MOP17.4 billion (USD2.2 billion), according to data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That beat the median estimate of a 38.3 percent drop from six analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. The government this week said June revenue is expected at between 16 billion to 16.5 billion patacas.

The last time casinos got so little money from gamblers was in November 2010, when monthly revenue was also at MOP17.4 billion. Analysts expect loosening of the travel restrictions, which they saw as a major reason for



# The visa move will benefit casino operators

Macau's casino downturn, will help support the market which has now fallen for 13 consecutive months.

The data "was very bad, but at least not worse than feared," DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan

Chase & Co., wrote in a note today. "Along with visa relaxation, this news should help improve the sentiment on the sector."

The decline in June has eased for a fourth straight month since February, when gaming revenue plunged 48.6 percent for the worst monthly drop on record. The yearto-date drop is 37 percent.

The government announced overnight a reversal of the transit visa policy that was tightened exactly a year ago after it was used by some high rollers and junket agents to gain multiple entries into the city.

The visa move will benefit casino operators before the summer holidays and peak seasons later this year, CICC analysts Chris Kwai and Haofei Chen wrote in a note yesterday, adding they expected the government to issue more supportive policies in the second half for Macau's economy while keeping gaming revenue regulated.

From July 1, mainland China passport holders transiting through Macau are allowed to stay in the city longer and more frequently. They can stay seven days in Macau, up from five days, and gain second entry within 30 days, rather than 60 days.

Casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. surged 9.7 percent in New York trading, the most in more than three years after the visa easing was announced. Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd., which rely on their Macau units for at least

60 percent of their revenue, closed 4.9 percent and 5.1 percent higher, respectively. The Hong Kong stock exchange was shut yesterday due to a public holiday. Still, there're still concerns of further impact from the government's proposed comprehensive casino smoking ban that would expand to include VIP rooms and eliminate airport-style smoking lounges that are currently allowed on mass gaming floors.

<sub>澳聞</sub>MACAU 3

Casino operators have been hoping for a revival in Macau's fortunes with the opening of new projects, as weakness in the Chinese economy and Beijing's widening crackdown on graft continued to weigh on gambling revenue.

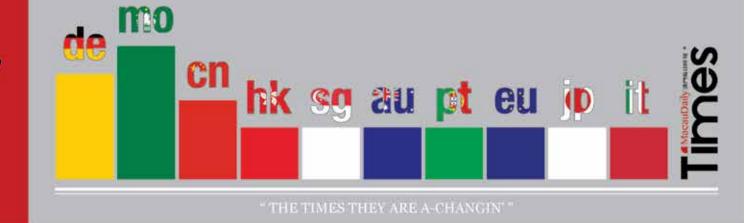
While Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. had said on June 16 that performance at its new casino expansion was weaker than expected, analysts expect that Macau may yet see a stronger recovery with the opening of another new project, Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd.'s Studio City, due later this year and featuring Asia's tallest Ferris wheel and a Batman ride.

"We still hope that the combination of Galaxy Phase 2 and Studio City can be enough of a draw to catalyze a turn, along with other factors, later this year and into next," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Tim Craighead. Bloomberg





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## HERITAGE | 10 YEARS AFTER UNESCO LISTING

# Urban planners say city should be seen as a whole

**RESIDENTS** have a closer attachment to heritage sites that have "a social role" – like the post office and the several modernist markets – than they have with emblematic monuments like the St Paul's Ruins and the A-Ma Temple, which they think are mainly for tourists, according to two urban planners.

Lam lek Chip and Inês Lei consider themselves "communal urbanists" and they have been trying to make the locals aware of the crucial importance of urban planning and heritage conservation through an association called Root Planning.

"People are more connected to buildings like the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau headquarters, the post office and some schools and markets. Those buildings have a social connection to the community," Inês Lei pointed out.

"The link between the population and the World Heritage sites is diminishing. People think that places like the A-Ma Temple and St Paul's Ruins are only for tourists," Lam Iek Chip, also a member of the Urban Planning



Arcades at the Inner Harbor

Committee, told Lusa.

Ten years after UNESCO's World Heritage listing, Lam Iek Chip and Inês Lei argue that some of the buildings that have a higher emotional value for the population are not part of the international organization's list and risk being demolished, considering the strong real-estate pressure in Macau.

The region has its own protection list that includes 128 buildings, but those sites are not subject to the same rules that apply to the areas recognized by UNESCO.

Both the interviewees consider public awareness of heritage and iden-

People think that places like the A-Ma Temple and St Paul's Ruins are only for tourists

LAM IEK CHIP

tity issues to be increasing, but point out that they need to address their concerns to those in power: "If the government and society don't do more, in ten years' time the heritage sites that are not included in buffer zones will be demolished. If that happens, the classified sites will be like a museum. (...) The city, and not only the so called historic center, must be seen as a whole and the urban development should be illustrated by keeping buildings from several eras."

Root Planning Association has thus created an architectonic map that includes 32 buildings that are not on UNESCO's list, among them the Cinema Alegria and the Portuguese School. The urban planers think that the

speedy pace of development has hindered heritage conservation, and they bemoan the fact that works being done now weren't begun ten years ago.

"We already lost the momentum to protect the buildings," Inês Lai says. Lam Iek Chip identifies the Inner Harbour as the area where that loss of momentum is most pronounced. "There are many buildings there that should be preserved, like the sidewalks with arcades and the buildings related to the port's activity, which trace the development of the costal line," he says. "The government has showed interest in preserving those arcades, but, in fact, many of them are gone, they are not part of a whole anymore, and when we discuss heritage conservation, we must see the whole picture." MDT/Lusa









# MACAU 5

## **ARTS AND CULTURE**

# Fair with extended English book offering

**THIS** year's edition of the Macau Book Carnival is seeking to inject positive energy into the city by cultivating reading culture among locals, according to the organizers of the event, which was presented yesterday. A wide range of books will be available at the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM)'s Multisport Pavilion from July 10 to 19.

Themed "Reading - energy of the mind," the 18th edition of the annual book fair invited a total of over 50 exhibitors, with foreign language titles accounting for one-seventh of this year's entire offering. According to the organizers, most of those books are new arrivals. Chan Im Wa, president of the Macao Literary Promotion Association, also one of the major organizers, told the media that around 12 tables, out of over 70 in total, are devoted to showcasing English books.



Chan Im Wa said that the carnival will see the release of 27 new books by local writers, 21 of which are from the second batch of the Macau Foundation's collective literature program.

Living in a gambling hub

where citizens are sometimes gripped by negativity, Chan encouraged the public to turn to reading to stay motivated.

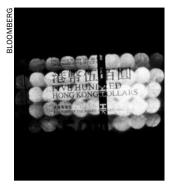
"Reading has become an important tool to appease our hearts and light up our brains. It's also getting unprecedentedly important for people living in Macau to read," said Chan in her address.

With the power of positive energy a running theme in this year's edition of the event, the organizer has invited an armless Hong Kong writer to share on July 12 how she made her life complete with the use of her legs. Another book penned by a local fisherman with only primary school education, which depicts the less-known historic development of the fishing industry in Chinese, will also be featured in the book fair.

Students interested in pursuing further studies in the Netherlands should not miss the talk on July 18, as two local graduates relate their study experiences back in Europe. They will also tell of the footprint they left across the Netherlands, which has become a popular study destination for Macau students to consider.

With Hong Kong's wellknown annual book fair to be held on July 15–21, Chan believes that local readers could benefit from the timing as well, since most of the city's new books, which usually are released to the public at around that time, will also be offered in this year's book carnival. **Staff reporter** 

# HKD7 million seized by Customs



A Korean national was preparing to leave Macau carrying HKD7 million in a large black backpack when Macau Customs stopped him at the airport. Officers asked him to open his bag and found multiple stacks of cash. According to a Sina News report, the man claimed that he won HKD13 million at a local casino and that he'd planned on depositing the 7 million he was caught with in his bank when he got home. He said he was unfamiliar with customs laws and wasn't aware that he needed to declare the money before inspection. The customs confiscated a total of HKD7 million in cash.

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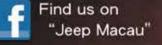
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#### **Brook Yang**

thu 02.07.2015

Times

**THE** Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT) is focusing on its primary task to allocate resources to the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Taipa section's construction, the office's new coordinator, Ho Cheong Kei, said. The office is striving to extend the route to the Macau peninsula's south end in the fourth quarter of this year.

Ho officially took office yesterday following an inauguration ceremony where he pledged: "The GIT will speed up proceedings on the Taipa section's construction, and solve the Depot Superstructure problem as soon as possible, so that the LRT system can commence operations sooner."

The new coordinator said that the government still hasn't reached an agreement to terminate its contract with the contractor accused of delaying the Depot Superstructure's construction. Nevertheless, he said that the negotiations are coming to an end, and that after the current contract is lifted, the government will take a full review of the existing construction progress. They will then assess whether the design needs to be adjusted before being opened for rebidding for a new contractor.

Construction of the LRT's De-

# LRT construction to extend to peninsula section at year-end



Ho Cheong Kei

pot Superstructure in Taipa – the "heart zone" of the entire LRT system – has been caught up in a dispute between the GIT and the contractor, as they have blamed each other for the project's severe delay.

Ho said that the government wouldn't rule out a judicial approach to resolve the issue, but acknowledged, "The ideal solution is still through negotiation, given that judicial means could affect the LRT's start of operation." In addition, he told media that the GIT is also working to extend the LRT construction to the first station across the sea, north of the Taipa section. Accordingly, the design of the Barra (A-Ma Temple) Station is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of this year, allowing tendering for construction.

Ho further revealed that public consultation results regarding the LRT's route in North Macau peninsula will be released within the month, marking one step closer to the Macau section's breaking ground.

"The public consultation held last year received some 10,000 opinions, most of them focusing on the routes of the Rua 1 de Maio viaduct and coastal viaduct. The coastal route received more support, while the Rua 1 de Maio viaduct plan drew considerable opposition," he said, adding that the government will consider those opposing views.

The Rua 1 de Maio viaduct plan has stirred controversy, as it will cover one-third of the Areia Preta Park's open-air area and 10 percent of its ground space. Meanwhile, the entire LRT Macau section has remained at a standstill since the LRT route was designed.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, appointed Ho Cheong Kei for a one-year term of office. He acknowledged at the inauguration ceremony that the GIT has faced many obstacles since it took charge of the large-scale and technically complex LRT project. "But it deserves recognition that the official team is making every effort to face challenges and overcome difficulties through its determination," he said.

## DIFFICULT DECISION FOR DEPARTMENT MERGERS

**RAIMUNDO ROSÁRIO** has said that when his Secretariat for Transport and Public Works completes restructuring, it will have four instead of 15 departments, each run by more than 500 civil servants. Currently, seven of the 15 departments each employ fewer than 100 people. He stressed that department mergers are no easy task, as there is a need to choose between the "scale" and "amount" of departments, as well as to follow each department's personnel and administrative procedures.

# Extra flight added to current Taoyuan-Macau schedule

**B**UDGET airline Tigerair Taiwan quency between Taoyuan and Macau. The airline currently operates two round-trip flights every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. However, from August 1, one additional flight will be introduced on each of those three days, resulting in three flights per day.

The new service is expected to depart the Taiwanese city at 6.05 a.m. and return from Macau at 8.35 a.m., offering more flexible options to travelers seeking a short and economic getaway, the carrier said.

While Tigerair Taiwan is optimistic about the demand for trips between the cities, V Air, a low-cost carrier owned by Taiwan's TransAsia Airways, will halt operations on that route as of next Friday, only three months after it was launched. According to the data from the Taiwanese Transportation Ministry, 41,120 Taiwanese visitors traveled to Macau in May, the highest number for that month since 2012.

# One more award for 'A Useless Fiction'

**CHEONG** Kin Man's award-wining short film, "A Useless Fiction," has just clinched another prize: "Distinción Amarilla." Known as "the Yellow Prize" in English, it was awarded at the Cinemística Film Festiva in the Spanish city of Granada after the film premiered at two screenings in Slovenia last month.

The 31-minute feature was

presented during the festival in the seminar titled "The chaos in the light of words" as part of UNESCO's program, the International Year of Light 2015.

The seminar, followed by a cultural exchange session between Macau and Spain, was also a session held in a tribute to the French-Swiss filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard. The film is expected to



go on a screening tour through the USA, Singapore, Portugal, Germany and Taiwan in the upcoming months.



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# BUSINESS At

#### Joe McDonald Business Writer, Beijing

HINESE authorities are scrambling to reassure jittery investors after soaring stock markets plunged, threatening to set back economic reform plans.

The market benchmark soared 150 percent from the start of the boom late last year in one of the world's fastest runups. It hit a peak June 12 and then reversed course and plunged 28 percent. It rebounded temporarily Tuesday before losing 5.2 percent yesterday.

A prolonged slump could disrupt Communist Party plans to use stock markets to make China's state-dominated economy more productive. The party wants state companies to raise money through stock sales to reduce debt and hopes they will compete harder if they answer to outside shareholders. It hopes stock investing will give an aging populace more options to save for retirement to ease demand for social spending.

"The government must pay great attention to the stability of the capital market for the sake of the health of the overall economy," said Liu Yanchun, an economist at Renmin University in Beijing.

Chinese leaders have responded with a rapid-fire series of measures to shore up investor confidence.

On Saturday, Beijing announced its fourth interest rate cut since November. That was followed Monday by an editorial in the state-run China Securities Journal that declared the market was in the midst of a "30-year golden era."

Also Monday, the government announced its 3 trillion yuan (USD500 billion) pension fund for public employees will start investing in stocks - a huge infusion of money, though that process is expec-

# China scrambles to reassure jittery stock traders



ted to be gradual.

China's stock market has little direct connection to its economy. Since trading began in 1990, the mainland's two exchanges in Shanghai and the southern city of Shenzhen have been used mostly to raise money for state companies, not entrepreneurs who create jobs and wealth. Investors react to changes in regulation and availability of credit to finance speculation rather than economic fundamentals.

And although it is among the world's biggest, China keeps its market sealed off from most global capital flows.

The latest boom took off after the state press last summer declared stocks underpriced. Millions of novice investors piled in, assuming Beijing would prop up prices if needed. Brokerages lent freely to finance trading. In November, regulators added to the influx of money by launching a program that allows Hong Kong investors limited access to mainland exchanges.

Momentum picked up even as growth in the world's second-largest economy sank to a two-decade low of 7.4 percent last year.

The market frenzy comes at a time when communist leaders are in the midst of complex, marathon effort to transform China's economy. They have tightened controls on investment that helped to drive the past decade's double-digit growth rates. At the same time, they are trying to nurture a slower, more self-sustaining expansion based on domestic consumption, services and technology-based industries.

Beijing wants to encourage broader public stock ownership but appeared to be alarmed by the speed of the price rise. In April, brokers were ordered to curb lending to traders and to limit other risks.

Investor enthusiasm finally faltered in mid-June after stronger economic data reduced expectations Beijing might ease credit further and concern over a glut of new stock offerings by Chinese companies.

That caused the market index to fall 14 percent last week. Gains for recent buyers were wiped out. Some sold shares to repay brokerage loans, fueling fear that might set off a downward price spiral.

On Monday, the Chinese securities regulator tried to reassure investors the decline was the natural result of a "too rapid" rise in prices.

"This is a result of normal market action," said Zhang Xiaojun, a spokesman for the China Securities Regulatory Commission, on the agency's microblog account.

Zhang tried to dispel fears of a selloff to repay brokerage loans.

"The scale of forced selling is small," he said in the statement. "The risk is controllable."

The latest announcements helped to reassure at least some investors.

"This week, from Monday, I thought I was going to fall apart, because I lost 35 percent of all my investments," said Christine Wang, 30, an office worker in Shanghai. "But I think that I should make it back." **AP** 



#### SUMMER SPECIAL OFFERS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS AT WYNN



Wynn Macau is introducing a series of attractive offers including accommodation, dining and spa pampering for local residents this summer from July 1 until September 30. Accommodation - Macau residents can stay at the Forbes Five-Star Wynn Macau. The package includes one-night's accommodation, choice of breakfast for two persons, complimentary WiFi, complimentary parking and late check-out till 3pm to ensure guests can enjoy their stay to the fullest.

Dining - Restaurants at Wynn Macau will be offering tasting menus for local gourmands. Guests can appreciate Northern traditional and Cantonese classic dim sum at the Two-star Michelin Golden Flower and One-star Michelin Wing Lei, sample Italian specialties at the Ristorante il Teatro and feast on a wide variety of dim sum at the signature Red 8 restaurant.

Spa - Residents can enjoy 20% saving on all spa treatments available at the Forbes Five-Star Spa at Wynn with a range of spa services including facials and massages. Complimentary parking is inclusive.

#### SANDS CHINA TEAM MEMBERS PERFORM IN TALENT AND QUIZ SHOW

Sands China's team members were in the spotlight Friday night at the Cotai Arena. The "Start Your Show" team member talent competition and "Because We Know -Sands China Product Knowledge Competition" both held their finales at the Cotai Arena. "It is our pleasure to be able to offer these two exciting competitions for our team members," said Antonio Ramirez, senior vice president of human resources for Sands China Ltd. "The team members - the ones on stage and those in the audience - enjoy themselves tremendously every year, and we get to witness a fantastic display of diverse talent. This tradition is just one of the ways we aim to provide an outstanding



work experience for our team members – who are the heart of our business and the key to our success."

Wang Chao from Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central, took home "Start Your Show's" Best Performance Award for her singing performance, while Randy Llarinas from Sands Macao's Concierge Team won the "Start Your Show" 2015 Team Member Award for his singing. In addition, each of the top 10 performers received a Top 10 award for making it to the finale of "Start Your Show", with acts ranging from singing, dancing and beatboxing to flair bartending.

# thu 02.07.2015

# PORTUGAL Mainland groups put forward proposals to buy Novo Banco

**THINESE** groups Fo-✓sun International and Anbang Insurance and the US fund management company Apollo Global Management have presented binding proposals for the purchase of Portugal's Novo Banco, the Portuguese press reported Tuesday.

The Resolution Fund and the Bank of Portugal received three binding bids to buy Novo Banco, according to a statement from the Bank of Portugal which did not identify the bidders, but weekly newspaper Expresso had reported that Spanish banking group Santander had pulled out and daily newspaper Diário Económico reported that fund manager Cerberus had also given up.

Apollo Global Management is an American investment fund that controls Portugal's Tranquilidade insurance company, Fosun International is



a Chinese conglomerate that acquired Portuguese insurance company Fidelidade and healthcare company Espírito Santo Saúde and Anbang Insurance is a Chinese financial group that has a strong presence in the insurance sector.

The Bank of Portugal will assess the proposals in the coming weeks, based on the criteria set out in the specifications of the sale procedure. These rules determine

that the best offers should be selected for a negotiation phase. In the indicative offers phase the Chinese competitors are known to have put forward the highest bids.

The "secret" of a successful bid will be the amount

paid, which will have to ensure minimum losses (preferably at a profit or no loss) for the Resolution Fund, which is paying interest nn the 4.9 billion -euro loan from the State received to prevent Banco Espírito Santo (BES) going bankrupt and being able to open its doors on 4 August, 2014, with a new name: Novo Banco. MDT/Macauhub

## **ANGOLA**

# Chinese company hired to build hydroelectric plant

**THE** government of Angola has hired a consortium made up of the China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) and Niara Holding to build the new Caculo Cabaça dam, in the Middle Kwanza Basin, according to a presidential order.

The order authorizes the Ministry of Energy and Water to sign the contract with the consortium in the amount of 489.6 billion kwanzas (about USD4 billion), which will be secured through a loan from a Chinese bank.

According to information from the consortium, cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa, the value of the contract is set at US\$4.5 billion and 80 months of work to build the dam with a capacity to produce 2,171 megawatts of electricity.

The specifications provide for construction of tunnels, civil works, supply, installation and testing of electromechanical equipment.

It also authorizes inclusion of the project in the Public Investment Program (PIP), and the finance minister, Armando Manuel, will "identify the fiscal space needed for initial payment of work" and negotiate a loan from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China with hedging by the China **Export and Credit Insurance Corporation** (Sinosure), to "ensure full payment of the contract." MDT/Macauhub

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**CHINA'S** new pledge to curb greenhouse gas emissions means the world's biggest carbon polluter must make a more aggressive push to install solar and wind power, according to an industry association.

Faster adoption will be key to meeting commitments because other zero-emissions sources such as nuclear and hydro are constrained by safety questions and availability, said Tang Wenqian, executive vice secretary-general of the Chinese Renewable Energy Industries Association.

Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday promised China will cut carbon emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 60 percent to 65 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels. China has already said it wants by 2020 to have 200 gigawatts of wind power and 100 gigawatts of solar.

"The nation should do more than the targets," said Tang, whose organization acts as a bridge between government policy makers and industry. "Installing 40 or 50 gigawatts of solar power a year is possible."

For 2015, China plans to add about 18 gigawatts of solar power capacity, almost equal to all the generating capacity available in the U.S. at the end of 2014.

China's greenhouse gas emissions have surged since 1997 when the last climate deal was signed, meaning the country now accounts for more than a quarter of the global total. China has also pledged to "peak" its emissions "around" 2030, by which time it's targeting getting 20 percent of all energy from renewables and nuclear power.

The pledge would require China to produce 30 times more solar power than the nation had at the end of 2014 or nine times more wind power.

The commitment coincides with increased installations of renewable power capacity and a push for a cap on coal, said



White smoke bellows from Shenhua Group Corp.'s power plant outside of Hami, Xinjiang province, China

# Beijing's climate goal calls for aggressive push on solar, wind

Tian Miao, a Beijing-based analyst at North Square Blue Oak Ltd., a London-based research company with a focus on China.

"It's achievable," Tian said.

China's pledges come as the nation applies the brakes to an expansion of coal-fired power plants, which consume the majority of China's fossil fuels.

"At the same time, the nation must raise its clean energy capacity," Tian said.

China's energy consumption growth weakened to 3.8 percent in 2014 - the lowest since 1998 - as the economy expanded at its slowest pace since 1990.

The world's biggest energy

consumer got 11 percent of its primary energy from non-fossil fuels including renewables and nuclear in 2014, up from 9.8 percent a year earlier, the National Energy Administration said on Dec. 31. The proportion of coal fell to 64.2 percent last year from 66 percent in 2013, according to the NEA.

China's emissions of carbon dioxide fell last year for the first time in more than 10 years, according to a Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimate based on preliminary energy demand data from China's National Bureau of Statistics.

China led in renewables last year with investments of USD89.5 billion, accounting for almost one out of every to Bloomberg New Energy Fithree dollars spent on clean nance figures released in Jaenergy in the world, according nuary. **Bloomberg** 

# CLIMATE TALKS SHIFT INTO FAST LANE WITH WORLDWIDE PLEDGES

THE PUSH for a global deal on climate change picked up speed from Latin America to Asia Tuesday, with the world's biggest greenhouse-gas emitter and the steward of its largest rainforest pledging new measures to curb warming. Brazil, in a joint statement with the U.S., promised to save an England-sized chunk of the Amazon and its carbon-absorbing plants and to double its renewable energy supply by 2030. The announcements put pressure on other developing nations such as India and Indonesia to follow, as well as industrialized nations such as Australia and Japan that have yet to spell out their efforts. The U.S. Tuesday tripled its goal for renewable power and South Korea, Serbia and Iceland submitted carbon-cutting plans to the UN. With Tuesday's entries, more than 40 countries, including the U.S. and the 28-nation European Union, responsible for more than 70 percent of global emissions, have made pledges.

# World Bank urges PRC to embrace basic financial reforms



**CHINA** needs fundamental reform of its state-dominated financial system to keep economic growth on track, the World Bank said yesterday.

The communist government needs to address wasteful investment, over -indebtedness and weak regulation of its shadow banking system, the bank said in a report. It said failure to do that could "deflect the economic trajectory."

The recommendations echo private sector analys-

ts who say Beijing needs to overhaul a government-run banking system that subsidizes state industry at the expense of savers and that provides little credit to entrepreneurs and emerging industries. "China has reached a critical phase of its economic and social development path," the World Bank said. The financial system "will need to be transformed to increase the efficiency of new investments and widen access to finance, enabling China to sustain solid growth and rebalance its economy."

The bank said it expects China's economic growth to decelerate this year to 7.1 percent from last year's two-decade low of 7.4 percent. It said growth should decline further to 6.9 percent by 2017.

The communist leadership is in the midst of a marathon effort to make China's economy more efficient and productive, in part by giving entrepreneurs a bigger role. The leadership has promised to make the banking system more market-oriented but has taken only modest steps to ease controls on interest rates and increase lending to the private sector.

Beijing needs to separate its roles as owner of China's banks, regulator and strategic planner and to construct a system that channels more lending to productive industries and

Workers load a steel frame outside a construction site at the Central Business District of Beijing

manages risks better, the World Bank said.

The Chinese state has formal ownership of 65 percent of commercial bank assets and de facto control of 95 percent of assets, according to the report. It said that while some other countries have state-owned banks, China's entire financial system is government-dominated.

"Instead of promoting the foundations for sound financial development, the state has interfered extensively and directly in allocating resources," the report said. **AP** 

# 

## HONG KONG

# Sparse crowds at anniversary march as democracy movement struggles

#### Vinicy Chan and Natasha Khan

**Herefore ONG** Kong's annual march against Chinese rule attracted a fraction of last year's turnout as democracy activists struggle to muster supporters after a year of protests failed to wrest political concessions out of Beijing.

Aside from summer heat of more than 32 Celsius, activists are battling internal divisions, protest fatigue and concern that no rally can sway the Communist Party to allow Hong Kong people to freely choose the city's leader.

Some who took to the streets yesterday seemed resigned after the 79-day Occupy movement failed to bring China to the bargaining table over its plans to vet the candidates for the first election of the city's chief executive.

"I don't think it is going to change a thing, it didn't do much in the past and is unlikely to change anything in the near future," said Danny Tang, a 36-year-old secondary school teacher who attended the march for the fourth straight year with his wife and five-year-old son. "It's unlikely to change anything under CY Leung's government, but I do cherish my right to express my discontent."

The protest comes less than two



A protester burns a picture of Hong Kong's Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying during a flag raising ceremony to mark the 18th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China

# It's unlikely to change anything under CY Leung's gov't, but I do cherish my right to express my discontent

DANNY TANG 36, SCHOOLTEACHER weeks after pro-democracy legislators blocked a China-backed proposal that would've let an elite committee screen candidates for the leadership election due in 2017. While the result was an embarrassment for the Communist Party, it means the election will be scrapped and the next chief executive will be selected by the same panel that has chosen all three local leaders since the U.K. left in 1997.

Organizers had predicted that 100,000 would attend yesterday's rally. Actual turnout appeared to be a fraction of that number and nowhere near the 150,000 of last year's march. Protesters held banners calling for Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to resign and for the city's de-facto constitution to be amended to permit free elections. Some carried the yellow umbrellas that became the symbol of last year's protest movement.

Democracy advocates are trying to convince Leung to revisit an issue that has already plunged the city into one crisis. Leung and the Communist Party's local representatives say they want to set aside the debate and turn their attention to the economic and social situation issues in the so-called special administrative region.

"We can't carry on spending this kind of effort on just one issue on the government's agenda," Leung told reporters Tuesday. "It is the common wish of the people of Hong Kong, of Hong Kong SAR Government, and the central authorities, that we should move on, that we should focus on other important areas that Hong Kong faces."

The battle over election reform has exposed rifts in both of the city's main political camps. Pro -establishment lawmakers criticized each other after a botched walk-out during the June 18 vote resulted in an unexpectedly lopsided 28-8 result against the election plan.

One democratic lawmaker, Ronny Tong, announced his resignation after the vote, citing his desire for a more moderate approach to Beijing. Differences over how best to challenge China contributed to half of the city's eight universities leaving the Hong Kong Federation of Students, a main organizer of last year's Occupy protests.

The divisions have made it harder for democracy advocates to muster numbers while others reevaluate whether protests are the best tactic. A June 14 rally attracted about 3,000, far fewer than the 50,000 predicted by the organizer, the Civil Human Rights Front.

"After the 79 days of occupation that apparently couldn't change anything, social movement activists have been exploring new, more militant form of action," said Ho-Fung Hung, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University, who studies Hong Kong and China. "The march will still attract some loyal supporters, but it becomes merely a fund raising event of the mainstream democrats." **Bloomberg** 

#### Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**HINA** yesterday pas-✓ sed sweeping new legislation reinforcing government controls over cyberspace in the wake of what it describes as growing threats to Chinese networks and national security. The vaguely worded National Security Law calls for strengthened management over the web and tougher measures against online attacks, theft of secrets, and the spread of illegal or harmful information.

achieve the goals set out, although a vast government Internet monitoring system has been in place for years.

China says it is a major target of hacking and other cyber-attacks, while the ruling Communist Party has expended vast efforts in blocking content available in China deemed by it to be subversive or illegal. China is also accused of running a state-sponsored effort to hack computers and steal government and commercial secrets overseas, while also spying on and harassing pro-democracy, Tibetan and human rights groups based abroad. Most recently, Beijing was suspected as being behind a massive hack into a U.S. federal government computer server that resulted in the theft

# New law to boost cyber security



and food safety. Spokeswoman Zheng Shu'na said an overarching legislation was needed to deal with "ever-growing security challenges". "Externally speaking,

the country must defend

its sovereignty, as well as security and development interests, and... it must

It said core information technology, critical infrastructure and important systems and data must be "secure and controllable" in order protect China's sovereignty over its cyberspace.

The law offered no details on how China would of personnel and security clearance records of 14 million employees and contractors. Chinese officials always deny engaging in such actions.

The National Security Law, passed overwhelmingly by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's rubberstamp legislature, replaces an earlier version that focused more narrowly on counter-espionage.

In addition to cyberspace, the new legislation covers a wide range of areas including the economy, social stability, territorial integrity, the military, culture, finance, technology, the environment also maintain political security and social stability," Zheng was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. **AP** 

## CY LEUNG RULES OUT SECURITY LAW FOR HK

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Leung Chun-ying yesterday dismissed fears over the impact China's newly adopted national security law could have for Hong Kong, ruling out any attempt to enact the controversial Article 23 of the Basic Law, the South China Morning Post reported. Pro-democracy lawmakers have suggested the Hong Kong government may soon attempt to resurrect national security legislation last attempted in 2003 but Leung denied there would be any impact on the city. "It is a piece of national law. It doesn't apply to Hong Kong," he said. But he added: "Naturally, Hong Kong is part of the country and has the responsibility and obligation to protect the security of the country."

#### Niniek Karmini, Medan

## **INDONESIA**

'NDONESIA'S air force said Lyesterday it will investigate if the transport plane that crashed into a city neighborhood, killing 141 people, was violating orders by carrying paying passengers. A local military commander said the search for bodies has ended.

The dead included all 122 on the plane, including military personnel and family members, and people in a residential area of Medan city where the C-130 Hercules crashed shortly after takeoff on Tuesday, North Sumatra police Maj. A. Tarigan told TVOne station.

The cause of the accident is not yet known but the pilot was trying to return to the airport because of an engine problem. At Adam Malik Hospital where bodies were taken, regional military commander Edy Rahmayadai told reporters that the rescue operation involving hundreds of soldiers and police had finished.

The C-130 was carrying many more passengers than the military first reported. Initially, the air force said there were 12 crew members on the 51-yearold plane and did not mention passengers. It then repeatedly raised the number of people on board, indicating lax controls and raising questions about whether the plane was accepting

AD

# Plane crash death toll reaches 141 as search effort ends



Investigators inspect the wreckage of the crashed air force transport plane in Medan, North Sumatra

paying passengers despite previous promises to crack down on the practice.

Hitching rides on military planes to reach remote destinations is common in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago that spans three time zones. The plane had traveled from the capital, Jakarta, and landed at two locations before stopping over at Medan on Sumatra, one of Indonesia's main islands.

Air force chief Air Marshal Agus Supriatna told reporters the C-130 was only authorized to carry military personnel and their families. He said he would investigate allegations of paying passengers.

A copy of the manifest seen by The Associated Press shows 32 passengers with no designation. The rest are described as either military or military family members. In some circumstances,

civilians such as government officials or researchers can get authorization to fly on military planes, according to Supriatna.

Dozens of family members gathered at Adam Malik Hospital vesterday. Outside its mortuary, more than 100 wood coffins were arranged in rows and women cried and screamed the names of loved ones killed in the disaster.

A group of students from a Catholic high school in the city screamed hysterically as a body bag was opened, revealing the badly bruised corpse of classmate Esther Lina Josephine, 17, clasping her 14-year-old sister.

"She looks like she wanted to protect her younger sister," said the school's principal, Tarcisia Hermas. "We've lost kind and smart students who had so many creative ideas."

Hermas said the sisters were traveling during school vacation to see their parents in the remote Natuna island chain, where the father of the teenagers is stationed with the army.

Adam Malik Hospital spokeswoman Sairi M. Saragih said more than 60 bodies have been identified.

Indonesia has a patchy civil aviation safety record and its cash-strapped air force has suffered a series of accidents. Between 2007 and 2009, the European Union barred Indonesian airlines from flying to Europe because of safety worries.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said he ordered the defense minister and armed forces commander to carry out a "fundamental overhaul" of the management of military weaponry.

"We can no longer simply buy weapons, but should think to modernize our weapons systems" he told reporters in Depok, West Java. "We have to be involved from the beginning in design, production, operations, training, maintenance and elimination of aged weapons." AP





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# BEAK ASIA-PACIFIC 13



Former slave fisherman Myint Naing and his mother, Khin Than, cry as they are reunited after 22 years at their village in Mon State, Myanmar

## SEAFOOD FROM SLAVERY

# Myanmar fisherman goes home after 22 years a slave

#### Margie Mason, Tual

LL he did was ask to go home. The last time the Burmese slave made the same request, he was beaten almost to death. But after being gone eight years and forced to work on a boat in faraway Indonesia, Myint Naing was willing to risk everything to see his mother again.

So he threw himself on the ground and begged for freedom. Instead, the captain vowed to kill him for trying to jump ship, on slaves to supply fish to the United States, Europe and Japan — on dinner tables and in cat food bowls.

Myint, his family and his friends recounted his story to

Myint is one of more than 800 slaves rescued after a yearlong Associated In 1993, a broker visited Myint's village in southern Myanmar with promises of jobs for young men in Thailand. Myint was only 18 years old, with no travel experience, but his family was desperate for money. So his mother finally relented. When the agent returned, he hustled his new recruits to grab their bags immediately.

Myint's mother wasn't home. He never got to say goodbye.

A month later, Myint found himself at sea. After 15 days, his boat finally docked on the remote Indonesian island of Tual, surrounded by one of the world's richest fishing grounds. The Thai captain shouted that everyone on board now belonged to him: "You Burmese are never going home. You were sold, and no one is ever coming to rescue you." Myint spent weeks at a time on the open ocean, living only on rice and the parts of the catch no one else would eat. As Thailand's seafood export industry has expanded, overfishing has forced trawlers farther into foreign waters. So migrants are now trapped for months, or even years, aboard floating prisons.

men worked up to 24 hours a day. There was no medicine, and they were forced to drink boiled sea water. Anyone who took a break or fell ill was hit by the captain. Fishermen said that workers on some boats were killed if they slowed down, while others simply flung themselves overboard.

Myint was paid only USD10 a month, and sometimes not at all. By 1996, after three years, he had had enough: He asked for the first time to go home.

His request was answered by a helmet cracking his skull. He ran away. An Indonesian family took mercy on Myint until he healed, and then offered him food and shelter for work on their farm. For five years, he lived this simple life. But he couldn't forget his relatives in Myanmar, otherwise known as Burma, or the friends he left behind on the boat. In 2001, he heard one captain was offering to take fishermen back home if they agreed to work. So, eight years after he first arrived in Indonesia, he returned to the sea. But the conditions were just as appalling as the first time, and the money still didn't come. If anything, the slave trade was getting worse. To meet growing demand, brokers sometimes even drugged and kidnapped migrant workers to get them on board.

After nine months on the water, Myint's captain told the crew he was abandoning them to go back to Thailand alone. Furious and desperate, the Burmese slave once again pleaded to go home. That, he said, was when he was chained to the boat.

Searching desperately, he found a small piece of metal to pick the lock. Hours later, he heard a click. The shackles slid off. He dove into the black water after midnight and swam to shore.

Myint hid alone in the jungle in Tual. He couldn't go to the police, afraid they might hand him over to the captains. He had no numbers to call home, and he was scared to contact the Myanmar embassy because it would expose him as an illegal migrant.

He had lost nearly a decade to slavery, and had suffered what appeared to be a stroke, leaving his right arm partly paralyzed. He started to believe the captain had been right: There really was no escape.

By now, he had forgotten what his mother looked like and knew his little sister would be all grown up.

In 2011, the solitude had become too much. Myint moved to the island of Dobo, where he heard there was a small community of former Burmese slaves. He continued to live quietly, surviving on the vegetables he grew.

Then one day in April, a friend told him an AP report on slavery had spurred the Indonesian government to start rescuing current and former slaves. Officials came to Dobo and took Myint back to Tual — the island where he was once enslaved — to join hundreds of other free men.

After 22 years in Indonesia, Myint was finally going home. But what, he wondered, would he find?

The flight to Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon, was a terrifying first. Myint, now 40, was a stranger to his own country. Making his way to his small village, he spotted a plump Burmese woman. They exploded into an embrace, and the tears that spilled were of joy and mourning for all the lost time apart. "Brother, it's so good that you are back!" his little sister sobbed. "We don't need money! We just need family!"

and chained him for three days without food or water.

He was afraid he would disappear. And that his mother would have no idea where to look.

Myint is one of more than 800 current and former slaves rescued or repatriated after a yearlong Associated Press investigation into pervasive labor abuses in Southeast Asia's fishing industry.

Thailand's booming seafood business alone runs on an estimated 200,000 migrant workers, many of them forced onto boats after being tricked, kidnapped or sold. It's a brutal trade that has operated for decades, with companies relying

# Press investigation into labor abuses in SE Asia's fishing industry

AP, which also followed parts of his journey. It is strikingly similar to accounts given by many of the more than 330 current and former slaves from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand interviewed in person or in writing by AP.

During the busiest times, the

Minutes later, he saw his mother, running toward him.

He howled and fell to the ground. She swept him up in her arms and softly stroked his head, cradling him as he let everything go.

He was finally free to see the face from his dreams. He would never forget it again. **AP** 

#### Julie Pace, White House Correspondent, Washington

**THE** United States and Cuba have agreed to open embassies in each other's capitals, the biggest tangible step in the countries' historic bid to restore ties after more than a half-century of hostilities.

President Barack Obama was expected to announce the agreement yesterday at the White House. The U.S. Embassy in Havana is scheduled to open later this month.

The U.S. and Cuba have been negotiating the re-establishment of embassies following a surprise December announcement that secret talks had led to an agreement to restart diplomatic relations.

For Obama, ending the U.S. freeze with Cuba is central to his foreign policy legacy as he nears the end of his presidency. Obama has long promoted the value of direct engagement with global foes and has argued that the U.S. embargo on the communist island just 145 kilometers south of Florida was ineffective.

A senior Obama administration official confirmed the em-

### **USA-CUBA**

# Washington, Havana reach agreement to open embassies

bassy planning. The official insisted on anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter ahead of the president.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who is in Vienna for nuclear negotiations with Iran, is also expected to speak about the embassy openings. Kerry has said previously that he would travel to Cuba for an embassy opening.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday evening that it would meet with U.S. Interests Section chief Jeffrey DeLaurentis yesterday morning to receive a message from Obama about reopening embassies.

The U.S. cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961 after Fidel Castro's revolution. The U.S. spent decades trying to either actively overthrow Cuba's communist government or isolate the island, including toughening the economic embargo first imposed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Since the late 1970s, the United States and Cuba have operated diplomatic missions called interests sections in each other's capitals. The missions are technically under the protection of Switzerland and do not enjoy the same status as embassies.

Significant issues remain as the U.S. and Cuba look to normalize relations. Among them: talks on human rights; demands for compensation for confiscated American properties in Havana and damages to Cuba from the embargo; and possible cooperation on law enforcement, including the touchy topic of U.S. fugitives sheltering in Havana. **AP** 



A classic American car passes in front of some signs that reads in Spanish "Long Live Free Cuba" in Havana

# EGYPT Militants attack army checkpoints in Sinai, kill 38

#### Ashraf Sweilam, El-Arish

**SLAMIC** militants yesterday unleashed a wave of simultaneous attacks, including suicide car bombings, on Egyptian army checkpoints in the restive northern Sinai Peninsula, killing at least 38 soldiers, security and military officials said.

The coordinated morning assaults in Sinai came a day after Egypt's president pledged to step up the battle against Islamic militants and two days after the country's state prosecutor was assassinated in the capital, Cairo.

The scope and intensity of the attacks underscored the resilien-



## TUNISIA

# Beach killer trained with museum gunmen

#### Bouazza Ben Bouazza and Andrea Rosa, Tunis

**THE** student who massacred tourists in a Tunisian seaside resort trained in a jihadi camp in Libya at the same time as the two men who attacked a leading museum in March, a top security official said Tuesday, enforcing the notion of a link between the two assaults and raising fears of more attacks from an underground world clawing at this North African nation's budding democracy.

Investigators were searching nationwide for accomplices in the attack that killed 38 tourists and questioning a handful recently detained.

"It has been confirmed that the attacker trained in Libya with weapons at the same period as the Bardo attackers," said Rafik Chelli, the secretary of state for the Interior Ministry. "He crossed the borders secretly."

Chelli said Seifeddine Rezgui, a 24-year-old who obtained a Masters degree in electrical engineering, left his studies at Kairouan University and sneaked into the western Libyan town of Sabratha in January — when the two young men who carried out the museum attack in Tunis were there. Sabratha, the site of Roman ruins, is one of several places in chaotic Libya where radical groups have training camps. The Islamic State, which has a strong Libyan presence, claimed responsibility for the beach resort attack.

ce and advanced planning by the militants who have for years battled Egyptian security forces in northern Sinai but intensified their insurgency over the past two years just as the government threw more resources into the drawn-out fight.

An Islamic State affiliate in Egypt claimed responsibility for yesterday's attacks, saying its fighters targeted a total of 15 army and police positions and staged three suicide bombings, two of which targeted checkpoints and one that hit an officers' club in the nearby city of el-Arish.

The authenticity of the claim could not be immediately verified but it was posted on a Facebook page associated with the group.

Except for the attack at the offi-

A military procession accompanies the casket of state prosecutor Hisham Barakat at his funeral in Cairo

cers' club, the rest took place in the town of Sheikh Zuweid and targeted at least six military checkpoints, the officials said. The militants also took soldiers captive and seized weapons and several armored vehicles, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

At least 54 other soldiers were wounded, the officials said. As fighting raged, an army Apache gunship destroyed one of the armored carriers captured by the militants as they were driving it away, the officials added.

Egypt's military spokesman,

Brig. Gen. Mohammed Samir, said clashes were still underway in the area between the armed forces and the militants. His statement put the number of soldiers killed so far at 10, but the conflicting numbers could not immediately be reconciled in the immediate aftermath of a major attack.

Samir's statement, posted on his official Facebook page, said some 70 militants attacked five checkpoints in northern Sinai and that Egyptian troops killed 22 off them and destroyed three all-terrain vehicles fitted with antiaircra-

ft guns. AP

There has been no previous indication that Rezgui had left Tunisia.

The invisibility of the attacker, like those who carried out the Bardo attack, is for Tunisia and elsewhere, the biggest challenge in preventing terrorism.

The spokesman for the Interior Ministry, Mohamed Ali Aroui, said it was not immediately clear whether Rezgui trained in the same group as the Bardo attackers or whether they were linked to the Islamic State organization.

But the presence of radical groups in Libya increases the threat level to its Tunisian neighbor, as does the approaching end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. **AP** 



### GREECE

# Tsipras makes concession but no deal seen before Sunday vote

#### **Elena Becatoros, Athens**

**REECE'S** government has made new concessions in talks with its creditors, though some European officials said they were still not good enough and that a deal was nevertheless impossible before a Greek referendum on Sunday.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras sent a letter Tuesday night (early yesterday, Macau time), just hours before the country's bailout program was due to expire, saying his government was prepared to accept creditors' proposals made last weekend, subject to certain amendments.

The creditors did not accept Greece's new overture, leaving the country's bailout program to expire. But eurozone finance ministers were to meet again yesterday to discuss the terms again. Hopes that Tsipras was softening his position — after refusing for five months the spending cuts



Demonstrators shout slogans during a rally organized by supporters of the YES vote for the upcoming referendum in front of the Greek Parliament in Athens

that creditors had demanded in exchange for loans — boosted markets yesterday.

But German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble was clear that no deal was imminent, at least not before Greece holds a popular vote on the creditors' proposals on Sunday.

indeed no basis (for an agreement)," Schaeuble said.

"Before a referendum, there is

In Athens, crowds of anxious

elderly Greeks thronged banks for hours from before dawn yesterday, struggling to be allowed to withdraw their maximum of 120 euros (USD134) for the week after the government reopened some banks to help pensioners who don't have bank cards.

Greece is in a financial limbo now that its bailout program has expired, cutting it off from vital financing and pushing it one step closer to leaving the euro. The country has put limits on cash withdrawals in order to keep banks from collapsing.

Its situation was further worsened Tuesday when it failed to repay a debt to the International Monetary Fund, the first developed country to do so. The last country to miss an IMF payment was Zimbabwe in 2001. As long as it is in arrears on the payment to the IMF, one of the country's main creditors, Greece cannot get any more money from the organization.

Greece's crisis took a turn for the worse after Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras announced last weekend that he would put a deal proposal by Greece's international creditors to a referendum on Sunday, July 5, and urged a "No" vote.

The move increased fears the country could soon fall out of the euro and saw Greeks rushing to pull money out of ATMs, leading the government to shutter its banks and restrict banking transactions. Greeks are now limited to ATM withdrawals of 60 euros (\$67) a day and cannot send money abroad or make international payments without special permission.

European officials and Greek opposition parties have been adamant that a "No" vote on Sunday will mean Greece will leave the euro and possibly even the EU. The government rejects the argument as scaremongering, and says dismissing creditor demands will mean the country is in a better negotiating position.

However, government officials have begun hinting that the referendum might not go ahead if agreement with creditors is reached this week.

"Look, if a deal is found, there is a chance there could be this possibility too. Everything is developing," Health Minister Panagiotis Kouroumplis said when asked during a morning news show on Antenna television whether the referendum could be called off under certain circumstances.

On Tuesday night, Deputy Prime Minister Yannis Dragasakis hinted the same. The government decided on the referendum, he said on state television, "and it can make a decision on something else."

It was unclear, however, how that would be possible as Parliament has already voted for the referendum to go ahead. **AP** 



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# 16 INFOTAINMENT 資訊/娛樂

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# Times

# what's ON

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays) 2pm & 8pm (Saturdays & Sundays) UNTIL: July 26, 2015 VENUE: The Venetian Theatre LANGUAGE: English with Chinese subtitles ADMISSION: MOP280, MOP480, MOP680 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8888

PANTONE 0022 M – PAINTING EXHIBITION BY JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays and public holidays) UNTIL: July 18, 2015 ADMISSION: Free VENUE: Creative Macau, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm) UNTIL: December 31, 2015 VENUE: Multi-function Hall, Handover Gifts Museum of Macao ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays) ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

# Offbeat



Emergency responders assist a teenage girl at the scene of a shark attack in Oak Island, N.C.

## RECENT SPIKE IN SHARK ATTACKS REPORTED OFF CAROLINAS COAST

Shark experts have a not-so-reassuring explanation for a recent spate of attacks along on the coast of the Carolinas: It's mainly because so many people are getting in the water.

Six shark attacks were recorded in June in North Carolina waters, and the two most recent victims had to be flown to a hospital in Virginia for treatment. That's more than North Carolina has recorded in any single year dating to 2000. But it's all a matter of perspective, said George Burgess, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research.

There were 28 attacks reported in Florida in 2014. So far this year, there have been 11 shark attacks there, with eight of those in neighboring Brevard and Volusia counties. Volusia is home to Daytona Beach, which is often packed with tourists.

"Obviously that's a much smaller area than the area of North Carolina that's been affected, from the southern border up to Cape Hatteras," Burgess said. "... Those eight attacks have not generated much more than passing interest here in Florida."

Americans made 2.2 billion visits to beaches in 2010, up from 2 billion in 2001, according to a U.S. Army Corps of

# **TV canal macau**

TDM News (Repeated) 13:00 News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast 13:30 **RTPi** Live 14:30 The Illusionist (Repeated) 18:50 Soap Opera 19:40 20:30 Main News, Financial & Weather Report TDM Talk Show 21:00 21:30 Muscellaneous 22:10 The Illusionist **TDM News** 23:00 23:30 **Documentary Serie** 00:05 Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) 00:35 **RTPi** Live



### CINETEATRO

**03 J**∪∟- 8 J∪∟



TED 2\_ ROOM 1 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm Director: Seth MacFarlane Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Amanda Seyfried, Morgan Freeman Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 115min

TERMINATOR: GENISYS\_

ROOM 2 (2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30pm (3D) 7.15 Director: Alan Taylor Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 120min

JURASSIC WORLD

9.30 pm Director: Colin Trevorrow Starring: Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 124min

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD\_ ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm (4 - 5 JUL) 2.30, 9.30 pm Director: Thomas Vinterberg Starring: Carey Mulligan, Matthias Schoenaerts Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 94min

MINIONS\_

# this day in history



## 2005 MILLIONS ROCK TO LIVE 8 MESSAGE

Concerts in 10 cities, including London, Philadelphia, Paris, Berlin, Johannesburg, Rome and Moscow played to hundreds of thousands of people. A TV audience of several hundred million were watching the gigs, ahead of the G8 summit of leaders next week.

Bob Geldof said the day had been "full of hope and possibility and life". In London Madonna, U2, Coldplay, Sir Elton John and Sting all performed.

Almost all of the singers involved took the opportunity to explain their reasons for performing. Taking to the stage Madonna asked the crowd: "Are you ready to start a revolution? Are you ready to change history? I said, are you ready?"

She was joined on stage by 24-year-old Birhan Woldu, one of the starving children featured in the original Live Aid concert who was helped thanks to money raised 20 years ago.

In Philadelphia, Destiny's Child, Jay Z and Bon Jovi were among the big name performers. Actor and singer Will Smith who hosted the concert said: "More than 200 hundred years ago, just down the block, America declared its independence. Today we all gather here to declare our interdependence. Today we hold this truth to be self-evident; We are all in this together."

In Canada, Bryan Adams and Neil Young entertained the crowd, while the Pet Shop Boys played in front of Red Square in Moscow. In Tokyo, which had been the first of the concerts to start, Bjork performed, while in Berlin Green Day were among the big name stars. In Johannesburg the biggest cheer of the night was for former leader Nelson Mandela.

He told the crowd that the G8 leaders had a "historic opportunity to open the door to hope and the possibility of a better future for all". More than 200,000 people were at the concert in Hyde Park, London, while thousands more watched via big screens at locations around the UK.

The Who and Pink Floyd, who had reformed with original singer Roger Waters, were the final two bands to take to the stage. The concert climaxed with a finale of Paul McCartney and all the other performers singing the chorus to the Beatles' hit Hey Jude. Sir Paul said: "Everybody who's come along today has come for the right reason. We hope that the people, the heads of G8, are listening hard. They can't avoid this, they cannot have missed it and all you people who've come along for this message - we love you."

Other London performers included The Scissor Sisters, Keane, Travis, UB40, the Stereophonics and REM. Earlier U2's Bono, who opened the London concert with Sir Paul McCartney, told the crowd: "This is our moment, this is our time, this is our chance to stand up for what is right. We are not looking for charity, we are looking for justice."

The concerts have not been without their critics, however, with some arguing that the campaign is over-simplifying the issue of global poverty. Some anti-poverty charities and African leaders believe the event is too focused on money, rather than the problems of unequal trade, and good governance in Africa itself.

But Geldof told BBC News: "There's one plan. It's debt; trade and aid and governance. Prime, pump an economy, create good government and we'll get people out of poverty.

"That's what this is about. We'll jump if you jump and we're all jumping on behalf of those who can't even crawl."

More than 26.4 million people from around the world sent text messages on Saturday in support of the Live 8 campaign to cancel the debts of the poorest countries, setting a world

Engineers estimate.

"We're basically flooding them out of their own home. It's a function of how many people we've got," Burgess said. "You get this unholy mix of bait fish, sharks and humans together. When you have that, you're going to have some bites."

Roger Rulifson, a distinguished professor of biology and senior scientist at East Carolina University, said that there have been reports of small bait fish coming closer to shore this summer, which attracts sharks. There have also been reports of larger numbers of sea turtles along the coast, which sharks also like to eat, he said.

Rulifson said he recently vacationed at Ocean Isle Beach, where there's already been one reported shark bite, and was unintentionally catching small black tip sharks with minnows on an inlet on the island's west end.

Rulifson said one of his graduate students has also done research showing that bull sharks, which can be one of the more aggressive shark breeds found off the Carolinas, have been able to create a nursery in the Pamlico Sound off the Outer Banks each year since 2011.

Each attack is also unique, and it's highly unlikely there's any one dangerous shark roaming the coast, especially given the extensive geographic area in which they've occurred, said Fred Scharf, professor of fisheries biology at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. **AP** 

#### ROOM

(4 - 5 JUL) 4.45, 7.30 pm Director: Pierre Coffin, Kyle Balda Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English) Duration: 91min

#### MACAU TOWER

02 J∪∟ - 15 J∪∟

#### TERMINATOR: GENISYS\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm Director: Alan Taylor Starring: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jason Clarke, Emilia Clarke Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 125min



record, organizers said.

The UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told the crowd in London: "This is really a United Nations. The whole world has come together in solidarity with the poor. "On behalf of the poor, the voiceless and the weak I say thank you."

In Scotland, where the G8 leaders will meet, more than 200,000 protesters took place in a peaceful march urging the politicians to take action on poverty in Africa.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Live8 concerts were intended to draw attention to the summit of G8 leaders meeting to discuss global poverty at Gleneagles in Scotland, the following week. The G8 summit did agree to a \$50bn aid programmed for the developing countries and Bob Geldof was quick to claim success for the "Make Poverty History" campaign. The G8 nations also agreed to cancel the debts of 18 poorest countries - while Africa continued to press for all African debts to be cancelled.

On the question of climate change there was little progress with the US firmly opposed.

# 

# 資訊/娛樂 INFOTAINMENT 17

### YOUR STARS



## Mar. 21-Apr. 19

What do you really want? Things look good, but you can always reach for more, and your ambitious nature comes out in force today. Make sure that you're dealing with the right people.



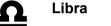
May 21-Jun. 21 Your passion is engaged today - it may be a political cause, a charity or just a friend in need, but you are there, doing all that you can. If you don't know yet what's needed, ask



around!

#### Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Any conflicts that arise today - and there will be a few - are almost certainly linked to ego rather than anything substantive. You should make sure that you're picking your battles wisely.



## Sep.23-Oct. 22

Does your love life need a lift? It should come tonight, or maybe earlier in the day, as your sweetie or someone you've been crushed out on for a while finally takes serious notice.



#### Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your communication style is a perfect match for today's frenetic pace, so make sure that you're keeping your people in the loop. You may be the only person who knows how it all works!

#### Aquarius ~~~

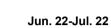


Change is coming - and you are the one bringing it! You may want to try to warn those involved, but it could also be fun to spring it on them without warning. It's entirely up to you!



Your conservative nature - which may or may not have anything to do with your politics — is making you grouchy today. You don't like some new change that was just announced, but you should give it a whirl.





Conflicting ideas may pop up over and over today - so do what you can to either make peace or to throw your weight behind the right side early. Your input is in demand, and should be taken seriously.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You can't help but notice that things are harder to deal with today, but that could just mean that you need to adapt your own routines, rather than simply throw up your hands and walk away.

# Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're not so sure what to make of today's conflict with your roommates or family - but try not to turn it into a major battle! It's likely situational, and should make your life quite a bit weirder.

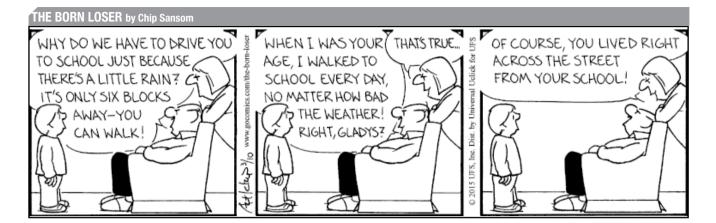


Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Finances are still on your mind, which should be a good thing - your life and interests are all lined up in the right direction, and you should be able to push your savings into something new.

# Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

You are feeling the urge to go to sleep at some point in the middle of the day — but you should just let your mind wander instead. A dream image is sure to come to you that inspires you to get back to it!



# SUDOKU

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## VEATHER

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CHINA			
Beijing	21	33	cloudy/clear
Harbin	21	23	cloudy/thundershower
Tianjin	23	32	clear/cloudy
Urumqi	20	29	clear
Xi'an	22	34	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	11	26	cloudy/shower
Chengdu	21	32	cloudy
Chongqing	22	31	heavy rain/moderate rain
Kunming	18	28	cloudy
Nanjing	21	27	thundershower/overcast
Shanghai	21	27	moderate rain
Wuhan	20	29	moderate rain/cloudy
Hangzhou	22	27	moderate rain/heavy rain
Taipei	27	35	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	27	36	clear
Hong Kong	26	33	cloudy
WORLD			
WORLD			
Moscow	17	26	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	29	drizzle
Paris	12	32	overcast/drizzle
London	12	25	overcast/drizzle
New York	21	26	moderate rain

#### CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Que. neighbor; 4- Fantasy genre; 9- Bowwow; 14- Lawyer's charge; 15- Central point; 16- Red leader?; 17- Mother of Nero; 19- Floating platforms; 20-Corporation; 21- Grecian architectural style; 23- Start of North Carolina's motto; metabolism: 27- Johnny Bench's team: 30- Voluble talk: 32- Jazzman 24-Adderley; 33- Rider's repair shop; 37- Minute Maid Park player; 39- Intimidate; 40- Hybrid citrus fruit; 42- Speed contests; 43- Golf hazard; 44- Up to, informally; 45- Chatter; 48- Split; 50- Acquired relative; 51- "\_\_\_ grip!"; 55- Drat!; 57- Conger catcher; 58- Stern with a bow; 60- Headed east; 64- \_\_\_ luck!; 65- Threepio's \_ luck!; 65- Threepio's buddy; 66- \_\_\_\_ wop; 67- They may buckle; 68- San Rafael's county; 69- Blow it;

DOWN: 1- Old enough; 2- Old Ethiopian emperor; 3- Garr and Hatcher; 4- Dirty Harry's org.; 5- One with a beat; 6- Here, in Le Havre; 7- Enjoyable; 8- Book of the Bible; 9- Fishing reel; 10- TV studio

S N I

sign; 11- Not centered; 12- Monitor, for short; 13- Contains; 18- Land in la mer; 22- Corrida call: 24- Exploded: 25- Bern's river; 26- Pig's digs; 28- "Our Gang" girl; 29- Condescend; 30- Explosion; 31-Abbreviated time off; 33- Out of \_\_\_; 34-



42 44

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Benefit; 35- Having a downward curve; 36-Rap's Dr. \_\_\_; 38- Pepper, e.g.; 40- See yal; 41- Over; 43- Letters on McGwire's cap; 46- Intelligence; 47- Pants measurement; 49- Kid; 51- Prizm maker; 52- Give the slip; 53- Choir member; 54- Zeal; 56- Some TVs; 57- Black, in poetry; 58- Variety; 59-Trinity member; 61- Altar constellation; 62-Orch. section; 63- French pronoun;

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FOR RENT	<b>One Grantai, Unit Y</b> <sup>Taipa</sup>	<b>lau Lei Garden</b> Taipa	Houston Court, Coloane Village Coloane	Nam Long Taipa	property <sup>sinc</sup>
More info, please contact us Info@JMLproperty.Com (853) 2835 2699 Office	3 Bedrooms Apartment Beautiful Green Views HKD 22,000 / 2,158 sq ft Ref: 1505508	3 Bedrooms Apartment Views across Taipa HKD 15,500 / 1,100 sq ft Ref: 1505503	t 1 Bedroom Apartment Recently Upgraded HKD 14,400 / 800 sq ft Ref: 1505502	Studio Apartment Centrally Located HKD 11,000 / 600 sq ft Ref: 15050512	jnl jnl jnl



# Lausanne favored for 2020 Youth Olympics

Lausanne appears favored to win 2020 Youth Winter Games hosting rights after an International Olympic Committee evaluation of the two candidates. An IOC report notes uncertainty about how Romanian city Brasov would fund a 40 percent budget rise after adding permanent venues for curling and halfpipe. Brasov proposes an operating budget of USD17.6 million, with almost 85 percent of it publicly funded. Lausanne, the IOC's home city, has a \$42.2 million budget target with two-thirds publicly funded. The IOC was concerned that a stadium in Lausanne to host ice hockey, figure skating, and short-track skating will not be finished until June 2019. Neither candidate has a sliding track for bobsled, skeleton, and luge. The IOC did not request plans for one. IOC members will vote on July 31 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

# FOOTBALL | COPA AMERICA Messi & Argentina shining together, closer to elusive title

#### Pablo Elias Giussani, Conception

**LIONEL** Messi is a step closer to finally breaking through with Argentina. The Barcelona star heads into the Copa America final with a chance to end his nation's 22-year title drought, and prove that he can replicate his club-level success with the national team.

Messi thrived in leading Argentina to a 6-1 rout of Paraguay in the semifinals on Tuesday, setting up a final against host Chile on Saturday. Messi didn't score but helped to set up five goals, including a spectacular run past several defenders from near midfield.

It is Messi's and Argentina's second chance in a year to lift a trophy, and the first since the World Cup final in Brazil. "We really want to win this one, we are very hopeful," the 28-yearold playmaker said through a translator.

Argentina hasn't won a significant trophy since the 1993 Copa America, when Messi was



Lionel Messi kicks the ball during Copa America's semifinal

aged six. He lost the 2007 final to Brazil in Venezuela, and was eliminated in the 2011 quarterfinals at home by Uruguay.

Victory on Saturday would give Argentina its 15th Copa America title, tying Uruguay as the tournament's most successful team. Messi has won nearly every title possible with Barcelona but nothing with Argentina's senior squad, which has always prompted a lot of criticism against him. Many Argentines complain that with the national team he has never played as well as he does with Barcelona. "I really want to win something with the national team," said Messi, a three-time world player of the year.

Although Messi helped Argentina's Under-23s win the Olympic gold medal at the 2008 Games in Beijing, his first major tournament was the 2006 World Cup in Germany, where the team fell in the quarterfinals. It was the same result at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, and the great run in the 2014 World Cup ended with a heartbreaking loss to Germany in the final at Maracana Stadium.

Messi didn't have a good start in this year's Copa America, but improved. He played well in the quarterfinal victory over Colombia, and was even better in Tuesday's semifinal, although he didn't score. His only goal came off a penalty kick in the opener.

"The scoring chances that he creates almost count as a goal," Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said. "I don't see him worried. On the contrary, I see him happy. He doesn't need to be the team's goalscorer to be happy."

Messi said he may be saving his goals for the final.

"Hopefully it will happen," he said. "It's important that we reached our first goal, which was to reach the final." **AP** 



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# SPORTS 19

#### Samuel Petrequin, Paris

**HE** Tour de France is like a good bouillabaisse, the traditional Mediterranean seafood stew. Take out one ingredient, and it does not taste the same.

The Tour starting on Saturday has all the ingredients in place:

A nervy first week on treacherous roads.

—Towering mountains passes to climb.

-The grandest of finales up 21 hairpin bends to the Alpe d'Huez ski station.

-Four genuine contenders, the most in years, all at the top of their game.

This is the recipe for an appetizing three-week feast of cycling. "The way the Tour is structured this year, it is really going to be an epic battle between the big rivals," 2013 champion Chris Froome said. "Probably the biggest battle we've seen for years in the Tour de France. It's really exciting."

The race between Froome, defending champ Vincenzo Nibali, two-time winner Alberto Contador, and 2014 Giro d'Italia champ Nairo Quintana promises to draw eyeballs from the very first stage, a 14-kilometer individual time trial in the Dutch city of Utrecht, the only solo stage against the clock.

Following an anti-clockwise path, the route takes the peloton across Belgium and through World War I battlefields before heading to the cyclingmad Brittany region.

The second half of the race features three days in the Pyrenees, and four in the Alps, with a climax at the Alpe d'Huez before the ceremonial ride leading to the final sprint on the Champs Elysees.

Organizers have drastically reduced the distance of time trials to ensure the Tour remains open until the final Alpine stage featuring the punishing climb to the ski resort.

There's a short team time trial in Brittany at the end of the first block of racing, a nine-

# All ingredients in place for mouthwatering Tour de France



a classic race in its own right." The Team Sky leader has good reason to be worried about possible early pitfalls. As the defending champ last year, he was forced out during the fifth stage after two falls.

"There is a lot less pressure on my shoulders, (I'm) a lot more relaxed not coming as the defending champion," said rium du Dauphine, the traditional Tour dress rehearsal.

"Things are looking good personally, my condition feels good, and the whole team is buzzing after winning the Dauphine. That's lifted everyone's morale."

But his main rivals are also in great shape, although there are question marks surrounI had a month feeling comfortable, training well in a nice temperature, at altitude. It was good for me," said Quintana, who is sharing the Movistar lead with Spanish veteran Alejandro Valverde.

With Astana allowed to keep its WorldTour licence despite multiple doping offenses within the Kazakh-funded outfit, Nibali – a winner of all three Grand Tours – will be backed by arguably the strongest team in the field in his bid to defend his title. Like in 2014, the Italian has been discreet, saving himself for the Tour. Contador has opted for a completely different approach in a bid to become the first rider since the late Marco Pantani in 1998 to achieve a Giro-Tour double. After recovering from his success in Italy, and spending days training in altitude, the Tinkoff-Saxo leader recently won the Route du Sud, where he defeated Quintana. "The Route du Sud... doesn't change anything in view of the Tour de France," Contador said. "It would be a mistake to change the mindset right now, thinking that this win would give me more confidence."

Desperately waiting for its first winner in 30 years, the host nation will be cheering for Thibault Pinot and Romain Bardet, who hope to follow in the footsteps of five-time Tour winner Bernard Hinault, the last Frenchman to triumph. Pinot finished third last year and earned the white jersey as the best young rider, while Bardet distinguished himself with a win in the French Alps at the Dauphine, on the same route the Tour peloton will ride on stage 17. "This Tour won't be a fourway battle," Quintana warned. "Watch out for Pinot, Bardet, and (American Tejay) Van Garderen. A single attack from one of these guys, and the Tour could be over if we don't respond quickly enough." Nothing wrong with extra ingredients. AP

day window filled with traps. During that time, Nibali and Co. will tackle cobblestones portions in northern France, make sure they don't get caught by bordures on roads open to crosswinds along the Dutch coast, and negotiate two short but difficult climbs: The Mur de Huy, the traditional finish of the Fleche Wallonne, and the Cote de Mur de Bretagne, which is nicknamed the Alpe d'Huez of Brittany.

"That first week really is going to be crucial, the first nine days actually until we get up in the mountains on stage 10," Froome said. "In my mind, it's almost as if each one of these nine stages is like Froome, who won the Crite-

That first week really is going to be crucial, the first nine days actually until we get up in the mountains on stage 10

CHRIS FROOME

ding Quintana.

Given the hilly race profile — seven mountain stages including five summit finishes — the diminutive climber is expected to cause damage in the second half of the Tour in the Alps and the Pyrenees. But he comes in having raced only four days over the last two months, following a big block of training back home in Colombia.

Quintana, who made his breakthrough at the Tour in 2013 when he was runner-up to Froome, said preparing at home for the race was his best option.

"Things are less difficult when you're with your family.



# opinion

## World Views Matt Qvortrup

## HISTORY SAYS GREEKS WILL VOTE TO STAY WITH EUROPE

If Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is confident he can persuade his countrymen to vote against the austerity package offered by their creditors on Sunday, he should think again: The history of referendums in the European Union is that voters have chosen to stick with Europe when the economic outlook was poor. And in Greece, it is ugly.

Tsipras and his government will certainly make powerful appeals to Greek national pride, heroism and the sense of indignity the country has suffered at the hands of the bailout as they try to get the outcome they want. But as recent research shows, referendums tend to be determined by hard economics and rational calculations, rather than emotion. Voters prefer prosperity to heroism.

In 1975, for example, the U.K. opted to stay in the European Economic Community (the precursor of the EU). The British were in the depths of a deep recession, suffering from double-digit inflation and high unemployment. Voting for an uncertain future outside Europe was too risky, so the famously Euroskeptic Brits voted "yes," by a ratio of 2 to 1, to stay with the continentals.

Two decades later the Swedes and the Finns were reeling after the collapse of the European Monetary System, a precursor currency board to the euro. There were soup kitchens operating in Helsinki. Both nations opted to join the EU when they voted in referendums in 1994.

Most recently, the Irish voted hugely in favor of the European Fiscal Compact, in a 2012 referendum. The circumstances facing the Irish in that vote were similar to those facing Greeks on Sunday.

All of this would seem to fly in the face of the widely held belief that voters tend vote against the European project whenever given the opportunity. That's certainly what happened in France and the Netherlands in 2005, when voters overwhelmingly rejected plans to adopt a European constitution. It happened again when the Swedes voted against joining the euro area in 2003.

Those votes, however, took place during periods of solid economic growth. In addition, there was no great risk in rejecting whatever new experiment EU leaders had come up with - indeed sticking with the status quo may have seemed the safer option. But even those who question the idea that plebiscites are won in times of crisis (and vice versa) should note that EU referendums in any case tend to result in yes-votes.

That's because it is a general misperception that Europe's electorates are anti-European. Since 1972, there have been 39 referendums in western Europe on matters pertaining to the EU, of which 76 percent have resulted in a positive vote for the European project, according to data in a book I published with colleagues last year, called "Referendums Around the World." If you include the latest members from eastern Europe, that proportion rises to 80 percent. This is another reason to expect an affirmative verdict Sunday. The Greeks, of course, have been through an unusually tough period, which has broken the dominance of the mainstream political parties and driven voters to support radicals on the left and right. So all things are not equal. Even so, there is every reason to believe that Greeks will be as rational in their choice, and as driven by economic concerns, as were the voters of Finland, Ireland, Sweden and the U.K. "You do not commit suicide if you fear death," Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, said Monday. Greeks have good reason to fear that by ticking the box next to "Oxi," or "no," they would be committing economic suicide - so they probably won't. Bloomberg

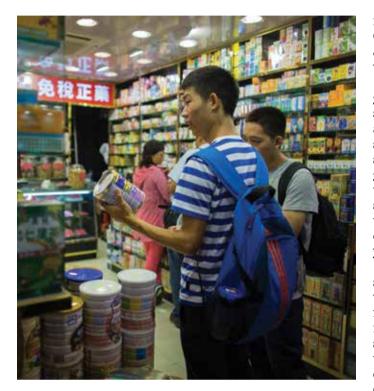
# SUZZ SAUDI PRINCE VOWS TO DONATE USD32B FORTUNE

Saudi Arabia's billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, one of the world's richest people, has announced he will donate all of his wealth to charity over the coming years. The Saudi prince said in a statement that he will donate USD32 billion to his organization called Alwaleed Philanthropies to work in the fields of "intercultural understanding" and supporting communities in need. Programs will include promoting health, eradicating di-

sease, bringing electricity to remote villages, building orphanages and schools, as well as "empowering women."

The prince, who is chairman of investment firm Kingdom Holding Company, says he has already donated \$3.5 billion to the charitable organization. Alwaleed joins other billionaires who have made similar pledges in recent years, such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Michael Bloomberg.

# Asia's growing appetite for meat, milk drives up costs



Rudy Ruitenberg

ASIA'S fast-growing economies will increase demand for food in the next decade, especially meat and dairy, as incomes rise, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations predicted.

Meat, milk, butter and cheese prices will be high relative to grains and other plants through 2024 as diets in developing countries become more diversified, the groups wrote in a report released yesterday.

# Skim milk powder and cheese costs may increase more than 28 pct

Skim milk powder and cheese costs may increase more than 28 percent in that time, compared with a 10 percent rise in wheat. "Asian economies con-

Asian economies continue to account for the greatest share of additio-



nal food consumption," the OECD and the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization wrote.

Globally, demand for farm goods will be subdued on sluggish economic growth and as the consumption of staple foods gets closer to saturation in many emerging economies, according to the report. Expanding stockpiles and big harvests have pushed global food costs to the lowest in five years, UN data show.

Coarse grains and oilseeds used for animal feed will rise relative to other food staples as demand for meat increases, the groups said. Per capita consumption of dairy in developing countries is expected to increase 1.4 percent to 2 percent a year through 2024.

The decline in oil will reduce agriculture prices through lower energy and fertilizer costs, and make some biofuel production unprofitable without incentives or mandates in the next decade, the groups said.

Using crops to make fuel has been a driver of cereal demand in the past decade, with the volume of corn and other coarse grains turned into biofuels almost tripling from 2004 to 2014, according to the report. **Bloomberg** 

#### Station Air quality Roadside 10-30 Good High Density 30-50 Residental Good Area 30-50 RCE: Ambient Good õ

## WORLD BRIEFS

PAKISTAN's government says the brutal heat wave that hit the port city of Karachi and the country's southern province of Sind in June killed 1,250 people before subsiding. A government statement on the latest death toll from the heat wave was handed to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday during a high-level meeting in Karachi, the Sindh provincial capital.

#### N KOREA opens a new

terminal building at Pyongyang's international airport, underscoring an effort to attract more tourists and spruce up the country ahead of a celebration of a major anniversary of the founding of its ruling party in October.

JAPAN Police search the apartment of the man who set himself on fire on a high-speed bullet train, killing himself and another passenger, as officials seek clues to his motive.

#### **RUSSIA-UKRAINE** Russian

gas company Gazprom halts supplies to neighboring Ukraine after the collapse of pricing talks, company official says.



SOUTH SUDAN's army has burned people alive, raped and shot girls, and forced tens of thousands from thei homes. The scorched earth campaign is apparently aimed at driving civilians out of the rebel-controlled parts of an oil-rich state, according to Human Rights Watch. South Sudan's military is trying to depopulate the rural areas of Unity state through violence and hunger, said the group. The tactics, which include the alleged burning of grain stocks and the looting of life-sustaining property like cattle, are believed to be part of efforts to drain the rebels of their support base.



The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge stands under construction in Hong Kong, on Sunday, June 28.

USA A fire that destroyed a black church in South Carolina was not the work of an arsonist, a federal law enforcement source said yesterday. Preliminary indications are that the fire at the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greeleyville was not intentionally set and was not arson, the source said. The blaze was reported late Tuesday as storms moved through the area. It gutted the church. No one was believed to be inside at the time.