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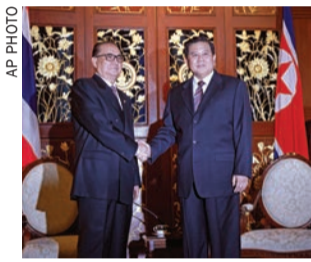
# Times

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



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



### THAILAND - N. KOREA

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong is in Bangkok on an official visit marking the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Thai Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn said his North Korean counterpart has invited Thai businesses to invest in in his country because Thais are trustworthy and don't interfere with matters that don't involve them.

**JAPAN** Walt Disney Japan apologizes after a tweet sent from its corporate Twitter account wished readers "congratulations on a not special day" on the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Nagasaki.



**INDIA** A stampede at a temple during a Hindu religious festival left at least 11 pilgrims dead and dozens injured early yesterday in eastern India, police said. Thousands of people tried to force their way into the temple when its gates opened at daybreak in Deoghar, a town in Jharkhand state, said police officer Subodh Kumar. At least 11 pilgrims, including eight women, died and another 24 were injured, Kumar said. The injured were being treated at a local hospital.

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## REPORT

# ISIS networks stretching from Jakarta to Macau, HK

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## CHINA

# CCTV host to be punished for insulting Mao in private

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A still shot from the exclusive video footage showing a group of Indonesian men inside al-Fataa mosque, Jakarta

AUSTRALIAN REPORT CITES MACAU

## Emerging ISIS networks allegedly use Indonesian diaspora

A new wave of terrorism is emerging in Indonesia, with Fairfax Media reporting that Islamic State (ISIS) is now recruiting in the heart of Jakarta.

The emerging radical Islamist networks are increasingly difficult for authorities to monitor and are believed to stretch from Malaysia through to Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong and the Gulf Arab monarchies.

According to the report, the networks include members of the diaspora of some four million Indonesian migrant workers living abroad. These ISIS members raise funds, distribute propaganda and facilitate the travel of jihadists from Indonesia to Syria and Iraq.

Linking these networks together is reportedly the al-Fataa mosque in the upmarket Jakarta suburb of Menteng, which is revealed to be an active recruitment center for ISIS. With pro-ISIS activities occurring openly there, there is a fear that the growing numbers of Indonesians who are heading to Syria and Iraq to fight for ISIS will return, battle-hardened, and launch acts of terrorism back home.

Next door to the Defense Ministry and a kilometer away from the US embassy, the mosque lies in the geographic heart of Indonesia's power elites. As disclosed in exclusive video footage provided to the report's author, Indonesian terrorism analyst and documentary filmmaker Noor Huda Ismail, a group of young Indonesian men inside al-Fataa mosque were pledging allegiance to the ISIS leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

The video shows that the men gather in a tight circle with their hands entwined in the center while reciting the "bayat," or pledge, in a mix of Indonesian and Arabic. They first proclaim an oath of devotion to Baghdadi and then chant on the floor of the mosque, before finishing the pledge amid smiles and congratulations.

While some IS recruiters attending the al-Fataa mosque are regular visitors, ISIS supporters are also allowed to lead religious classes there. About a month ago, a pro-IS banner was hung outside the mosque until authorities forced the mosque to take it down.

Administrator of the al-Fa-

taa mosque, Farihin, told Fairfax Media, "Anyone can come here as long as their rituals are in accordance with sharia [the Islamic canonical law]. (...) The activities are just a response to what is happening in the Middle East."

An associate of Farihin and ISIS supporter, Budi Waluyo, was also cited in the report explaining that many people were interested in Islamic State and came to listen to the doctrine; as the groups become smaller and smaller, only a few are asked to make the bayat, and a rigorous selection process must be completed before traveling to Syria.

The report says that thousands of Indonesians are believed to have made the pledge of allegiance to ISIS in mosques, prayer rooms, homes and prisons across Indonesia. Possibly as many as 700 Indonesians have traveled to Syria and Iraq to join ISIS, while there are more than 300 with passports ready to go. Meanwhile, a growing number of Indonesians are self-radicalizing, wooed by IS propaganda on websites and social media, and these include students and, reportedly, pilots. **BY**

CRIME

## Debt-laden Chinese worker plunges to death



LOCAL police have launched a probe following the discovery of a male body at the Nam Van Lake on Sunday, which has allegedly been linked to a suicide over financial debt.

According to the authorities, the body was found floating in the lake close to the Mandarin Oriental Macau by a local in the morning, who immediately reported the discovery to the police.

They later found out that the 29-year-old mainlander's family had sought police intervention the day before, when he was reported to have suddenly gone missing.

The suicide note found at his workplace, at which he worked

as a salesman, suggested that the debt-ridden worker intentionally plunged into the lake after he found himself unable to pay off the heavy debts.

The case is pending a post-mortem report to confirm the cause of death.

Last year, the government recorded a total of 1,939 deaths in the region, 47 of which were suicides.

Earlier in April, the head of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, stressed during a debate at the legislative assembly that the local suicide rate stood below the standard set by the World Health Organization – less than 13 suicides in a population of 100,000 every year. **Staff reporter**

## Resident realizes 'mainland official' phone scam after TV propaganda

AN unemployed local woman realized that she had fallen prey to a telephone scam, led by false mainland officials, after she learnt about the recent prevalence of similar deceptions while watching television several days later.

The female victim, aged 24, lost around MOP57,000 in the hoax last Tuesday after she received a call the day before allegedly from a mainland delivery firm. A staff member at the firm told her that her parcel from Beijing to Hong Kong reportedly contained 20 phoney identification cards, which had already been withheld by the police security department.

During another call forwarded to the department, according to local police's recount, the scammer posed as a public security agent. The scammer then claimed that the mainland authorities had frozen her bank account and that she faced possible accusations for

which a maximum imprisonment of ten years applied—unless she kept herself tight-lipped about the phone call. He then offered her a website where the victim found herself listed as wanted, and alongside this was attached her personal information.

It was not until another call she received from a "mainland prosecutor" the following day that she was fully convinced of the accusation. Furthermore, she was told to remit the above sum of money to a "safe bank account" as part of the procedures.

She eventually came to realize that this was a hoax, and sought local police intervention last Saturday. This was after she had watched a television program alerting viewers to a recent rise in the occurrence of mainland phone scams throughout the two special administrative regions. **Staff reporter**

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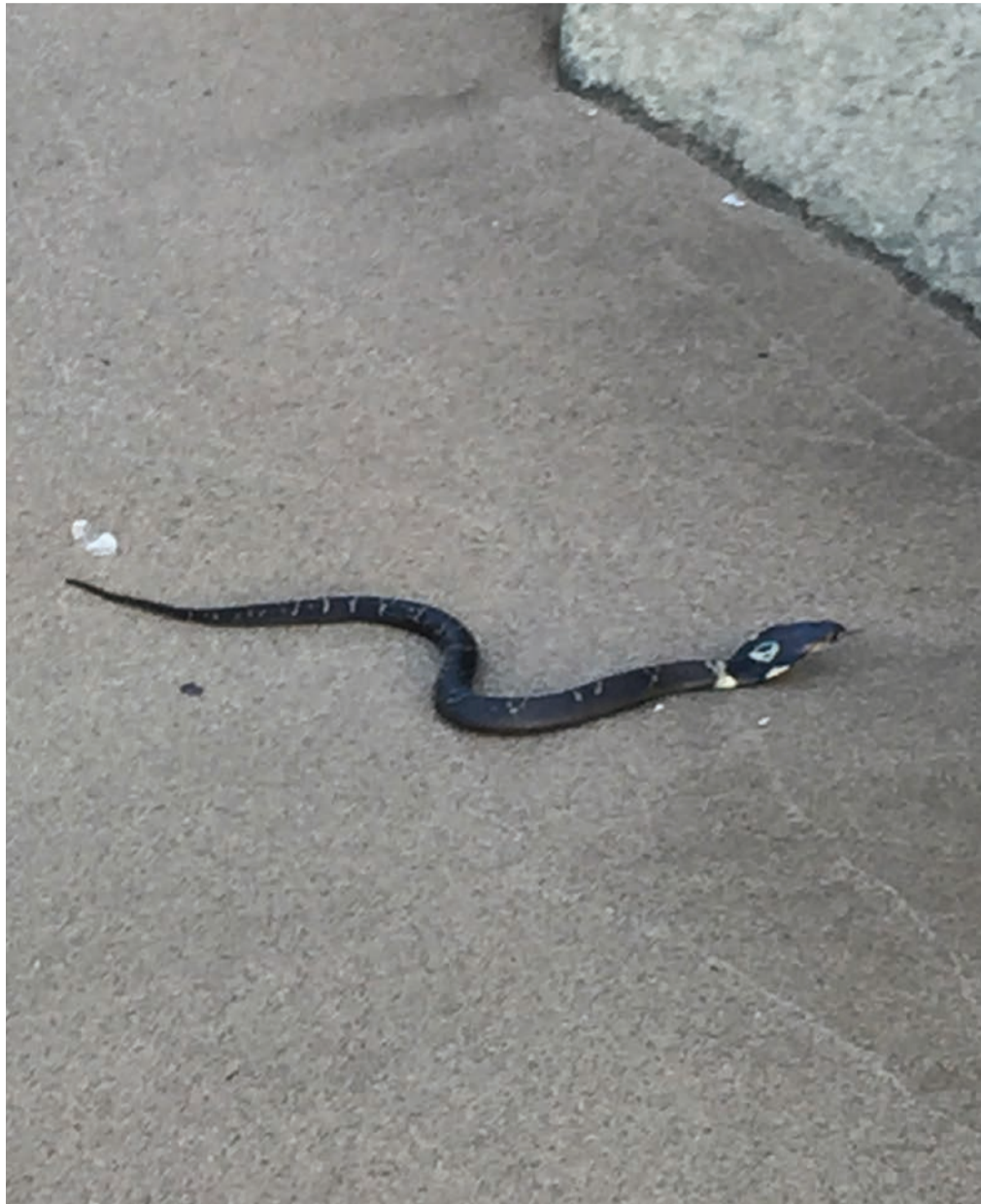
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# Chinese cobra sighted in Taipa



The Chinese Cobra seen in Taipa, on Sunday (Photo by reader Justin Casey)

Brook Yang

**C**OBRAS have once again appeared in plain sight in Macau, as a citizen encountered one last Sunday while walking his pet on the seafront in Taipa. Another witness also

reported sighting a four-meter snake last week on Hac Sa Beach.

Based on the witness' photos, which were analyzed by vet Ruan Du Toit Bester, the creature that was spotted by Justin Casey and his dog in North Taipa was identified as a

Chinese Cobra with the scientific name of *Naja atra*.

Growing to an average length of between 90 centimeters and one meter, the cobra is believed to be a common species of snake in Macau. It's usually black, gray or brown, and oc-

asionally gold, in color, with a short, wide hood usually with white-eye spots.

According to Dr Ruan, the species eats frogs, rodents and other reptiles, as well as other snakes. It may bite humans or other animals if it's being hurt or cornered.

"The most important info to give everybody is just to leave the snake alone. Leave it alone and it will go away. Don't pick it up; don't try and touch it; don't try and kill it. If the snake is dead, do not try and pick it up; some of them pretend to be dead," he stressed to the Times, adding that you should stand still and slowly step away when encountering one.

When defending itself, the Chinese cobra will rise up and strike downwards. Its venom is poisonous and destroys tissue. "When they bite you, it's painful and may cause redness, swelling, blistering and tissue necrosis. Anti-venom is widely available," said the doctor. "Keep your dog on a leash at all times. If your dog gets bitten, take it to the vet immediately. If you get bitten, go to the hospital immediately. Always try to take a picture or video of the snake you saw, or if it bit your dog or a human," he suggests.

The species can be found around mangrove swamps, grasslands and open woodlands such as in the Coloane forest, generally hiding underneath objects. They usually come out at night, but they can sometimes be found in daylight warming up in the sunlight. "If it's found in your home, call the police or a firefighter, or even the vet to capture it," added Dr Ruan.

## MSAR ranked eighth best one-day trip

The Traveller section of Australian paper The Sun-Herald has elected Macau as one of the "Top 10 one-day destinations" in the world. Macau made it to eighth place, just ahead of the Vatican. "Like Hong Kong, just 65 kilometers away, the peninsula of Macau has benefited from China's 'one country, two systems' policy, and is the only place in China where gambling is legal. The casinos are what draws most visitors; however, you can also spend an afternoon exploring old Portuguese cathedrals and Chinese temples," states writer Ute Junker. The 10 tiny destinations for a one-day trip, as picked by The Sun-Herald in order of preference starting at the top, are: Liechtenstein, Curacao, San Marino, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Malta, Jersey (the largest of Britain's Channel Islands), Monaco, Macau, the Vatican and Grenada.

## Rosario refers gov't's land debt case to CCAC

Regarding the government's alleged land debt resulting from a land exchange deal for the Iec Long Firecracker Factory heritage site, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosario, has decided to submit the case to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) for investigation. The office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works issued a statement yesterday, indicating that the Secretary is concerned about the Iec Long Firecracker Factory incident and that "after analyzing the materials at hand, [he] believed it should be handed over to the CCAC." In the statement, the Secretary's office says that, "In order to ensure public interest and social stability, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works must handle all the affairs under his jurisdiction in accordance with the law and with the Macau SAR's interests being the priority."

## Qualifications committee for construction professionals established

Chief Executive Chui Sai On yesterday announced the administrative law for setting up the Committee for Architecture, Engineering and Urbanism. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing applicants' qualifications for internships and practice registrations, and for issuing professional certificates. It will consist of 13 members, made up of seven government representatives and six professionals from the private sector. Moreover, the members who are to be selected from private institutions must possess suitable experience in urban architecture or the urban planning field. They must be well recognized as outstanding professionals with suitable qualifications in the appropriate fields. The committee members' term is two years, but this term has the chance to be renewed. Published in the Official Gazette, the new regulation took effect today.

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INTERCENSOS 試查 INQUERITO PILOTO

Pilot Survey

In preparation for the 2016 Population By-census, the Statistics and Census Service will conduct the Pilot Survey of the Population By-census from 11 to 25 August this year in the districts of **Doca do Lamau** and **Fai Chi Kei**.

All selected housing units will receive a notification letter prior to the start of the survey.

Pilot Survey Hotline: **8809 8809**

Please support us and provide accurate information. All information collected will be kept in strict confidence.

www.dsec.gov.mo/Intercensos2016

DSEC

CITY'S POPULATION HITS 642,900

# 180,523 are non resident workers



**T**HE local population from 640,700 in March, climbed to 642,900 according to the latest demographic figures from the Statistics and Census Service released yesterday. Females accounted for

50.6 percent of the region's population, which equates to 325,400 in total. The number of newborn infants slipped 2.9 percent in the second quarter compared to the first.

The region welcomed a total of 3,374 newborn babies in the first half of the year, a 2.15-percent year-on-year increase.

Up to 1,017 people passed away in the first six months of the year, 10 less than in the equivalent period of last year. Disease relating to tumors and circulation and respiratory systems were said to be the top three killers.

The region received a total of 1,666 immigrants from the mainland in the second quarter, yet only 385 of them have been granted residency permits allowing them to stay.

Non-resident workers totaled 180,523 at the end of June, an increase of 5,599 from the previous quarter.

The second quarter also saw 939 marriages, which numbered among a total of 1,891 marriage registrations in the first six months. **Staff reporter**

## Credit cards in circulation up 2.7 percent in Q2

**T**HE latest statistics from the Monetary Authority have revealed that the region saw a 2.7 percent rise in the number of credit cards in circulation in June from three months prior, totaling 870,062 in number and 19.5 billion in credit limits up until the end of the period.

In comparison to the equivalent period last year, the authority recorded a 2.6 percent decline in the use of Hong Kong dollar cards while cards loaded with patacas and Chinese yuan experienced growth of 10.9 percent and 9.1 percent respectively.

The second quarter also saw a 6.7 percent increase in credit limits. In addition, credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.1 billion while the total rollover amount reached MOP616.7 million, accounting for 28.9 percent of the total receivables.

The ratio of delinquent amounts which had been overdue for more than three months to the receivable amount edged down from 1.07 to 1.06 in the second quarter, yet still remained higher than the level of 0.87 compared to the same period one year ago.

Over the three-month period, credit card turnover remained virtually unchanged, according to the department, at MOP4.3 billion. The amount of cash advances reached MOP220 million, making up 5 percent of the total turnover.

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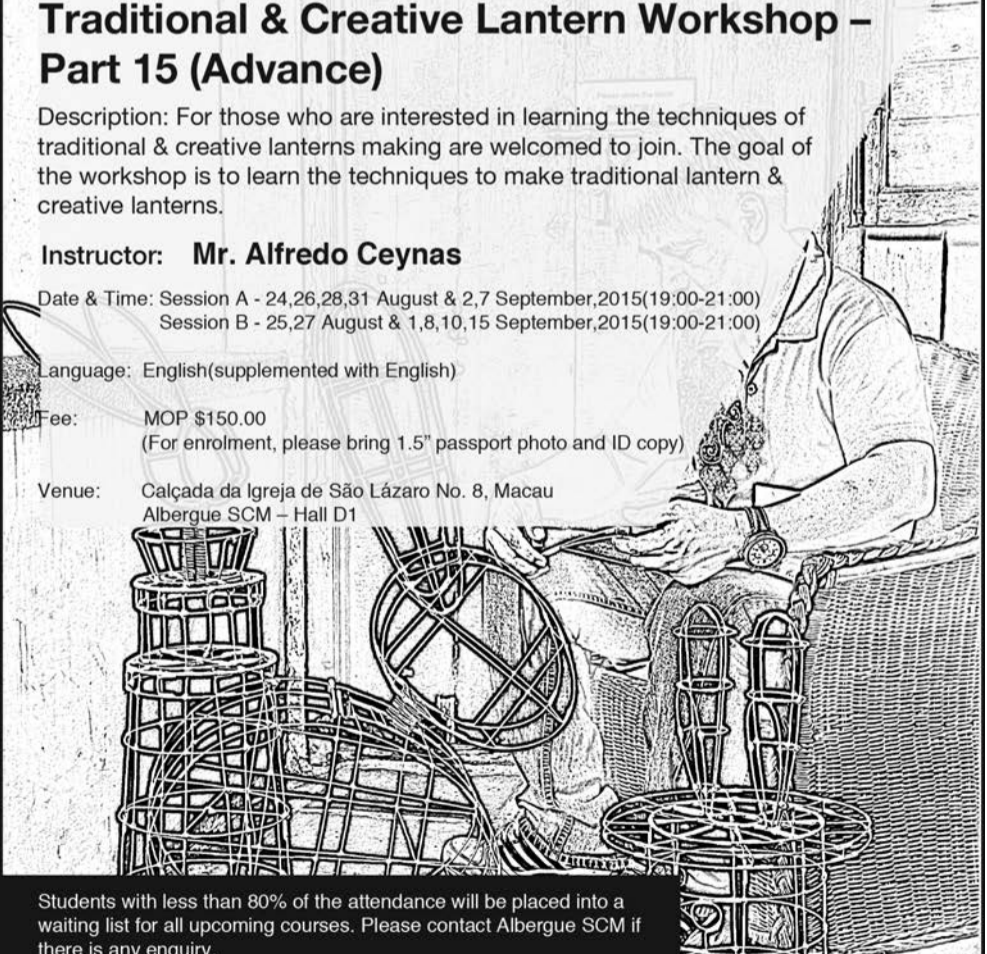
**Instructor:** Mr. Alfredo Ceynas

**Date & Time:** Session A - 24,26,28,31 August & 2,7 September,2015(19:00-21:00)  
 Session B - 25,27 August & 1,8,10,15 September,2015(19:00-21:00)

**Language:** English(supplemented with English)


**Fee:** MOP \$150.00  
 (For enrolment, please bring 1.5" passport photo and ID copy)


**Venue:** Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro No. 8, Macau  
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Catarina Pinto

# Budget Framework Law to reinforce AL's supervisory power, says Lionel Leong

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has assured lawmakers that the new Budget Framework Law, currently being drafted, will reinforce the Legislative Assembly's powers to oversee the government's work, but the budgets of individual public infrastructure projects will not be submitted for AL examination.

A spoken enquiry delivered by lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong triggered intense debate during yesterday's AL plenary meeting, as at least 16 lawmakers expressed their views on the subject.

Several legislators asked the government to introduce a new "debate mechanism," through which the AL would be called on to examine and discuss the government's foreseen budget for major public infrastructure projects.

Lawmaker Ng recalled that several key public projects, including the LRT, the Macau Dome and the University of Macau's Hengqin campus, have experienced multiple delays and gone over budget.

He has been calling on the administration to implement a mechanism similar to that used by Hong Kong's Legislative Council, in which lawmakers are able to examine and approve budgets for key public infrastructure plans.

Ng urged the government to allow for the AL to at least discuss the expected schedules and budget plans for major public works – particularly for multi-annual public works whose budgets exceed MOP40 million.

The Secretary, however, said that budgets for individual public infrastructure projects will not be submitted for AL examination and discussion.

"The government will not – by its own initiative – submit any public works project [budget] to the AL, as this can be discussed and assessed within the AL's Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs: an entity that is entitled to debate any public infrastructure-related works," the Secretary replied.

Mr Leong indicated that the new Budget Framework Law will allow for greater transparency, since the government will have to present an annual interim report on budget execution before the end of July.

Furthermore, the Secretary said that another report will be presented to the AL every quarter on the execution of the Public Investment Plan (PIDDA). The new Budget Framework Law, which lawmakers had been pushing to be reviewed, will undergo public consultation until August 20. Un-



## LACK OF DRIVERS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**LAWMAKERS RAISED** criticism over Macau's traffic woes and public transportation system yesterday. A spoken enquiry delivered by legislator Au Kam San triggered further debate, as lawmakers demanded the government take action. The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário acknowledged that there's

a lack of young drivers willing to work for public bus operators. Most drivers are aged 50 or above and, if the current trend remains, he said, "We will soon have buses... without drivers." Nevertheless, the newly appointed Transport Bureau (DSAT) head, Lam Hin San, said that four new bus routes will soon be added.

der the new law, the government's annual budget, which is already submitted for AL approval, has to be examined and voted on again in case overall expenditure of each budget section increases.

"To increase transparency, when planning the Public Investment Plan and regarding

expenditure of multi-annual public projects, the government will have to provide an estimation of the overall project budget; of the project's calendar; and also an estimation of the budget for each year of the project's foreseen period," he explained.

Several lawmakers supported

fellow legislator Ng's request, stating that Macau's budget supervision mechanism fails to solve delays or budget overrun on key infrastructure projects.

"The current mechanism is bearing fruit. The AL is also responsible for overseeing the government's work. Some infrastructure projects are worth discussing at the AL. It's not about interfering [in the public works], but the need to call on the government to explain when there's a cost overrun," said lawmaker Au Kam San.

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I added, "There might be plausible reasons behind delays and cost overruns, but these need to be made public, so that lawmakers and the public are well informed."

Ho Ion Sang said that there's a lack of transparency when it comes to major public infrastructure projects.

Furthermore, Kwan Tsui Hang recalled that the AL is only required to examine and approve the government's annual budget, and that sometimes lawmakers are left with little information on particular budgets of public infrastructure projects.

Other legislators, however, expressed a different opinion. Appointed lawmaker Gabriel Tong believes that cost overrun and delays will not be solved if the AL is allowed to examine and approve public works' budgets.

## 200 'WIFI GO' HOTSPOTS BY YEAR-END

**THE SECRETARY** for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, revealed that the government is planning to increase the number of "Wifi Go" hotspots from 164 to 200 by year's end. This would cover a total of 26 new locations, including additional tourist sites. In a spoken enquiry, lawmaker Si Ka Lon asked whether the authorities would be planning to extend "Wifi Go" services to the entire city. The Secretary said that covering the entirety of Macau is not currently part of the government's plans. The Secretary added that they are negotiating with telecommunications operators regarding 4G service tariffs to ensure that companies offer competitive and diversified 4G plans.

"Would delays or cost overruns wane if the AL was called on to discuss and assess each public infrastructure project? I believe that what's crucial is that the population knows their government is taking appropriate measures and stepping up efforts to complete major public works. I don't see how [discussing budgets at the AL] would speed up public works' completion," he said.

For lawmaker Mak Soi Kun, delays have been triggered by new legislation, including noise regulations, which determined new rules on construction time and the level of noise allowed.

Fong Chi Keong, on the other hand, said that the main problem lies in the lack of comprehensive knowledge of professionals working within this field in public departments. Finally, Zheng Anting recalled that there's a lack of inspection professionals.

The Secretary pledged to increase the level of information disclosure while working toward finding solutions to problems arising from major public infrastructure. Mr Leong also said that the government is committed to using all adequate means to provide lawmakers with information, and therefore collaborating with the AL's responsibility to oversee the government's work.

## Gov't unlikely to legislate on tap water lead levels

**SECRETARY** Rosário has hinted that the government is unlikely to legislate on lead levels in tap water supplied to private buildings anytime soon.

Several lawmakers asked the government to legislate on water lead levels for private and public buildings at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting, suggesting the administration introduce regulations preventing the use of lead materials, particularly in private buildings' plumbing systems.

The Secretary said that the government is not planning to draft a law requiring private and public housing complexes' management to monitor tap water lead levels.

Lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang delivered a spoken enquiry on the subject, pointing out that this is "a matter of public health."

She recalled the recent tainted water scare in Hong Kong, and added that tap water in Macau's private buildings is not regularly



tested. Ms Kwan said there's no inspection plan to ensure water safety within these buildings, while water tanks are also not regularly cleaned.

The Secretary recalled that lead levels in the water supplied to the city's public housing building complexes meet World Health Organization (WHO) standards. He also said that water in public housing units has been tested since 2007. Tests will also be conducted in public housing units built before 2007.

## Wynn Macau half-year net revenues down 37pct



WYNN Macau operations recorded net revenues of USD1.322 billion in the first half of 2015, down 36.8 percent year on year. Adjusted property earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) totaled USD385.733 million, down 44.2 percent. Its VIP gaming operations drove the reduction in Macau operations casino revenue, with USD32.7 billion in VIP

turnover recorded for the six months preceding June 30, 2015 (down 47.6 percent).

Wynn Resorts, a controlling shareholder of Wynn Macau, has released its unaudited results for the second quarter. For the three months leading up to June 30, 2015, Wynn Resorts' Macau operations, which are owned by Wynn Macau, recorded net revenues of USD616.952 million, down 35.8 percent year on year. Adjusted property EBITDA totaled USD173.391 million, down 43.5 percent.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the board of directors of Wynn Macau will be held this Thursday, "for the purpose of considering and approving the interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries, and the payment of an interim dividend (if any)" for the first semester.

## Brighton Grand sold to China Travel as part of USD620 million deal

ONE of Brighton's most prestigious hotels is now owned by a Chinese company following a GBP400 million (USD620m) deal.

The hotel company that runs the Grand hotel has been sold to Chinese-based firm HK CTS Metropark Hotels in a multi-million pound deal, according to reports in The Times (London) yesterday.

The nearby Holiday Inn on Brighton's seafront is also included in the sale.

It is the second major change in ownership of the iconic hotel in little over a year after previously being added to the Kew Green Hotels portfolio in March last year in a deal worth around GBP50 million.

The latest deal involving the sale of the entire Kew Green Hotel portfolio, which also includes 45 Holiday Inns, five Ramada Ho-



tels and the Courtyard by Marriott hotel at Gatwick, is expected to be formally announced today (Macau time).

The new owners are part of the China National Travel Service Group of Hong Kong which operates hotels throughout China, Hong Kong and Macau.



## Diet Pepsi gets rid of aspartame, but will customers return?

Candice Choi  
Food Industry Writer

Revamped Diet Pepsi without aspartame is popping up on store shelves. So will people start flocking back to the soda?

PepsiCo says its new Diet Pepsi should be available nationally this week. In response to customer feedback, the company said earlier this year that it would replace the aspartame in the drink with another artificial sweetener that has less baggage.

The rollout will test the theory that the sweetener is to blame for fleeing customers, or if other issues might be at play. Other diet sodas that still have aspartame include Diet Coke, Diet Dr Pepper and Fanta Zero. Sales of traditional diet sodas have been falling. Industry executives blaming the freefall on unfounded concerns people have about aspartame. Two years ago, Coca-Cola even tested ads in select newspapers defending the safety of the sweetener.

"It's the No. 1 thing that our customers have been calling about," said Seth Kaufman, a senior vice president at PepsiCo.

At least in the short term,

Diet Pepsi sales are likely to see bump from the marketing push around the new formula, which will include in-store sampling and discounting in coming weeks.

In terms of taste, Kaufman said it's not identical but that the drink should still be familiar to fans of Diet Pepsi.

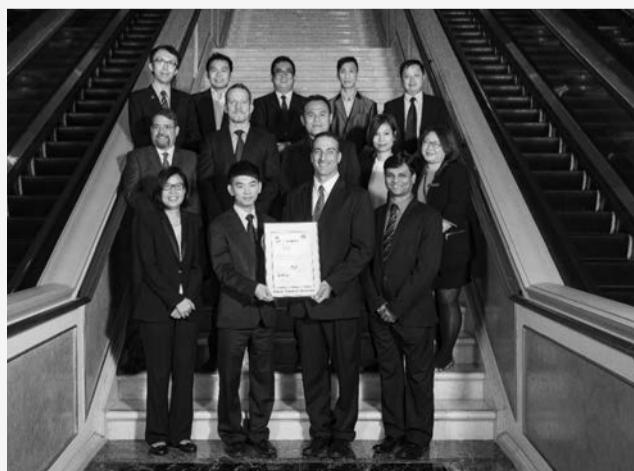
It's not the first attempt by PepsiCo Inc. to lift flagging sales of Diet Pepsi. In 2012, the company tried improving the drink by combining aspartame with acesulfame potassium, often called ace-K, another artificial sweetener that helps prevent the taste from degrading over time. The latest version of Diet Pepsi will also have ace-K in addition to sucralose, best known by the brand name Splenda.

Cans and bottles of the new Diet Pepsi have been making their way through the distribution in recent weeks. Stores that don't do a lot of business may still have the old versions stocked. This weekend, for instance, a store in New York City had the old and new versions side by side.

The new cans will be marked with the words "Now Aspartame Free" above the Pepsi circle logo. AP

### corporate bits

#### THE VENETIAN'S CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION SERVICES RECEIVE SECOND ISO CERTIFICATION



The Venetian Macao has received an ISO 9001:2008 certification for the quality management system of its convention and exhibition services from the International Organization for Standardization. ISO 9001:2008 sets out the

criteria for a company's quality management system. They include a strong customer focus, the motivation and involvement of top management, a process-driven approach, and continual improvement. The certification is awarded by the London-based British Standards Institution (BSI) Group.

Also part of this family of international standards is ISO 20121, which establishes the criteria for a company's event sustainability management system. The Venetian Macao received this ISO 20121 certification in 2014 for its commitment to sustainability in all three dimensions: economic, environmental and social, at all stages of its supply chain. The Venetian Macao is currently the only convention and exhibition center in Asia holding both ISO 9001 and ISO 20121 certifications.

#### WYNN LAUNCHES MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL MOONCAKE GIFT BOXES

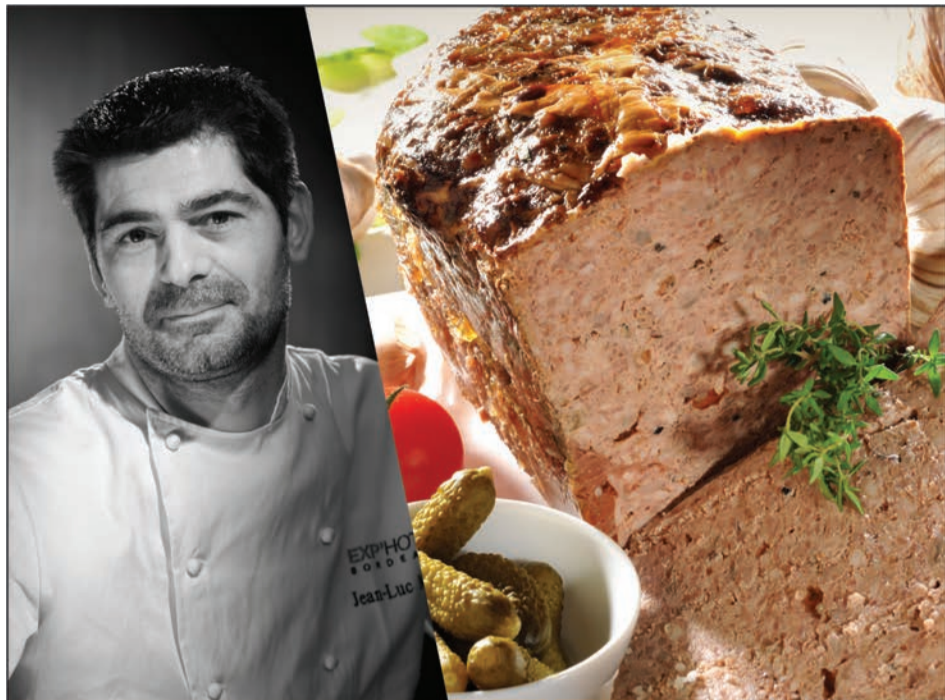
Michelin-starred Wing Lei restaurant is presenting a series of mooncake gift boxes, which incorporate traditional Chinese and contemporary design elements.

Inspired by the craftsmanship of mooncake molds, the mooncake gift boxes include bright floral patterns. Each Wynn mooncake gift box is partially handmade to ensure the foil-embossed floral patterns are placed with precision.

Packaged within each gift box are Wing Lei's traditional mooncakes. Classic favorites include the Four-Yolk White Lotus Seed Paste Mooncake, the Double-Yolk White Lotus Seed Paste Mooncake and the Egg Yolk White Lotus Seed Paste Mini Mooncake.

The mooncakes and signature tea gift boxes will be available for sale between 11:30 am and 10:30 pm from 12 September to 26 September at the Wing Lei mooncake counter.





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# Global markets rise, led by Chinese surge on stimulus hope

Yuri Kageyama, Business Writer, Tokyo

GLOBAL markets turned higher yesterday after Chinese shares surged on hopes for new stimulus measures.

**KEEPING SCORE:** France's CAC 40 was up 0.3 percent to 5,171.76 and Germany's DAX rose by the same rate to 11,521.70. Britain's FTSE 100, however, shed 0.8 percent to 6,668.13 as a drop in commodity prices weighed on its many mining stocks. U.S. shares were set to recover from recent losses, with both the S&P 500 and Dow futures up 0.2 percent.

**CHINA TRADE:** China's trade figures shrank by unexpectedly wide margins in July, showing the world's second-largest economy faces weak demand both at home and abroad. Exports contracted by 8.3 percent over a year earlier and imports were off by 8.1 percent. For the year to date, exports are off 14.6 percent and imports down by 0.8 percent. That increases pressure on Beijing to



People are reflected on an electric board as they watch financial markets indexes in Tokyo

stimulate domestic growth and to avert politically sensitive job losses in export industries.

**ASIA'S DAY:** The Shanghai Composite Index jumped nearly

5 percent to 3,928.42. That continues a pattern of volatile trading since a sizzling rally peaked in early June. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 was up 0.4

percent at 20,808.69 after flitting between gains and losses. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was down 0.1 percent at 24,521.12. South Korea's Kospi dropped

0.4 percent to 2,003.17. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.6 percent to 5,509.20. Markets in Southeast Asia were mixed.

**THE QUOTE:** "Chinese equities are rallying today on the idea of further easing measures, while there is also talk the stability fund will likely get a nice top up of capital," said IG chief strategist Chris Weston in a commentary. "Momentum seems to have swung back somewhat," he said. "Although I wouldn't personally be trading off this signal alone. Fiscal stimulus expectations are also helping."

**U.S. JOBS:** The U.S. added 215,000 jobs in July, the Labor Department said Friday, another signal that the job market is steadily improving and providing a key piece of data for the Federal Reserve as it assesses whether the U.S. economy can withstand higher interest rates. The Fed has flagged that it will raise interest rates from record lows this year and a rate hike is expected in September or December.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude was up 5 cents to USD43.92 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 7 percent last week.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar rose to 124.75 yen from 124.22 yen on Friday. The euro dropped to \$1.0936 from \$1.0969. AP

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**CAPE** Verde (Cabo Verde) wants to diversify its economic relations, with particular focus on the “South-South” axis and on Angola and China, to reduce dependence on European countries, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

Because of its dependence on Portugal and Italy, countries that have experienced crises in recent years affecting the tourism sector, the Cape Verdean economy lost its momentum and the government believes it can return to it by strengthening “South-South” links.

In June, Cabo Verde and Angola signed a memorandum of understanding in Luanda to expand cooperation and bilateral investment, following a wave of Angolan investment in the archipelago, in which Isabel dos Santos, the main Angolan businesswoman, had a starring role.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, efforts to strengthen ties with Angola and other major African economies are “essential” to reduce “dependence” of the archipelago in relation to Europe, which is the source of almost 75 percent of tourists, and therefore of foreign currency as well as foreign aid and investment.

Given the difficulties in Europe, the Cape Verdean economy saw its external position “weakened

# Angola and China are a priority to diversify Cape Verde’s economic relations



Santo Antão Island, Cape Verde

considerably” and policy makers are now engaged in the diversification of the relationship.

Since 2008, Angolan investment began flooding into Cabo Verde, expanding from energy

into telecommunications and banking.

Last March an oil terminal opened in Mindelo, an investment by Enacol (owned by Angola’s Sonangol and Portugal’s Galp Energia) valued at USD1.9 million, which should provide revenue from refueling ships.

The agreement signed in June during a visit to Luanda by the Cape Verdean Prime Minister José Maria Neves, provides for expansion of partnerships to other priority sectors, including tourism, fisheries and air and sea transport.

For several years there has been talk of a possible investment by Angolan airline Taag in Cape Verdean air carrier TACV, which the state intends to privatise, but the EIU believes that the current economic climate is not conducive to that.

According to the EIU, Cabo Verde intends to “benefit from the

appetite” in Angola for investment as well as budget support at the same time as it “takes advantage of its privileged strategic position for transatlantic trade (...) especially with Brazil and China.”

These aims also extend to neighbouring West African countries, with which Cabo Verde intends to maintain existing links to develop stronger trade relations and enhance its role as a platform for the region.

In 2014, former Prime Minister Gualberto do Rosário publicly presented a plan to make Cabo Verde a “Tiger of the Atlantic” by 2023, by analogy with the “Asian Tigers” through construction of three large refineries and the installation of large US and European banks.

According to the Africa Monitor newsletter, the plan included attracting foreign investment to new sectors such as the chemical, electronics and food industries,

leading to increased traffic in ports, of both passengers and goods.

The privatisation of TACV, according to the government, according to Cape Verdean weekly newspaper A Semana, was at one time followed by China’s Okay Airways, while the China Road & Bridge Corporation (CRBC) has expressed interest in building a deep water port and a cruise terminal on the Cape Verdean island of São Vicente, as well as repairing the Cabnave shipyards.

Over the next few years the largest ever foreign investment in Cabo Verde is expected to come from Macau, valued at \$250 million for construction of a hotel-casino in the capital, Praia, submitted in late July by businessman David Chow.

The inauguration of the archipelago’s sports facility funded by China – the national Stadium – on the island of Santiago was held in 2014. **MDT/Macauhub**

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MacauDaily Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Lulu Yilun Chen

IN China, even aspiring singers and would-be comedians bow to constant and automatic online surveillance.

The country's largest "social video" websites - where viewers debate and reward their favorite karaoke ditties and comic routines - operate under severe yet hazy censorship policies that grant them broad leeway in deciding what content to block, according to a study co-led by Citizen Lab.

Researchers at the University of Toronto unit and the University of New Mexico reverse-engineered applications YY Inc., Tian Ge Interactive Holdings' 9158.com and Sina Show, and Guagua.cn, which together serve over 100 million people.

They discovered that the YouTube-like services monitor thousands of words and phrases and scrub private messages. Vague policies governing the Internet - coupled with the threat of penalties like license revocation - mean social media services are forced to take matters into their own hands, they said.

The findings illustrate the autonomy with which services self-censor to comply with broad government guidelines.

"This research suggests that even though there's a lot of pressure to implement censorship, there isn't much detail on how they should do it," said Masashi Crete-Nishihata, one of the researchers. "So it leaves these companies up to themselves on how to do it, out of some vague fear of fines from the government or reprisal."

Researchers pored over a data set of 42 word lists and 17,547 keywords or phrases. The lists shared little common ground, dispelling the notion of a "monolithic" set of regulations.

Unlike YouTube's library of professional and homemade videos, the quartet of websites are venues for amateur singers, comedians and even virtual teachers. Viewers discuss their merits on forums and reward performers by buying and sending virtual roses. YY said it had 117 million

# Popular video services take censorship into own hands



BLOOMBERG

active users at the end of March.

They block posts or messages at the client or software level, rather than at a national-level Internet firewall. Researchers were thus able to extract complete databases of censored words and work out the precise time new phrases were added, Crete-Nishihata said.

The keywords that the websites look out for range from the expected, such as Tiananmen and 1989, the year of the crackdown on the square, to the more obscure. For instance, the services zeroed in on "Steamed Bun Xi," an allusion to a widely circulated photo of Chinese leader Xi Jinping partaking of the savory snack, an event that was criticized as political theater.

YY pounced on "thetankmen," a reference to the iconic image of a lone man halting a line of armored vehicles during the Tiananmen Square massacre. Sina Show's list included "Jasmine," a reference to the pro-democracy movement of 2011 that could also stymie many innocent messages.

None of the four websites responded to requests for comment. The Cybersecurity Administration of China didn't immediately

respond to a faxed request for comment.

"The popularity of social video platforms, the diversity of real-time media content, and the virtual goods business model puts these platforms under particular pressure to monitor and manage user activity," the researchers said.

China keeps a close eye on its 668 million Internet users, the world's largest Web population. The government pays particular heed to social media, blocking Facebook and Google's mail and search services, as well as YouTube. In the latest move to tighten its grip, the government announced plans to set up "network security offices" staffed by police at major Internet companies, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Despite limited overlap, the themes all four focused on included social issues, criticism of the government and collective action, the study showed. Other common topics included the banned spiritual movement Falun Gong, words related to a Uighur separatist movement, and senior officials such as Xi.

Like YouTube, the four video platforms employ terms of service that spell out what's per-

missible.

For instance, YY and Sina Show will block posts containing certain banned words, sometimes along with a pop-up warning, sometimes not. The intended recipients are usually told that an incoming message was censored, the study found.

Researchers also discovered that, on YY and 9158 for instance, some sensitive phrases are replaced with asterisks.

Censors look beyond just social video sites. Services that stream paid content such as Sohu.com and Baidu's IQiyi, previously left

This research suggests that even though there's a lot of pressure to implement censorship, there isn't much detail on how to do it

MASASHI CRETE-NISHIHATA  
RESEARCHER

to police themselves, are now said to be required to submit full seasons or episodes for approval.

Last year, four U.S. shows, including The Big Bang Theory and The Good Wife, were removed from Chinese video sites.

"These results show there is no monolithic set of rules that govern how information controls are implemented in China," the researchers said in their study. **Bloomberg**

## GOV'T BANS IMMORAL SONGS ONLINE

**THE MINISTRY** of Culture yesterday released a blacklist of 120 songs that "trumpeted obscenity, violence, crime or harmed social morality", and ordered website administrators to remove them from their sites. Including titles such as "Beijing Hooligans", "Don't Want to Go to School" and "Suicide Diary", the banned songs were described as "having severely problematic content", which violated an online cultural management regulation, according to a ministry statement.

Songs by household names such as Chang Csun Yuk and Stanley Huang were also on the list. "No unit or individual is allowed to provide [these songs]," the statement read, promising severe punishment for those that failed to comply with the takedown notice. The blacklist will serve as a reference for online administrators to ensure their content is legal, said Liu Qiang, a ministry official in charge of the cultural market, adding that the list will be regularly updated.

# Alibaba takes USD4.63b stake in electronics seller Suning

Mae Anderson,  
Business Writer, New York

**ALIBABA** is taking a 20 percent stake in Chinese electronics store chain Suning in a move that helps the Chinese e-commerce powerhouse expand in the brick-and-mortar arena.

Alibaba said yesterday that it will invest 28.3 billion yuan (USD4.63 billion) to become the largest shareholder in the

company. Alibaba said the companies will collaborate on e-commerce, logistics and other businesses. Suning will open a flagship store on Alibaba's Tmall.com platform.

Alibaba will also be able to use Suning's logistics network, which covers 90 percent of China's countries, including eight national distribution centers, 57 regional distribution centers, 353 city forwarding centers and 1,700 de-

livery stations.

"Over the past two decades, e-commerce has become an inextricable part of the lives of Chinese consumers, and this new alliance brings forth a new commerce model that fully integrates online and offline," said CEO Jack Ma.

Suning operates more than 1,600 chain stores in 600 cities in China, Hong Kong and Japan.

"We're going to be able

to leverage on Suning's physical infrastructure," Alibaba Vice Chairman Joseph Tsai said during a conference call.

The companies will link their customer databases so they can tailor services such as in-store mobile payments, Chief Executive Officer Daniel Zhang said.

The acquisition is Alibaba's biggest-ever, excluding a \$7.1 billion share buyback in 2012 from Yahoo! Inc. **AP/Bloomberg**



BLOOMBERG

# Court gives ex-general suspended death sentence for bribery

Louise Watt, Beijing

A military court yesterday gave a former general a suspended death sentence for bribery and other crimes, state media reported, in the case against the highest-ranking military officer to be tried since China's president began cracking down on corruption in the country's vast army.

Gu Junshan, the People's Liberation Army's former head of logistics, was also found guilty of abuse of power, embezzlement, accepting bribes and misusing state funds and received a death sentence with a two-year reprieve, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Such suspended sentences are usually commuted to life in prison with good behavior.

Xinhua said he was also stripped of his rank of lieutenant general, had all his personal assets confiscated and has been deprived of his political rights for life, citing a court statement.

All the illicit funds and materials involved in the case will be confiscated, Xinhua said.

Gu was deputy head of the People's Liberation Army's General Logistics Department, a posi-

XINHUA



Gu Junshan

tion offering him wide-ranging powers over procurement and contracts for the 2.3 million-member armed forces.

The investigation into his misdeeds kicked off a campaign against military corruption. In 2013, investigators hauled away

four truckloads of alleged plunder, including gold statues and cases of high-end liquor from one of Gu's mansions.

According to previous media reports, Gu lined his pockets through huge kickbacks received over the transfer of military-ow-

ned land in premium locations throughout China.

China has for years sought to clean up corruption that has been seen as weakening the military's moral and fighting ability. The armed forces were ordered to give up most of their business

interests more than a decade ago, but a culture of opacity, authoritarianism and bribery has continued to lead to abuses.

President Xi Jinping, who is also head of the armed forces, has made the crackdown on military corruption a centerpiece of his sweeping drive against graft in the government and ruling Communist Party.

Military corruption is believed to have thrived under Xi's predecessors, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, whose civilian backgrounds never lent them much influence over the general staff. Xi, in contrast, is the son of one of the former comrades-in-arms of communist China's founder Mao Zedong and himself served briefly as a uniformed officer.

That seems to have given him the necessary clout to go after senior figures. Two were once vice chairmen of the powerful Central Military Commission: Guo Boxiong, who is facing charges of accepting bribes to grant promotions and other benefits; and Xu Caihou, who had been indicted on charges of taking bribes and brokering promotions prior to his death from cancer earlier this year. AP

## TV host to be punished for insulting Mao in private

AUTHORITIES ordered a state broadcaster to punish a popular TV celebrity for insulting Communist Party founder Mao Zedong at a private dinner, state media reported.

Bi Fujian was a talent show host on China Central Television when a video circulated in April showing him mocking Mao in comments interspersed in a song. He publicly apologized and was suspended.

The China Discipline Inspection Daily, a newspaper under the party's anti-graft watchdog, said Sunday that discipline inspectors at the broadcasting watchdog had found that Bi had violated "political discipline" in harming Mao's image.

The report said the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television had ordered CCTV to deal with the matter "severely" and to educate people within the broadcasting system.

CCTV didn't immediately comment. Calls to the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television rang unanswered yesterday.

In the video subsequently removed by censors, Bi sung a revolutionary



Vendors sell posters of Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, and Communist Party founder Mao Zedong, center and right, on a street of Gujiao in northern China's Shanxi province

song and added his own commentary about Mao between lines, using a vulgar Chinese insult that includes a reference to female genitals, and saying "he has ruined us all."

Even though some of Mao's policies

have been officially critiqued, the ruling Communist Party can hardly renounce him because it has built much of its legitimacy upon the imagery surrounding the revolutionary leader. AP

## Typhoon Soudelor kills 17

Typhoon Soudelor has left seventeen people dead with five still missing, the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters said yesterday. More than three million people and 110,000 hectares of crops in east China's Zhejiang, Fujian and Jiangxi provinces were affected by the typhoon, with direct economic losses totaling 8.73 billion yuan (USD1.43 billion). After pounding Taiwan and leaving six people dead, Soudelor landed Saturday night in Fujian Province and moved to neighboring Zhejiang and Jiangxi provinces. The typhoon is expected to move northeast at about 20 kilometers per hour from Anhui Province and may bring heavy rain to Jiangsu, Anhui, north Zhejiang, east Hubei provinces and Shanghai.

## FM pledges continued support for Ebola-hit Africa nations

China's foreign minister has pledged continued support to the three West African countries hardest hit by the Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 11,200 people. Minister Wang Yi was in Guinea yesterday for the last leg of his tour of the three countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. In Liberia, Yi also highlighted China's support in building roads, homes and government offices. He said China would continue to support the West African countries without attaching any political conditions. In Sierra Leone Yi met with the president to discuss sending more medical personnel and helping to support the country's health infrastructure. China was the first to fly in a consignment of badly needed medical gear, including personal protection equipment, for Liberia and Sierra Leone when Ebola spread last year.

## NORTH KOREA

# Seoul restarts propaganda broadcasts to Pyongyang over mines

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

**S**OUTH Korea restarted propaganda broadcasts across the border with rival North Korea yesterday for the first time in 11 years in retaliation for the North allegedly planting land mines last week that maimed two South Korean soldiers.

The anti-North Korean broadcasts over loudspeakers aimed across the world's most heavily armed border are sure to worsen already terrible ties between the Koreas and infuriate the North, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of the authoritarian leadership of Kim Jong Un.

South Korea's military earlier yesterday promised unspecified "searing" consequences for the mine blasts last week in the Seoul-controlled southern part of the Demilitarized Zone that has bisected the Korean Peninsula since the end of fighting in the Korean War in 1953. South Korean officials said they may take additional punitive measures depending on how North Korea reacts. It was unclear how long the broadcasts will continue.

The U.S.-led U.N. Command conducted an investigation that blamed North Korea for the mines. It condemned what it called violations of the armistice that ended fighting in the war, which still technically continues because the participants have never signed a peace treaty.

The soldiers were on a routine patrol near a wire fence in



A South Korean army soldier stands guard near the scene of a blast inside the demilitarized zone in Paju, South Korea

the southern side of the border when the explosions happened. One of the soldiers lost both legs, while the other lost one leg.

In 2004, the two Koreas stopped the decades-long practice of propaganda warfare along the border to reduce tension. The practice had included loudspeaker and radio broadcasts, billboards and leaflets.

In 2010, South Korea restarted radio broadcasts and restored 11 loudspeakers as part of punitive measures taken after a warship sinking blamed on North Korea that killed 46 South Korean sailors earlier that year. But South Korea didn't go ahead with plans to resume loudspeaker broadcasts at the time.

South Korea conducted louds-

peaker broadcasts yesterday in the western and center portions of the border, said Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok. He said the broadcasts emphasized that the mine explosions were a provocation by the North.

South Korean defense officials earlier said the military planned to use two of the 11 restored loudspeakers. In the past, propaganda broadcasts typically blared messages about alleged North Korean government mismanagement, human rights conditions, the superiority of South Korean-style democracy as well as world news and weather forecasts.

More than a million mines are believed to be buried inside the

DMZ, and North Korean mines have occasionally washed down a swollen river into the South, killing or injuring civilians. But North Korean soldiers crossing the border and planting mines is highly unusual.

The explosions come amid continuing bad feelings between the rival Koreas over the establishment of a U.N. office in Seoul tasked with investigating the North's human rights record. North Korea also refuses to release several South Koreans it has detained. Things are expected to get worse next week when Seoul and Washington launch annual summertime military drills, which the allies say are routine but North Korea calls an invasion rehearsal.

Investigations by South Korea and the American-led U.N. Command showed that splinters from the explosions were from wood box mines used by North Korea, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

South Korean officials say there's no chance that old mines had dislodged and drifted to the South because of rain or shifting soil. The area where the soldiers were patrolling is on higher ground than the places where North Korean mines have been previously planted, meaning the recent mines must have been purposely laid

■ **The broadcasts are in retaliation for the North allegedly planting land mines last week that maimed two S Korean soldiers**

there by the North, chief South Korean investigator Ahn Young-ho told reporters.

A senior South Korean military officer, Ku Hongmo, said Seoul believes North Korean soldiers secretly crossed the border and laid mines between July 23 and Aug. 3, the day before the three mines exploded. But he said surveillance cameras in the area did not detect any suspicious North Korean activities, apparently because of bad weather and forest cover.

A border line runs through the middle of the 4-kilometer-wide DMZ, which is jointly overseen by the U.N. Command and North Korea. South Korean troops patrol the southern part of the buffer zone. **AP**

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PAKISTAN

# Child sex abuse investigation shocks nation as police arrest more suspects

Kamran Haider and Faseeh Mangi

**P**AKISTANI Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday vowed to fully prosecute those found guilty in a child sex abuse scandal that has shocked the Muslim-majority nation.

Police arrested half a dozen suspects and confiscated 30 pornographic videos in an eastern Pakistan village near the border with India, Rai Babar Saeed, a police officer in Kasur district, said by phone. Seven families have filed police complaints, he said.

It was not yet known how many children were abused or if there were other videos, Saeed said.

Police were investigating claims the suspects were blackmailing the victims' families, demanding money in exchange for not making the videos public. Copies of the abuse videos were allegedly sold in local markets.

"The accused should be given

the harshest punishment and no leniency should be shown toward them," Sharif's office said in a text message.

Sharif is facing pressure to show he's tough on crime as his opponents look for any opportunity to discredit his two-year-old administration. Imran Khan, an opposition leader who led street protests against the government last year, said he'd pursue the issue in parliament.

"We strongly condemn these horrific acts of child abuse and police complicity," Khan wrote on Twitter.

Shahbaz Sharif, the chief minister of Punjab province and Nawaz's brother, ordered an inquiry on Sunday after The Nation newspaper reported that more than 280 children were abused over the past decade. Police haven't found evidence yet to suggest that many were involved, Saeed said.

The case became public after victims' families clashed with po-



Members of a Pakistani civil society hold a demonstration against a child abuse scandal in Lahore

lice last Tuesday, accusing authorities of ignoring their complaints.

Child Protection Bureau chief Saba Sadiq has demanded a high-level judicial probe, while provincial chief minister Shahbaz Sharif ordered investigators to make all

the facts public.

"This will bring a negative perception to the government," Rashid Ahmed Khan, professor of international relations at University of Sargodha in Punjab province, said of the scandal.

More than 3,500 cases of sexual abuse were reported in Pakistan in 2014, a 17 percent increase over the previous year, according to Sahil, an organization that works with UNICEF for child protection in Pakistan. **Bloomberg/AP**

JAPAN

# 1st nuclear reactor to restart since Fukushima meltdown

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**A** power plant operator said it will restart a reactor in southern Japan today, the first restart under new safety requirements following the Fukushima disaster and a milestone for the nation's return to nuclear power.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. said yesterday that it would restart the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai nuclear plant this morning.

The restart marks Japan's return to nuclear energy, breaking a four-and-a-half-year nuclear power impasse since the 2011 meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan following the earthquake and tsunami.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority affirmed the safety of the reactor and another one at the Sendai plant in September under stricter safety rules imposed after the accident, the worst since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion. The plans call for the second reactor to be restarted in October.

The Sendai No. 1 reactor is scheduled to start generating power Friday and reach full capacity next month.

All of Japan's nearly 50 workable reactors have been offline for repairs or safety checks. Abe's government



This aerial photo shows the No. 1 reactor, right, and No. 2 reactor at the Sendai Nuclear Power Station in Satsumasendai, Kagoshima prefecture

wants as many of them as possible to be put online to sustain the nation's economy, which now relies on imported energy.

"We believe it is important for our energy policy to push forward restarts of reactors that are deemed safe," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

Under the basic energy plan adopted by the Cabinet last year to sustain nuclear power as a key energy supply for resource-poor Japan, the government earlier this year set a goal to have nuclear power meet more than 20 percent of the country's energy needs by 2030.

Despite the push by the government and utilities for nuclear restarts, a majority of Japanese are opposed to a return to nuclear energy. Residents near the Sendai plant are also wary of the restarts, citing potential dangers from active volcanoes in the region.

Yesterday, dozens of protesters rallied outside the Sendai plant in a last-ditch effort to stop the restart, shouting "We don't need nuclear plants."

Opponents of the restarts and nuclear experts are also concerned that evacuation plans, in case of a disaster, may not work well. **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

# Suicide car bomb near Kabul airport kills 5

**A** suicide car bombing at a busy roundabout near the entrance to Kabul's international airport yesterday killed at least five people and wounded 16, officials said.

The Kabul provincial police chief, Abdul Rahman Rahimi, told The Associated Press that a car packed with explosives blew up at the busy intersection. He also confirmed the latest casualty figures.

A huge plume of black smoke rose above the city after the midday blast, as police, soldiers and ambulances rushed to the site, which is usually thronging with pedestrians and vehicles.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter that the militant group was behind the attack. He said it was aimed at "foreigners."

The charred remains of a car lay on its side near the roundabout. Nearby shops were destroyed and the windows of a wedding hall were shattered, witnesses said.

The entrance to the airport is often clogged with traffic, as vehicles must stop at a number of checkpoints.

Kabul has been rocked by a series of attacks in recent days that have killed scores of people and wounded hundreds.

The latest violence comes after the Afghan intelligence service said the Taliban's longtime leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had been dead for more than two years. The disclosure of his death, later confirmed by the Taliban, triggered an internal succession dispute and raised questions about the future direction of the insurgency.

President Ashraf Ghani was due to hold a televised press conference later yesterday. **AP**

**AUGUST 14-15TH**

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Jim Salter and Jim Suhr, Ferguson

USA

# Man shot near Ferguson protest critically injured

A man who opened fire on officers in Ferguson, Missouri, on the one-year anniversary of Michael Brown's death was critically wounded when the officers shot back, a police chief in the U.S. state said early yesterday.

St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said at a news conference that officers had been tracking the man, who they believed was armed, during a protest marking the death of Brown, the black, unarmed 18-year-old whose killing by a white Ferguson police officer touched off a "Black Lives Matter" movement across the U.S.

The man approached the officers, who were in an unmarked police van, and opened fire, Belmar said. The officers returned fire from inside the vehicle and then pursued the man on foot when he ran.

The man again fired on the officers, the chief said, and all four officers fired back. He was struck and fell.

The man was taken to a hospital, where Belmar said he was in "critical, unstable" condition. Authorities didn't immediately release the identities of anyone involved, but Tyrone Harris told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch the injured man was his son, Tyrone Harris Jr.

The elder Harris told the newspaper shortly after 3 a.m. that his son had just gotten out



AP PHOTO  
People come to the aid of a distraught woman after gunshots were fired near a protest in Ferguson

of surgery.

None of the officers was seriously injured. All four have been put on standard administrative leave. They were not wearing body cameras, Belmar said.

The shooting happened shortly after what the chief called "an exchange of gunfire between two groups" rang out around 11:15 p.m. Sunday while protesters were gathered on West Florissant Avenue, a business zone

that saw rioting and looting last year after Brown's killing. The shots sent protesters and reporters running for cover.

The chief said an estimated six shooters unleashed a "remarkable" amount of gunfire over about 45 seconds.

Belmar waved off any notion that the people with the weapons were part of the protest.

"They were criminals. They weren't protesters," he said.

The man who fired on officers had a semi-automatic 9MM gun that was stolen last year from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, according to the chief.

"There is a small group of people out there that are intent on making sure that peace doesn't prevail," he said. "There are a lot of emotions. I get it. But we can't sustain this as we move forward."

The anniversary of Brown's

killing, which cast greater scrutiny on how police interact with black communities, has sparked days of renewed protests, though until Sunday they had been peaceful and without any arrests.

Before the gunfire, protesters were blocking traffic and confronting police. One person threw a glass bottle at officers but missed.

For the first time in three consecutive nights of demonstrations, some officers were dressed in riot gear, including bullet-proof vests and helmets with shields.

One officer was treated for cuts related to a brick thrown at his face, Belmar said. Police made an unknown number of arrests and at one point early yesterday shot smoke to disperse the crowd that lingered on West Florissant, he said.

There were also reports of two separate shootings on nearby Canfield Drive, the street where Brown was shot, Belmar said. He had no further details about the incidents or whether anyone was injured. AP

TURKEY

## Assailants fire shots at US Consulate in Istanbul

Lefteris Pitarakis and Suzan Fraser, Istanbul

TWO assailants opened fire at the heavily protected U.S. Consulate building in Istanbul yesterday, touching off a gunfight with police before fleeing the scene, Turkish media reports said.

One of the assailants, a woman, was later captured at a nearby building and hospitalized. Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency, quoting unnamed police sources, said she has been identified as a member of a banned leftist group. The Istanbul governor's office said police were searching for a second woman involved in the attack.

Anadolu named the captured assailant as 42-year-old Hatice Asik and said she is a member of the far-left Revolutionary People's Liberation Army-



AP PHOTO  
A masked Turkish police officer secures a road leading to the U.S. Consulate building in Istanbul

Front, or DHKP-C. The group claimed responsibility for a 2013 suicide attack on the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, which killed a Turkish security guard.

No one else was injured in the onslaught.

Hours earlier an overnight bomb attack at a police station in Istanbul injured three policemen and seven civilians and caused a fire that collapsed part of the three-story building. Police said the

assailants exploded a car bomb near the station. Unknown assailants later fired on police inspecting the scene of the explosion, sparking another gunfight with police that killed a member of the police inspection team and two assailants.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility and it was not known if the attack on the police was connected to the Consulate assault. AP

GERMANY

## Prosecutors drop treason probe against journalists

GERMAN federal prosecutors yesterday dropped a much-criticized treason investigation of two journalists who had reported on secret plans to expand online surveillance in Germany.

Prosecutors notified website Netzpolitik.org in late July that its founder, Markus Beckedahl, and fellow journalist Andre Meister were under investigation — touching off widespread criticism from free-speech advocates. The website specializes in coverage of online privacy and digital culture.

Justice Minister Heiko Maas questioned the decision to open a treason probe, and last week fired chief federal prosecutor Harald Range after the two clashed over public allegations by Range of political interference — which the minister denied.

Yesterday, the federal prosecutor's office said it is closing the case because it believes the leaked documents the website's reports were based on were not a "state secret" and other conditions for treason charges also were not fulfilled.

The probe, which was opened following a criminal complaint filed by Germany's domestic intelligence agency, also targeted the unidentified



AP PHOTO  
Markus Beckedahl, the editor-in-chief and founder of Netzpolitik.org

source of the leaked documents. Yesterday's statement said that investigating the source or sources for violating secrecy will now be a matter for lower-ranking local prosecutors.

Beckedahl said the decision to drop the probe was not enough.

"We want to know precisely whether we were subject to surveillance measures during the almost three-month investigation," he said in a statement.

Beckedahl added that he hopes the case will motivate authorities to improve protection for whistleblowers in Germany.

German officials have taken pains to stress their commitment to press freedom amid embarrassment over the probe. AP

## what's ON

## I AM MY OWN LANDSCAPE – EXHIBITION BY CRYSTAL CHAN

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)  
3pm-8pm (Mondays)

UNTIL: August 22, 2015

VENUE: Albergue SCM, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / 2852 3205

## MASTERS IN PAINTING – CONTEMPORARY WATERCOLOURS

TIME: 11am-7pm (August 11-14, 2015)  
11am-4pm (August 15)

VENUE: Florence Ballroom, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

## MACAU JOINT FASHION PERFORMANCE – MINI EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)

UNTIL: August 30, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47, Rua de S. Roque, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

## HISTORICAL PAINTINGS OF MACAU IN THE 19TH CENTURY

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: December 31, 2015

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## HABITUAL WORLD - KOREAN DRAWING EXHIBITION OF CHA YOUNG SEOK

TIME: 10am-6pm

UNTIL: September 6, 2015

VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery, Taipa Houses Museum, Avenida da Praia, Taipa, Macau

ADMISSION: MOP5 (Adult), MOP2 (Student or Group), Free (Under 12 or above 65) Enquiries: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

## 2015 ART TROUPE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME – INGENUITY EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 31, 2015

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro, Macau

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

## Offbeat

## NY CITY SCENTS: 2 BABY SKUNKS FOUND IN SUBWAY STATION

There are plenty of smells in New York City's subways. But skunks?

The New York Post said that police and a transit worker rescued two baby skunks that had strayed into a Bronx subway station last week. They were taken to a veterinarian's office to be examined.

Police Transit Bureau Chief Joseph Fox tweeted plaudits to the officers and worker for helping the animals and, in his words, "getting far closer than I would have."

The city Parks Department notes that skunks are native to New York and "part of NYC wildlife."

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:40	The Illusionist (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:40	Documentary Series
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

6 Aug- 12 Aug



## FANTASTIC FOUR\_

ROOM 1

2.00, 5.50, 7.45, 9.45 pm

Director: Josh Trank

Starring: Miles Teller, Kate Mara, Michael B. Jordan

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 100min

## DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES\_

ROOM 1

3.55 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION\_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 131min

## DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES\_

ROOM 3

2.30 pm

Director: Yoshihiro Osugi

Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 100min

## ANT-MAN\_

ROOM 2

(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm

Director: Peyton Reed

Starring: Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

## TO THE FORE\_

ROOM 3

4.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Dante Lam

Starring: Eddie Peng, Siwon Choi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

## MACAU TOWER

30 Jul - 19 Aug

## MISSION IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE NATION\_

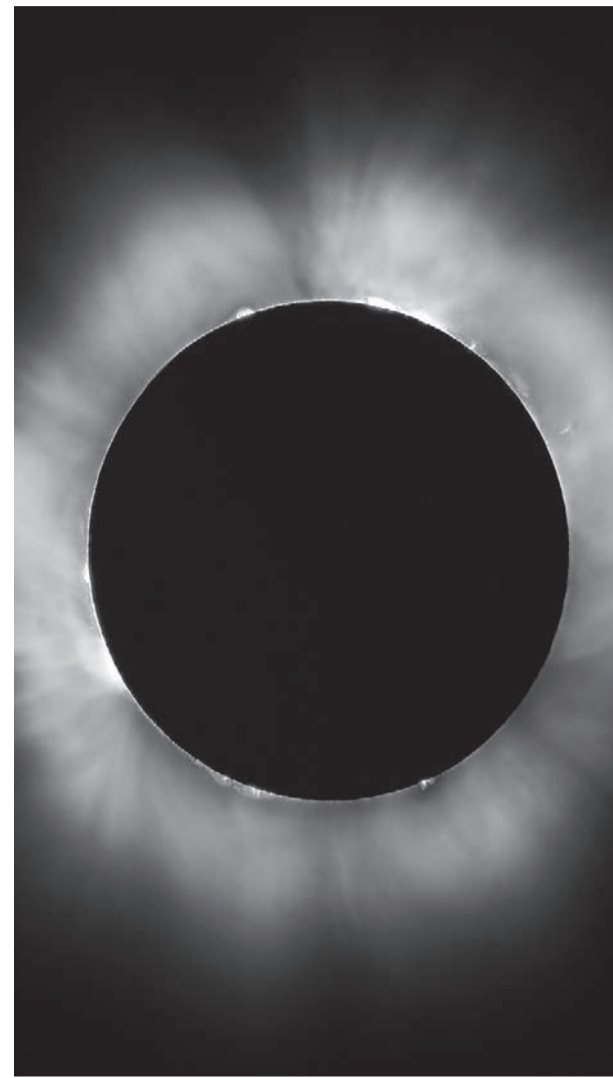
2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Christopher McQuarrie

Starring: Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson

Language: English (Chinese)

## this day in history



## 1999 MILLIONS MARVEL AT TOTAL ECLIPSE

Up to 350 million people in Europe and Asia have witnessed the last total solar eclipse of the century.

The phenomenon began over the Atlantic, a few hundred miles east of Boston, North America.

The only part of mainland Britain to witness totality - the full blacking out of the sun by the moon - was Cornwall in south-west England.

Cloudy skies mean spectators there were unable to see the full effect, but the spectacle was still dramatic.

The temperature dropped and darkness fell in Falmouth at 1111 BST (1011 GMT).

TV astronomer Patrick Moore, watching in Falmouth, described it as a "strange, weird experience".

Hundreds of people who gathered on the Isles of Scilly were the first to witness the eclipse.

After Britain the eclipse was seen throughout Europe and Asia.

Across the Channel in northern France there were clear skies as there were in Munich, Germany.

But at the moment of totality, a torrential downpour spoiled the view.

The streets of Ramnicu Valcea, the south-central city in Romania - where totality could be seen the longest - were crammed with spectators.

In Egypt, Muslims shut themselves away on the orders of clerics but Jordan and Syria declared a national holiday.

Spectators in Pakistan and Bangladesh suffered the same fate as those in the UK, having their views obscured by clouds.

The eclipse will lead to greater scientific understanding, largely because its track across Europe and south Asia allowed astronomers many vantage points with clear skies.

During an eclipse scientist are able to measure the effect of the sun on the Earth's atmosphere and observe the violent magnetic storms in outer atmosphere of the sun - the corona.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The 1999 total eclipse was the first over mainland Britain since 1927 - the next will not be until 2090.

The first total solar eclipse of the 21st century took place on 21 June 2001.

It was visible from a much smaller area than the 1999 eclipse with the best views being in southern Africa.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Criticism is important to development — but too much can hold people back!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Now is a great time to head out and see a show, preferably as part of a group.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Today is all about little tasks and checking off your to-do list items. That can be immensely satisfying,

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You may want to explore some new territory with close friends or coworkers — maybe it's time for a date,

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your head for figures is potent right now, so make sure that you can take the time to dive into your spreadsheets and get a real handle

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your organization pays off once again, and it should be easy for you to make sense of even the most complicated arrangements.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today is perfect for doing nothing at all. If you can sneak away from responsibilities, you should feel terrifically relaxed

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Friendship really is magic — and today, your besties are proving that you have made some great choices!

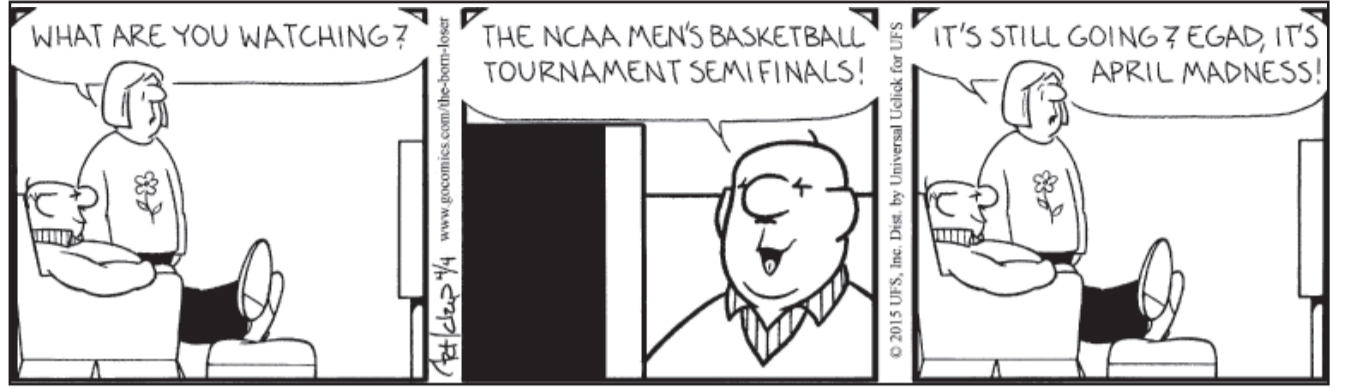
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 This is not the day to make bold moves, as much as you would like to do just that.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your big brain is hungry for knowledge, so fill it up and find new ways to answer new questions.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Try to take greater care with work and business today. No one is really out to get you,

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Someone you work closely with is turning out to be a more complex individual than you had realized.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

Sudoku grid for Easy difficulty with numbers 6, 7, 4, 1, 2, 7, 8, 3, 6, 4, 9, 2, 8, 6, 3, 1, 5, 1, 4, 5, 8, 2, 8, 3, 6, 4, 9, 3.

Easy+

Sudoku grid for Easy+ difficulty with numbers 8, 6, 7, 9, 8, 1, 5, 3, 7, 3, 9, 2, 6, 2, 5, 6, 8, 7, 6, 2, 4, 4, 7, 9.

Medium

Sudoku grid for Medium difficulty with numbers 2, 5, 1, 8, 6, 4, 5, 4, 1, 7, 5, 4, 1, 8, 3, 6, 2, 9, 3, 1, 9, 6, 1, 4, 5, 7, 1, 2, 7.

Hard

Sudoku grid for Hard difficulty with numbers 2, 9, 4, 3, 6, 9, 5, 1, 2, 8, 3, 5, 6, 3, 9, 4, 8.

WEATHER

CHINA

Weather forecast table for China with columns for location, MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Locations include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

Weather forecast table for World with columns for location, MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Locations include Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mideast airline; 5- Bring forth from the egg; 10- Cockney greeting; 14- Director Riefenstahl; 15- HI hi; 16- Bump into; 17- Kidney-shaped seed; 19- Monogram tr.; 20- Alleviated; 21- Dirty rat; 23- Deli bread; 25- Free of frost; 26- Sacks; 29- Copied; 31- Jack; 35- Web address ending; 36- Egg-shaped; 37- Of religious rites; 38- U.S. space probe to Jupiter; 40- Glossy black; 41- Playing marbles; 42- Carefree adventure; 43- Poetic puglist; 44- Israeli desert region; 45- Central part; 46- Commedia dell'...; 47- Label anew; 49- Actress Joanne; 51- Record; 54- Start of a Dickens title; 58- Trumpeter Al; 59- Disloyal; 63- On the sheltered side; 64- Crews; 65- Writer Sarah... Jewett; 66- Sounds of disapproval; 67- Thick sweet liquid; 68- Wander;

DOWN: 1- Actress Sommer; 2- "Star Wars" princess; 3- No ifs, ...; 4- Passenger ships; 5- Cut and dried grass; 6- Liturgical vestment; 7- Digit of the foot; 8- Pursued; 9- Capital of Vietnam; 10- High rank; 11- Grant temporary use of; 12- Hula hoops?; 13- Conductor Klemperer; 18- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 22- Antiaircraft fire; 24- Gutter site; 25- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 26- Started; 27- Proverb; 28- Soviet labor camp; 30- Kung... chicken; 32- Bellowing; 33- Chamber; 34- Borden's spokesperson; 36- British secondary school exam; 37- Begat; 39- Repeats; 40- Average; 42- Limb of a felled tree; 45- U.S. film actor; 46- Writer; 48- Track tipsters; 50- Urban scourge; 51- FDR's fireside...; 52- Has a bug; 53- Arduous journey; 55- Bushy hairdo; 56- Roman moon goddess; 57- K-6; 60- At a great distance; 61-... Darya (Asian river); 62- AOL, e.g.;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in letters.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-68.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property with contact information.

Real estate advertisement for Designer Apartment Macau, Overlooking St Pauls, and One Grantai, Unit Y Taipa.

Real estate advertisement for Hellene Gardens Coloane, Old Taipa Village Taipa, and CHUN LEONG Taipa.

Real estate advertisement for Fountainside Studio Apartment Macau and Fountainside Studio Apartment Macau.

Real estate advertisement for Jou Fai Kuok Macau, Near Ruins of St Pauls, and YEE HOI Garden Macau.

JML Property logo and contact information, including '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.

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- R.S. Drive Mode
- Day time running light
- 17" GT wheel



\*Image for reference only

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Paul Newberry, San Antonio

SWIMMING

# Phelps goes 3 for 3 at nationals with another year-record

**H**AVING established himself as the shadow world champion in three events, Michael Phelps pondered the last time he felt this good.

He quickly pointed to the year leading up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where he broke one of the greatest records in sports.

It looks as if he's headed for another massive medal haul in Rio.

Phelps made it 3 for 3 at the U.S. national championships yesterday (Macau time), winning the 200-meter individual medley with yet another time that would have been good enough for a world title if he had been allowed to compete at the biggest meet outside the Olympics.

On the heels of brilliant performances in the 100 and 200 butterfly, Phelps set himself up as the favorite in all three races looking toward Rio.

"I'm very happy where I am right now," he said. "This is a great foundation. This is a place we really haven't been in a long time leading up to an Olympics. I definitely wasn't like this leading up to 2012. It's probably been since 2007 that it's been like this. I can sit here and argue with you that 2007 is probably the best year of my career. It's probably the last time I had three events like this back to back to back."

Phelps was under world-record pace through the first three laps of the medley — fly, backstroke, breaststroke — but he struggled a bit on the freestyle leg to touch in 1 minute, 54.75 seconds — 0.75 off the mark set in 2011 by American



Michael Phelps competes in the finals of the men's 200-meter individual medley at the U.S. swimming nationals

rival Ryan Lochte.

Still, it was more than second faster than Lochte's winning

time of 1:55.81 at the world championships, held in Kazan, Russia, over the past two weeks.

Phelps, of course, wasn't allowed to compete at worlds this year.

He was kicked off the U.S. team after his second drunken-driving arrest last September, leading Phelps to swear off alcohol and take a good, hard look at himself during six weeks of inpatient therapy in Arizona. He emerged with what he said was a new outlook on life and a commitment to put in the sort of training that marked the peak of his career, when he was driven to break Mark Spitz's 36-year-old Olympic record by winning eight gold medals in Beijing.

With an embarrassing string of problems outside the pool, Phelps still must prove to his skeptics that he's a changed man.

There are no longer any doubts about what he can do in the water at age 30.

"I'm pumped," he said. "Being able to do that right now, I'm very, very pleased. It's something great to build from."

In the two butterfly events, Phelps put up the fastest times since high-tech bodysuits were banned after the 2009 worlds. In the 200 IM, he went faster than anyone has gone since his gold medal-winning time of 1:54.27 at the London Olympics three years ago.

He managed to go fast in sweltering Texas even though most

of the top swimmers were competing halfway around the world in Russia. Phelps was largely racing the clock in San Antonio, without anyone to seriously challenge him.

That didn't matter. He met his goal of going faster than the world champion in all three events.

Phelps' longtime coach, Bob Bowman, said the swimmer "greatly exceeded" his expectations.

"We're ahead of schedule," Bowman said. "Just seeing him put up those kind of times, it probably does change what I thought might be possible in a year. I thought he could get near his top level. I wasn't sure it would happen this quickly."

Already the most decorated athlete in Olympic history with 18 golds and 22 medals overall, Phelps will surely compete in the same three individual events at Rio that he dominated in San Antonio, and it seems highly likely he'll be on all three U.S. relay teams after a disappointing performance by the Americans in Kazan.

The U.S. men didn't even qualify for the final of the 400 free relay at worlds, and they settled for silver in the 800 free relay. A gold medal Sunday in the 400 medley relay did little to ease the sting. **AP**

KAZAN

## Russia's new 'sports capital' has Olympic ambitions

**T**HE city calling itself "Russia's sports capital" isn't Moscow, St. Petersburg or even last year's Winter Olympic host Sochi. Instead it's Kazan, a provincial city with global ambitions.

The venue for U.S. swim phenom Katie Ledecky's record-breaking exploits at this month's world championships, Kazan wants to use the event as a springboard to bring the Summer Olympics to Russia for the first time.

In this traditionally Muslim city, where minarets and onion domes both rise over the city's kremlin, several Olympic-standard venues have already been built.

"To host the Olympic Games, the city and all the city infrastructure are ready at

the very highest level" and only "insignificant changes" would be needed, regional sports minister Vladimir Leonov told The Associated Press in e-mailed comments as he visited next year's Olympic host Brazil.

Kazan's hosting of the world aquatics championships has been big and brash, installing an Olympic-size pool in a soccer stadium packed with cheering spectators and staging 25-meter high diving against the backdrop of the Kremlin.

"Most of the swimmers in their careers, they have no opportunity to experience such a reception and such support from the stands," said Russian former Olympic champion swimmer Alexander Popov, now a

member of the International Olympic Committee, the body which chooses Olympic hosts. "Even being just a part of the spectators still feels fantastic."

All this comes at a time when the Russian economy is struggling under pressure from international sanctions and the depressed oil price.

Next up for Kazan is World Cup soccer in 2018, when the city's venue will be the 45,000-seat Kazan Arena, which held two swimming pools for the world championships. Behind the scenes in the practice areas, some of the swimmers were already getting into the spirit.

"We were playing soccer earlier. I was with one of the Canadian coaches and we just thought it would

be cool to say that we've played soccer on the field that the 2018 World Cup is going to be on," U.S. star Missy Franklin said Tuesday.

At the World Cup, Kazan will be the only traditionally Muslim city among the 11 hosting games. It is a place that wears its religion lightly, with bars common and Islamic clothing rare. The main mosque was only finished in 2005, reaffirming regional identity after decades of Soviet homogenization.

Kazan's breakthrough moment as a sports city came in 2013, when it hosted the University Games, near-Olympic in the number of events and athletes but with much less global attention. Many of those facilities

would form the basis for a future Kazan Olympic bid. The window to apply for the 2024 Olympics closes next month, and time is running out for Kazan to declare interest.

"The door is closing and the Russian Olympic Committee, as far as I know, has no intention to put in a bid for the 2024 summer games," said Popov. "I don't think Kazan will bid for '24 but maybe for the future, '28."

One challenge for a Kazan Olympics would be financial. So far, much of the money for its sports ambitions has come from the Russian taxpayer, but now the Russian government is cutting spending.

Another would be local enthusiasm. While stands have been mostly full

for the swimming championships, other events have been poorly attended. Soccer club Rubin Kazan's average attendance last season for Russian Premier League games was less than one-third the capacity of its 45,000-seat stadium.

"One of the areas of professional sport that we need to develop is work to attract fans to sports events. And we're doing that work," Leonov said.

He says local authorities will now consider an Olympic bid, and the head of the Russian Olympic Committee has also expressed interest.

After the swim championships, Kazan's claim to be Russia's sports capital, Leonov added, "is now justified 100 percent." **AP**

opinion

Sports Views

Tim Dahlberg, AP Sports Columnist

KEEP THE USD74.95 AND PASS ON THIS MAYWEATHER FIGHT

So, this is it for Floyd Mayweather Jr., or so they say. Step up now because it's your last chance to see Money May in the ring. Buy those ringside tickets or find 75 bucks somewhere that you didn't spend on Ronda Rousey to watch Mayweather and Andre Berto dance about from the comfort of your own living room.

The fighter who has made himself insanely rich by conning people into paying to watch him on TV is at it again. The promise this time is that it's his last time, or at least until Mayweather figures there are still enough rubes out there who will buy another one next spring.

It wasn't enough to pocket USD220 million for a fight against Manny Pacquiao that could never live up to the hype that preceded it. Mayweather has jets to fuel and cars to buy and, really, who couldn't use another \$30 million or so?

This could have been a fight on free TV, something of a payback for those who felt shortchanged for the \$100 they paid to watch the snoozer against a surprisingly passive Pacquiao. This should have been a fight on free TV, but there's a few extra million to be squeezed out on pay-per-view and once again greed got in the way.

At least those buying the Pacquiao fight had an excuse. They thought Pacquiao legitimately had a chance, ignoring the fact that his skills had deteriorated badly in the five years he had been chasing a fight with Mayweather.

There's no pretending that Berto is much of a challenge. He has lost three of his last six fights, two of them to fighters that Mayweather easily beat. About the best thing anyone in the promotion can say about Berto is that he's aggressive, and may actually try to hit Mayweather.

That was reflected at the Westgate LV sports book on Wednesday, where Mayweather was a staggering 40-1 favorite. Not one bet had been placed, even with the chance to reap a small fortune should Berto somehow find a way to win.

That's all on Mayweather. He hand picks his opponents, and for this fight he passed over England's Amir Khan and Keith Thurman, among others who might actually give him a fight. For a fighter who believes he is the best ever, it's an odd and anti-climactic way to end a career, assuming that career is actually ending.

Still, there might be reasons to buy this pay-per-view. This is boxing, after all, a sport where the bizarre sometimes seems normal.

Such as:

—Mayweather forgets to tie the laces on his boxing shoes and trips while walking into the ring, hitting his head on Justin Bieber's microphone. By the time he can think clearly again, Berto is celebrating a first-round knockout and wondering if Mayweather can make him a deal on a used Bugatti.

—Mayweather's usual pedicurist calls in sick the morning of the fight, and the replacement digs a bit too deeply into his big toe. Mayweather tries to stick and move, but is so hobbled that he can't run at all. Berto wins a unanimous decision, then pops Bieber in the nose just for good measure.

—Fed up with watching bad fights from the corner, Floyd Sr. urges his son to trade punches with Berto no matter what happens. "Forget what I said about people not knowing anything about boxing," he tells him. "You need to give them a good show at least once."

OK, so maybe there really isn't a way for Berto to win. Maybe boxing fans should just treat this for what it is — a glorified exhibition that will make Mayweather even more millions while completing his six-fight deal with Showtime and making him a free agent should he decide — as most assume he will — to fight on at some point.

Boxing fans, though, have a few rights of their own. And on Sept. 12 they'd be wise to exercise them by resisting the urge to reach into their wallets to watch this stinker of a fight.

THE BUZZ ITALY SEIZES COCAINE STASHED UNDER SQUID FROM ARGENTINA

Italian customs police have seized 49 kilograms of pure cocaine hidden in a container transporting frozen totani, a kind of squid, on a cargo ship from Argentina.

Reggio Calabria prosecutor Federico Cafiero De Raho said yesterday that the cocaine, if sold on the street, would have raked in more than 10 million euros (USD11 million).

The cocaine was discovered in Gioia Tauro,

a port considered largely under the sway of the 'ndrangheta crime syndicate. Investigators say the Calabria-based 'ndrangheta is by far the biggest trafficker of cocaine in Europe. The prosecutor said police and customs officials have been intensifying controls in the port.

No arrests were immediately announced in connection with the seizure.



A street full of a dental offices is seen in Los Algodones, Mexico, which sits on the border with California

Facing rising dental costs, seniors head to Mexico

Astrid Galvan, Los Algodones

MARK Bolzern traveled 3,700 miles to go to the dentist. The 56-year-old Anchorage, Alaska, native left home this spring, made a pit stop in Las Vegas to pick up a friend, and kept heading south, all the way to Los Algodones, Mexico, a small border town teeming with dental offices.

About 60 percent of Americans have dental insurance coverage, the highest it has been in decades. But even so, the nation's older population has been largely left behind. Nearly 70 percent of seniors are not insured, according to a study compiled by Oral Health America. A major reason is because dental care is not covered by Medicare and many employers no longer offer post-retirement health benefits. What's more, the Affordable Care Act allows enrollees to get dental coverage only if they purchase general health coverage first, which many seniors don't need. At the same time, seniors often require the most costly dental work, like crowns, implants and false teeth.

As a result, many are seeking cheaper care in places like Los Algodones, where Mexican dentists who speak English and sometimes accept U.S. insurance offer rock-bottom prices for everything from a cleaning to implants. Dentists in Los Algodones

say a large portion of their clients are seniors.

In the desert outpost near the border of California and Arizona, men in white shirts stand outside of offices with signs advertising root canals and teeth cleanings. Other signs advertise prescription drugs like muscle relaxers at low rates — no prescription needed.

For Bolzern, seeing a dentist in Los Algodones meant a savings of up to USD62,000. He was told the extensive dental work he needed — his teeth needed to be raised and he needed a crown on every molar — would cost \$65,000 at a private dentist. He looked for lower rates, finding a dental school where the work was less expensive because it was performed by students. But it still cost \$35,000.

He paid \$3,000 in Mexico and has been back several times.

The cost of dental care has surged in the last two decades and continues to increase at a rate of 5 percent annually. Many dental plans have high deductibles and don't offer extensive coverage. Many people opt out.

Mexico has lower costs because of cheaper labor and fewer regulatory requirements. Residents in border towns like El Paso, Texas and Nogales, Sonora, often make the short drive to the Mexican side for basic medical needs and prescription medications that

are much costlier in the U.S. Some businesses even offer shuttle services from the Phoenix area to Los Algodones, a nearly 200-mile ride.

Going abroad for cheaper health care is nothing new. Americans have been doing it for years, for everything from elective, cosmetic procedures to major, life-saving surgery.

Matthew Messina, a practicing dentist and consumer adviser on behalf of the American Dental Association, said Americans who visit dentists in foreign countries should do a lot of research before they go.

Different countries use different types of equipment, and some items, such as implants, may not have warranties. Malpractice lawsuits may not be an option.

Dentists in Los Algodones say they attend less school than their counterparts in U.S. but spend more time practicing clinical work. They say they practice the same safety standards as American dentists and have offices that are just as clean.

José Obed Zuñiga has been a dentist in Los Algodones for a decade and found business was so good he opened his own shop about two years ago.

"Everything, the quality, is very similar to the United States," Zuñiga said. "We see the work from the United States, and it's very competitive." AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	😊
Ambient	40-60 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**BANGLADESH** Police on Sunday killed six suspected tiger poachers in the world's largest mangrove forest in southwestern Bangladesh, home to critically endangered Royal Bengal tigers. Local police official Harendranath Sarker said authorities recovered six bodies following a gunfight with a gang of suspected poachers in the Sundarbans mangrove forest. The 10,000-square-kilometer forest straddles Bangladesh and India, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Sarker said authorities found the skins of three adult tigers and seized firearms from the suspects.

**MALAYSIA**'s government says that debris has been found in the Maldives and that it will send a team to the Indian Ocean island nation to determine whether it came from a plane. Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai said yesterday that it was premature to speculate whether the debris found in the Maldives is connected to Flight 370.



**SWEDEN** Police say an attacker has stabbed two people to death and injured another at an Ikea store in central Sweden. Police in the city of Vasteras wrote on Twitter they were called to the store early yesterday afternoon where they found a dead man and two wounded people, one of whom also died later. They said a man had been arrested on suspicion of murder.

**GREECE**'s coast guard rescued more than 1,400 migrants in nearly 60 search and rescue operations near several Greek islands in the eastern Aegean Sea over the past three days as the pace of new arrivals increase, authorities said yesterday.

**GREECE** and its bailout creditors are working on the final details of a new multi-billion euro rescue loan, with a view to having the country's parliament approve it later this week. Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos and Economy Minister George Stathakis held new talks with officials from the EU and IMF, following intensive weekend meetings that stretched into early yesterday.