



TRAFFIC: 4 PCT ANNUAL CAP ON VEHICLE GROWTH

P5



GAMING: AUGUST BLUES

A VIP room at Hotel Lisboa is shut down, involving 21 job cuts. Meanwhile, Citigroup trimmed its August gaming revenue forecast to MOP18.5 billion

P7



NO SURVIVORS IN INDONESIA PLANE CRASH

Rescue workers yesterday reached the crash site where they found a grisly scene of bodies, debris and the black boxes

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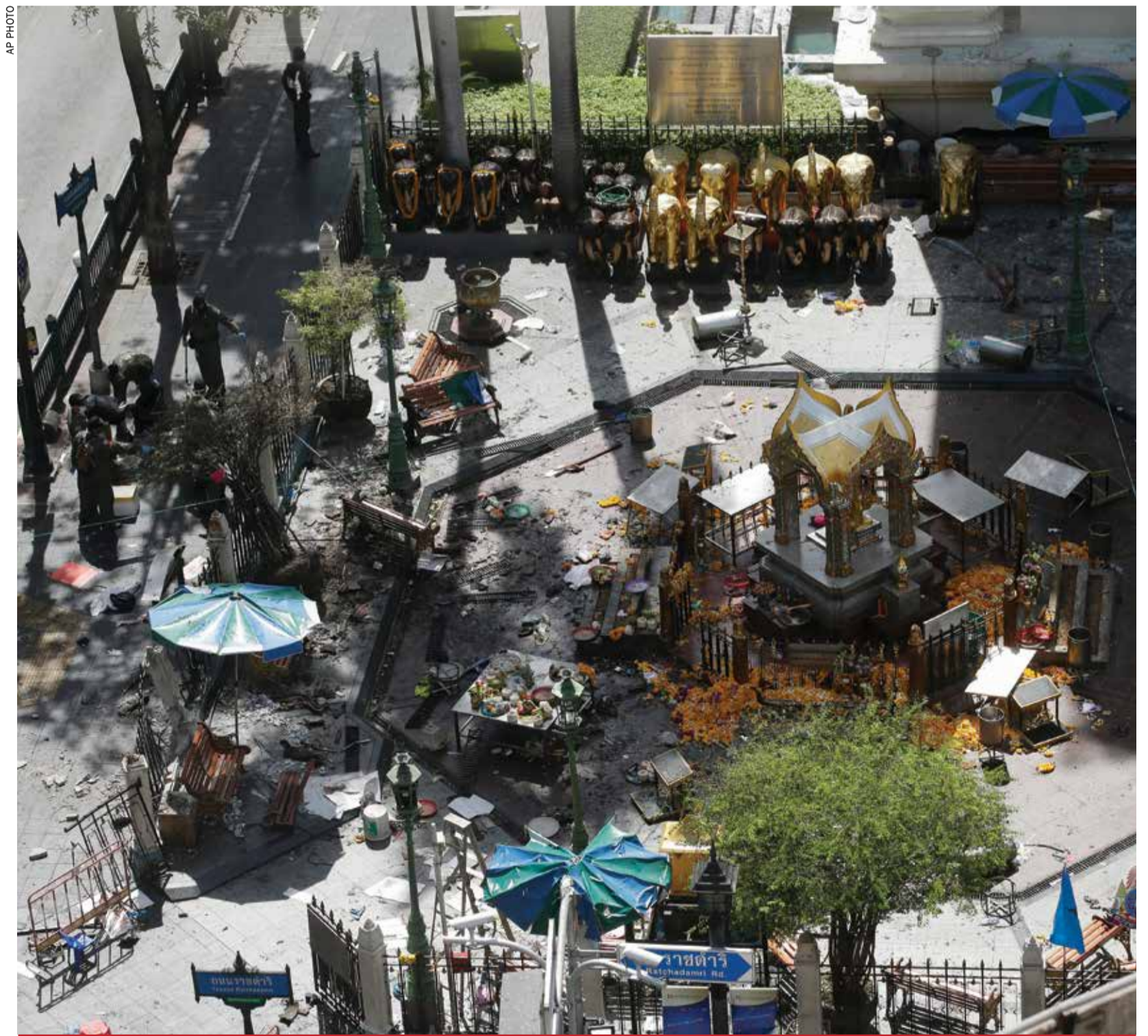
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BANGKOK BOMBING

Macau issues travel alert for Thailand, tours cancelled

P3,13



WORLD BRIEFS



SRI LANKA With election results still incomplete, Sri Lanka's prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe declares victory over the country's former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa, who was seeking a political comeback eight months after losing the presidency. After earlier reports that he had conceded defeat, Rajapaksa said in a tweet that he would wait until the official results are out before making a statement.

BANGLADESH Authorities say they have arrested three men, including a British citizen, for alleged involvement in the murders of two secular bloggers. Maj. Maksudul Alam, a spokesman for the country's Rapid Action Battalion, said one of the arrested men, Touhidur Rahman — a British citizen of Bangladeshi origin — was the mastermind and financier of the attacks on bloggers Avijit Roy and Ananta Bijoy Das, who were killed earlier this year.

More on backpage

Gov't partners with WHO to create Chinese Medicine center

P2



HEALTH

WHO cooperation center unveiled after years of local efforts in Chinese Medicine

The local government unveiled a cooperation center for traditional medicine yesterday, established in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO). This further forges a monumental partnership with the leading health authority to bring Chinese medication to a higher status in the world of international healthcare.

Dr. Margaret Chan, WHO director-general, recognized in her address the irreplaceable status of traditional medicine in modern medical use, which she stressed, should be “carefully regulated and integrated into the practice of modern medication.”

“Traditional medicine has much to offer, especially as a contribution to primary health care and universal coverage,

and most especially at a time when chronic non-communicable diseases have overtaken infectious diseases as the world’s biggest killer,” she said.

She continued: “Clearly, to move into mainstream medicine on equally as trusted footing [as modern medicines], traditional medicines need a stronger evidence base. The need for stronger regulatory control extends from the products themselves, through the practitioners and practices, to those selling the products.”

As the 68-year-old head of the WHO disclosed, roughly 20 percent of member states have developed a well-functioning regulatory body for herbal treatments, and about 50 percent had established a “variable regulatory capacity”. Thirty percent of the healthcare agency’s members had no, or a merely limited, regulatory body in their territories.

Therefore, official regulation is urgently needed around the globe to ensure the quality and safety of herbal medicines, which are widely adopted in developing countries given their affordability and accessibility over their modern counterparts, Chan indicated.

Rather than comparing the distinctions between traditional and modern medication,

she also advised that authorities should combine their merits into an inter-complementary approach to tackle health challenges that are overwhelming the current world.

Between 1999 and 2012, the number of WHO nations that had already introduced national policies on traditional medicine climbed from 25 to 69. Meanwhile a total of 73 of its members developed national research institutes on the application of medication, up from 19 at the beginning of that period.

“We need to modernize this rich resource and cultural heritage, and put it in its proper place in today’s world,” stressed Chan in response to occasional hostility against less regulated herbal medicines. Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, spoke with medical professionals and experts from abroad in a forum on the heels of the center’s inauguration ceremony. The secretary said that the government has been proactively following the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023, which was announced by the international healthcare body two years ago in the region. The initiative urged different WHO members to formulate policies for

the application of traditional medicine for public health.

Additionally, Tam pointed out the extensive acceptance of traditional medication among locals in the 2014 figures, saying that “the Macau citizens’ demand for Chinese medicines has been on the rise and they have an increasingly vital role to play in the local hygienic and healthcare system.”

According to Tam, 1.17 million out of the 4.14 million medical services that locals sought in that year involved the use of traditional medicines, amounting to 28 percent of all of those seeking medical services.

“[A reason] why the WHO would allow a collaborating center in Macau is because we are indeed doing well in practicing traditional medication, and we have resources as well,” Tam told journalists during a

break in proceedings, adding that “it wasn’t easy to be granted such an establishment.”

However, it was suggested that some locals still prefer medical treatment on the mainland over local services. Tam believed that their preferences were due to their “personal habits” and had nothing to do with the availability and capability of local traditional practitioners.

The principal objective of the center at the moment is to offer training for professionals and practitioners in the field of Chinese medicine application. More than 300 officials and scholars from 27 countries witnessed yesterday’s inauguration and shared their insights in the forum that concluded at around 7:00 p.m. Workshops on clinical research into medical applications will continue until Friday. **Staff reporter**

Macau citizens’ demand for Chinese Medicine has been on the rise

ALEXIS TAM

SUPPLEMENTARY COOPERATION CONTRACT SIGNED WITH MAINLAND HEALTHCARE AUTHORITY

ALEXIS TAM has inked a cooperation agreement with Professor Wang Guoqiang, commissioner of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, regulating the training of practitioners,

strengthening management and related regulations in the realm of Chinese medication. The pact, the second of its kind, seeks to supplement the first agreement, which was signed in 2008.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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TOURISM CRISIS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

No Macau residents found on Thai hospital lists

AP PHOTO



Police use a magnetic tool as they examine debris in front of the Erawan Shrine at Rajprasong intersection in Bangkok, Thailand, as investigations continue the morning after an explosion (more on p13)

Brook Yang

THE Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) stated yesterday that no Macau residents were found on Thai hospitals' casualty lists following the bomb attack on Monday evening in Bangkok. As of yesterday evening, the Office had received a total of 91 inquiries, including two requests for help in arranging an early return to Macau.

The Substitute Chief Executive Wong Sio Chak expressed 'great concern' over the deadly incident

The Substitute Chief Executive Wong Sio Chak – the Secretary for Security – issued a statement yesterday expressing the MSAR government's "great concern" over the deadly incident.

After conveying sadness over the incident and voicing deep condolences to

the families of the victims, the substitute Chief Executive appealed to individual tourists and package tour groups currently visiting Thailand from Macau to pay attention to the local public security and safety conditions, and to adjust their itineraries accordingly.

The statement further added that Wong had asked the GGCT and the Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO)'s representative office in Thailand to follow up on the situation. It stressed that the MSAR government will pay close attention to any new developments concerning the incident, and will provide assistance to Macau residents who are there and require help.

Citing the security alert issued by the Chinese Embassy in Thailand, the GGCT also released a statement yesterday noting that the bomb attack occurred in Bangkok's downtown business district on Monday evening. It resulted in a death toll of 19 with over a hundred injured by the early morning. Three Chinese tourists were killed and over twenty Chinese citizens have been injured, according to the Embassy.

The GGCT said it has sent text messages through Macau's telecom operators to a total of 942 Macau mobile numbers currently roaming in Thailand to inform the travelers of the emergency contacts available. Apart from promising to pay clo-

se attention to the developments surrounding the incident, and that it would keep in close contact with Macau's tourism sector and the MGTO's representative office, the GGCT also appealed for Macau residents to cautiously assess the safety risk before traveling to Thailand.

The blast site was next to a large shopping mall and the popular Erawan Shrine tourist attraction, where foreign tourists are highly concentrated. Until yesterday, the scene was still blocked off as staff cleared fragments and debris and washed the street.

Following the incident, Macau's tourism agencies have canceled all of the package tour groups that were scheduled to depart for Thailand on and before Sunday (August 23). About 250 departing travelers are affected by the cancellation of the more than ten groups.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's Travel Industry Council has issued a red travel alert, and has canceled all of the 200 departing tour groups to Bangkok, comprising 4,000 tourists, that were scheduled

over the rest of this month.

The president of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, Andy Wu, explained that the date of August 23 was decided upon after local travel agencies' conducted negotiations with related airlines regarding trip cancellations and change of tickets. As for specific arrangements, customers will need to consult their respective agencies.

Additionally, Air Macau announced that all of its passengers who had booked a flight to Bangkok on and before yesterday (August 18) could reschedule their trip or change the destination free of charge to a departure on or before September 15.

As for Macau residents in Thailand who are seeking help, the GGCT has advised them to call any of the following: the Chinese Embassy's 24-hour consular protection hotline at 0066-854833327; the 24-hour tourism hotline at 00853-28333000; or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' emergency call center for global consular protection and services at 0086-10-12308.

SSM still assessing new Hepatitis C drug

The Health Bureau (SSM) is still assessing the use of a new drug intended to treat Hepatitis C patients, according to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. Sofosbuvir, a new and effective – yet costly – drug, has become available on the market and has been listed in Macau. However, it has not yet been used to treat patients here. Sufferers have been waiting to be treated with the new drug, which according to the World Health Organization is particularly recommended to those who cannot access other treatments after developing cirrhosis, one of Hepatitis C's most commonly related diseases. SSM said in July that the use of Sofosbuvir was under assessment in order to evaluate results and possible side effects.

Millions from scammers remitted to Macau

HKSAR police have discovered that some of the HKD126 million that Hongkongers lost to cross-border phone scammers last month has been remitted to Malaysia, Taiwan and Macau, according to the South China Morning Post. Police sources revealed that the average amount fraudsters managed to squeeze out of a victim between August 1 and 13 was a massive HKD1.45 million, whereas it was HKD400,000 for the whole of last month. "Initial investigation showed that some of the money was transferred to bank accounts in Malaysia, Taiwan and Macau. We believe people from Malaysia, Taiwan and Macau are also involved in the telephone scams," police told the Post. The source said that it was unlikely the lost money would be recovered, but indicated that police would seek help from the international police organization Interpol to identify the holders of the bank accounts and track down the swindlers.

China State Construction grows on Macau, HK operations

Moody's Investors Service says that the first-half results of China State Construction Int'l Holdings support its Baa2 issuer rating. "CSCI's sound business visibility and improved sales and profitability in 1H 2015 support its Baa2 ratings; thereby mitigating a rise in debt leverage over the same period," said Jiming Zou, a Moody's Vice President and Senior Analyst. CSCI's revenue grew 18.8 percent to HKD16.9 billion in 1H 2015 from HKD14.2 billion in 1H 2014. While revenues from Hong Kong and Macau grew 20.1 percent and 93.7 percent respectively between 1H 2014 and 1H 2015, primarily due to the commencement of several large civil and commercial projects, revenue from mainland China grew a moderate 5.1 percent over the same period.

400 LOCAL GROUP TOURISTS SAFE IN THAILAND

INFORMATION GATHERED from the tourism sector shows that there are currently about 20 package tour groups comprising over 400 tourists from Macau staying in Thailand. Mr Andy Wu said that most of the groups are in Bangkok, but they are all in safe areas and will avoid visiting the tourist attractions affected by bomb blasts.

Outreach program seeks to bring teenage hermits and net junkies back on track

IN a bid to help bring teenage hermits back into society, as well as to rid youth of Internet addiction, S.K.H. Macau Social Services Coordination Office rolled out its proactive outreach program yesterday afternoon.

According to the 2012 official figures from the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), youngsters aged between 12 and 24 who are potentially at risk of turning into recluses, or who are already hermits, account for 2.2 percent of the region's entire youth population. Furthermore, at least 25,619 teenagers in the territory may have developed an over-obsession with the Internet or are potentially at risk of doing so.

The office's initiative, entitled "WE CONNECT," was said to be devised as a play on the English word "reconnect"; its aim is to help achieve the social welfare group's targets of rebuilding self-esteem in youth and helping them to re-enter the society from which



Mr Wa

they shy away.

Respectively in 2010 and 2012, the IAS authorities carried out studies into the teenagers of the above two categories. Their findings suggested that the daily behaviors, life format and sentiments of local teens in recent years have

been significantly impacted by the two issues. The ever-changing social environment even added to the pressure on them, which indirectly hurt their development in the long run.

A 23-year-old casino croupier, who identified himself

as Wa, disclosed in the media briefing how he lost his motivation and became reluctant to meet people at the age of 14. "Most of the time I was unhappy at school, and when the social network in school fell apart, I lost all my friends," said Wa. "I started

to just stay at home surfing the Internet, watching films, playing video games and sleeping."

His negative behaviors have lead him to clash with his mother on multiple occasions, who has also lost weight due to stress because of his self-abandonment.

Wa's mother even took radical measures in a desperate attempt to revive her son's passion for life, but only exacerbated his ordeal. Cabell Hoi, team leader at the office, said that the whole scheme was family-oriented in order to furnish tailor-made social support for the teens.

Apart from that aspect, highlights of the outreach program are peer and team counseling, skills training, and home visits. To treat those exclusively active on the net, social workers from the program were said to go to any lengths to reach them online on the basis of their preferred virtual platforms. **Staff reporter**

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Catarina Pinto

THE government is planning to introduce a four-percent annual cap on vehicle growth, the head of Macau's Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San, said yesterday.

DSAT has completed its mid-term review of the city's transport system and the department is aiming to reduce the city's annual increase in the average number of vehicles from five to four percent, he told reporters on the sidelines of a Transport Advisory Committee meeting held yesterday.

Committee members and government officials discussed the mid-term review of Macau's road and transport policies for the next five years.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, told lawmakers recently that the territory had recorded a five-percent annual increase in the number of vehicles over the past few years.

Mr Lam said that measures to reduce the number of cars include optimizing Macau's public transportation system, and introducing stricter car inspection rules.

"This is our goal: to set vehicle increase at a four-percent annual [rate]. We will work toward improving vehicle inspection measures, particularly for aging cars, as we would like to improve air quality (...). We are looking at implementing a set of different measures, including giving priority to public transport," he said.

According to Mr Lam, the government is yet to reach a decision on whether to increase vehicle tax – another measure in the pipeline aimed at helping to reduce the number of cars in Macau.

"We are still discussing a vehicle tax increase, and we'll disclose more information in

Gov't to introduce 4pct annual cap on vehicle growth



time. There are legal matters involved. I am not able to disclose what the increase would be," he stated.

Mr Lam added that DSAT is hoping to reach a final decision on a vehicle tax by the year's end.

Meanwhile, he revealed that negotiations on a new contract with bus operators Transmac and TCM are reaching the final stages. The government is hoping to complete its negotiations with one of the operators within a few weeks, although Mr Lam did not dis-

close which operator he was referring to.

Asked about what would be hampering negotiations, he hinted that the disagreements and issues raised concern the subsidy provided by the government to bus operators.

"Obviously [the disagreement] is about money. Money is the most difficult part to talk about," he said. Mr Lam added that their demands are not unreasonable, but the government still needs to take that into account and ensure the allocation of public money

is used appropriately.

"We are trying to introduce a new public bus model and we're demanding operators to improve service quality. It's a matter of better utilizing public money," he recalled.

As the government drafts a master plan for the five new reclamation zones under development, concerns about traffic on reclamation Zone A have arisen. A preliminary evaluation of the new reclamation zone blueprint public consultation shows that residents have called on the

government to carefully plan Zone A's transportation and road systems to avoid further traffic pressure.

Mr Lam said yesterday that it is too soon to discuss specific traffic plans for the area, especially while the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is still working on the blueprint.

He stressed that "it's difficult to forecast anything at the moment. We will learn from our past experiences in traffic management, and I think we will do a much better job there."

EDUCATION

GAES launches professional accreditation systems to college students

Brook Yang

THE Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) concluded a series of briefing sessions to local college students yesterday, which covered various sectors' professional accreditation systems. These sectors included medical, legal, pharmacy and social work practices.

Having invited speakers from the Health Bureau, the Macau Lawyers Association and the Social Welfare



IAS officials briefing the students

Bureau (IAS), the GAES organized the briefings in the hope that they might "deepen high school

and college students' understanding of different professions' accreditation requirements, so as

to better prepare them for the future career [coming from] the major they've chosen."

In the last session held at the GAES's College Students Center yesterday, representatives from the IAS introduced the forthcoming system of professional accreditation and practice registration in social work to an audience of dozens of students.

The government is expecting to pass legislation at the end of the

year in order to launch a professional certification and a practice registration system for local social workers. In response, many of the students inquired about the career outlook in Macau for non-local graduates from the territory and for Macau graduates from overseas universities.

In addition, students asked about the possible timeframe for accreditation exams and whether they would need to prepare for them before or

after graduation. In response, the IAS representatives said that the specific criteria, as well as exam arrangements, will be decided by the future committee to be set up in accordance with the new law.

After the bill is passed, a specialized Social Work Committee, which will be responsible for the system, will be established over the course of the following year at the earliest. The commission will consist of a president, five representatives from the government, and five representatives from the related sector, all of whom will be elected by accredited social workers during the Committee's next tenure in 2019.



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GAMING

City of Dreams Manila expects strong H2



CITY of Dreams Manila, the second of four integrated resorts in Pagcor Entertainment City, has forecast a strong end to the year as gaming revenues from the VIP segment start to kick in, The Philippine Star reported yesterday.

Willy N. Ocier, chair of the listed Premium Leisure Corp. (PLC) and vice chair of Belle Corp., said City of Dreams (COD) is confident that operations will improve in the second half with the entry of the VIP high-roller sector.

"The second half of 2015 will be strong. COD just started VIP operations in July 2015," Ocier told the paper.

City of Dreams, a joint venture between the SM Group and Ma-

cau casino giant Melco Crown, holds a provisional license to develop and operate a casino in the Entertainment City complex along Manila Bay. It had a soft opening in December 2014 and a grand opening last February.

Melco Crown Philippines incurred wider losses in the second quarter, rising to P1.82 billion from P1.43 billion due to higher operational costs for City of Dreams. This brought its total losses for the six months preceding the end of June to P4.91 billion, more than double the P2.4 billion loss reported in the same period a year ago.

The second integrated resort to open at the Philippines' version

of the Las Vegas strip had a soft opening on December 14, 2014, and a grand opening on February 2 this year. Sitting on a 6.2-hectare property, City of Dreams includes approximately two hectares of gaming space, approximately 900 hotel rooms operated under three hotel brands, an indoor amusement park, and approximately two hectares of restaurant and retail space.

The integrated casino resort has been forced to trim its manpower, letting go of about two percent of its total workforce, which included casino dealers, hotel staff, and food and beverage staff. Commenting on the manpower reduction, Ocier said that the "operations [department] may have overestimated its manning requirements."

Two other integrated resorts are scheduled to open in Pagcor's 120-hectare development: Universal Entertainment subsidiary Tiger Resorts' Manila Bay Resorts, which aims to open in December 2016; and Resorts World Bayshore of the Genting Group and Alliance Global Group, which is slated for completion by 2018.

Gaming revenues from the country's casinos rose 16 percent in the first semester to USD1.4 billion and are expected to grow further to \$3 billion by the end of the year.

GAMING

VIP room shut down at Hotel Lisboa

GOLDEN Resorts Group's two-storey VIP room, located at Hotel Lisboa, is said to have shut down. The closure has meant 21 job cuts, Ming Pao reported, citing market sources. The group was founded by Mr Lee Wai Man.

Over 60 junket rooms have closed their operations in Macau since its peak in mid-2013, when gaming results were robust. Less than 180 junkets are currently registered in the city. But only 148 of these actually still operate gaming in VIP rooms, the president of the junkets' trade association, Kwok Chi Chung, told Business Daily earlier this month.

Meanwhile, Citigroup trimmed its August gaming revenue forecast to MOP18.5b, down 36% year-on-year.

Based on industry sources, Macau table gross gaming revenue (GGR) rea-

ched MOP8.6 billion for the first 16 days in August. The daily run-rate equates to MOP567 million, stable with figures from the previous week. Hence, Citigroup has cut its August GGR forecast to MOP18.5 billion, representing a year-on-year decrease of 36%. This implies a daily run-rate of MOP630 million for the remaining period in August, the research house said in a report yesterday. Citigroup pointed out that the market share appears as follows: SJM ranked first (23.7%), followed by Sands China (23.6%), Galaxy (20.1%), Melco Crown (13.3%), Wynn Macau (10.4%) and MGM China (8.9%).

In addition, Galaxy will disseminate its results today. Citigroup expects the company to register a 36% year-on-year decline in revenue to USD11.636 billion. **PC**

AD

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Mae Anderson
Technology Writer, New York

AMAZON isn't the only company that is using data on employees to improve productivity.

A New York Times article over the weekend portrayed Amazon's work culture as "bruising" and "Darwinian" in part because of the way it uses data to manage its staff. The article depicted a work culture where staffers are under constant pressure to deliver strong results on a wide variety of detailed metrics the company monitors in real time — such as what gets abandoned in peoples shopping cards and what videos people stream — and encouraged to report praise or criticism about colleagues to management to add to more data about workers performance. The story led to an outcry on social media.

Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos said in a memo to staff over the weekend that the article doesn't accurately describe the company culture he knows. But experts say the kind of data-driven staff management Amazon uses is set to become more common as technology continues to transform the American workplace.

"Every company is somewhere in process toward using data to get a better handle on who their top performers are and to understand where people stand," said John Challenger, CEO of outplacement consultancy Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

Companies, both large and small, have been moving away from traditional human resources reviews that rely on annual performance evaluations. They're moving toward a more data-driven approach with more frequent feedback, check-ins, and other metrics.

Consulting firms Accenture and Deloitte both said this year they would revamp their per-

Outcry over data-driven Amazon workplace culture

AP PHOTO



Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos

A New York Times article over the weekend portrayed Amazon's work culture as "bruising" and "Darwinian"

formance review processes, for example, adopting a more data driven approach that includes more frequent ratings by managers and other internal feedback and data that can be aggregated and analyzed to provide a better portrait of performance

than a single rating. In an essay in the Harvard Business Review, Deloitte said the new approach uses "the technology to go from a small data version of our people to a big data version of them."

Tech companies have been even speedier in applying data analytics to staffing. Google, for example, uses data to figure out how to put together optimized teams for projects and figure out what makes effective leaders.

Paul Hamerman, a Forrester analyst who focuses on human resources management and financial applications, says the future may look more like what Glint Inc., based in Redwood City, Calif., is offering clients. The company, with clients including music-streaming site Pandora and marketing au-

tomation company Marketo, sends employees what it calls "pulses," or short surveys about how they are feeling and how they feel about their job.

Glint CEO Jim Barnett said the surveys let executives see how the health of their employees and company are faring in real time, in the same speed with which they might be able to check sales results or marketing impressions. Since the "pulses" to company employees recur more frequently than traditional reviews. And their data can be aggregated to give a clearer picture of how employees are faring overall.

"The old mentality was once a year we would check in with an annual survey, have an annual review, set goals," said Barnett. "What we've learned is the world today moves much faster

than that."

One of Glint's clients, Marketo, was able to use the data gleaned from the Pulses to see that women in one department were ranking their work/life balance substantially lower than expected. The company found a staffing shortage in that area and increased staff.

"What they were able to do was to go in and increase the staffing before they had significant attrition," Barnett said. "The beauty of systems like this is you're able to link actions to outcomes."

The downside to a data-driven approach is it can seem "Big Brother-ish" to staffers. But Glint said the surveys that the company sends out have an 80 to 85 percent response rate. "Employees tend to be willing to share," Barnett said. **AP**

corporate bits

FIRST GROUP OF SANDS CHINA DEALERS SET OFF FOR SINGAPORE SECONDMENT



A group of 38 Sands China Ltd. dealers flew out to Singapore Monday — the first batch to participate in a new professional development opportunity offered by Sands China. Launched in July, it gives dealers the chance to spend 12 months on secondment at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. The volunteer program

is the latest initiative of the Sands China Academy, which seeks to train and develop the company's team members and Macau locals.

After nearly a two-month selection process, including approval by the Singapore government, a total of 43 Sands China dealers will go to the sister integrated resort

at Marina Bay. Over the course of 12 months, they will gain overseas experience there, acquiring a global vision and broadening their career development horizons.

On Friday, Sands China's human resources team organized an information session for the participating dealers. "We are very excited for the team members participating in this program," said Amy Lee, vice president of human resources for The Venetian, Sands Macao and The Plaza Macao. "Sands China recognizes its people as a crucial key to its success. That's why investing in the development of our team members benefits the company, benefits Macao, and contributes to the continued professional and personal growth of Macau's talented workforce."

DESIGNER BRANDS SET TO OPEN SHOP AT THE BOULEVARD AT STUDIO CITY

Studio City International Holdings Limited, a company in which Melco Crown Entertainment Limited owns a 60% interest and Taubman Asia, a subsidiary of U.S. mall REIT, Taubman Centers, Inc., yesterday unveiled a lineup of fashion brands that will open doors at The Boulevard at Studio City.

The mix of fashion labels and international luxury brands include Macau's first Balmain, Macau's first Belstaff, and Tom Ford's largest store in Asia.

"Leveraging our global expertise in creating extraordinary retail environments, and our exceptional relationships with the world's leading brands, our talented team in Asia has brought together an exciting mix of brands for The Boulevard



at Studio City," said Mr. René Tremblay, President of Taubman Asia. "Our merchandising and management services are the industry standard for performance and excellence. We are thrilled to welcome these

brands to our latest project and are committed to supporting them for the long term to ensure The Boulevard at Studio City becomes, and remains, the top contemporary shopping destination in Macau."

China leads in imports of farm products from Brazil

CHINA was the leading country in the import of farm products from Brazil in July, increasing its share of exports from the sector from 25.5 percent to 32.1 percent, said the Ministry of Agriculture.

Figures from the Brazilian Foreign Agro-business Trade Statistics System (AgroStat), cited by the daily newspaper Estado de São Paulo, showed that in the month under review China bought products worth USD2.92 billion, which was an annual increase of 19.2 percent.



Soy complex – beans, meal and oil – was the main export sector, accounting for \$2.47 billion, followed by forest products with \$185.26 million and meats with US\$127.39 million.

With regard to meat, chicken accounted for 69.51 million, beef for \$57.27 million and pork for \$610,000.

In cumulative terms – from January to July – China also ranked first, with \$14.67 billion.

After China the next four places are occupied by the United States with \$3.72 billion, the Netherlands (\$2.94 billion), Germany (\$1.63 billion) and Russia (\$1.37 billion). **MDT/Macauhub**

Japan funds construction of infrastructure in Angola

ANGOLA'S Finance Minister, Armando Manuel signed this week in Tokyo a financing agreement in the form of a "development policy loan," said the Ministry of Finance in a statement published in Luanda.

The statement from the Ministry of Finance did not disclose the value of the loan taken on but Portuguese news agency Lusa reported in Luanda that it was over 170 million euros (about USD190 million).

The bilateral loan has very attractive terms and conditions and was structured based on on-going reforms in the basic infrastructure sectors, particularly the energy sector, improving the regulatory framework of the business climate as well as enhancing transparency and efficiency of public finances.

Following the agreement and in order to extend the scope of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) financing projects in Angola, the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs will establish the statutory conditions for JICA to set up an office in Angola.

The agreement between the two countries was preceded in Luanda, by a ceremony to sign a document called "Exchange of Notes – E N" between the Foreign Ministry and the government of Japan on July 31. **MDT/Macauhub**

Cape Verde receives 278,000 tourists in first half

THE number of tourists who visited Cape Verde in the first half of the year exceeded 278,000, an annual increase of 2.0 percent, while overnight stays increased 3.5 percent to almost 1.8 million, the National Statistics Institute (INE) reported in Praia.

Analysing the data by quarter, in the second quarter the

archipelago received 116,200 tourists, 4.8 percent more than in the same period of 2014, which accounted for 746,000 overnight stays, 4.1 percent more year on year.

In the second quarter the United Kingdom was the main source of tourists and its citizens also remained longest in the archipelago with an average stay of

9 days. The island of Sal is the most popular accounting for about 46 percent of overnight stays in hotel establishments.

After tourists from the UK, with 24.2 percent of the total, were Portugal, Germany and France, with 13.1 percent, 12.6 percent and 9.8 percent of the total, respectively.

Hotels remained the most

popular type of accommodation, accounting for 87.3 percent of all entries, followed by bed and breakfasts with about 4.7 percent and inns with 3.3 percent.

With regard to overnight stays, hotels accounted for 94.0 percent, bed and breakfasts for 1.9 percent and inns for 1.3 percent.

MDT/Macauhub

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For over 25 years, Dr. Carroll held a variety of senior positions in the travel industry. At Cornell's School of Hotel Administration, he teaches courses in economics, pricing and marketing distribution. He holds a B.A. degree in economics from Rutgers, an M.S. in labour studies from the University of Massachusetts, and a Ph.D. in economics from Penn State.

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Shanghai stock index plunges more than 6 percent

Youkyung Lee
Business Writer, Seoul

ANOTHER slump on China's main Shanghai stock index amid renewed concerns over the state of the world's number 2 economy weighed on global markets yesterday.

The index plunged 6.2 percent to 3,748.16 for its largest fall since an 8.5 percent dive on July 27, which was itself the biggest slide in eight years.

The plunge in Chinese shares came even as the government took support measures this summer as the index's sizzling yearlong rally reached unsustainable heights and began a dramatic fall in June. To halt the fall, the government imposed a ban on major shareholders from selling any of their shares.

But the stability was short-lived as the sell-offs restarted, rattling other financial markets.

"All the news out of China recently has done nothing to restore confidence in its financial markets, and the ripple effect can be felt in Europe," said David Madden, market analyst at IG.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100



Chinese investors play cards as they monitor stock prices at a brokerage house in Beijing

dropped 0.5 percent to 6,515 while Germany's DAX fell 0.4 percent to 10,897. The CAC-40 in France was 0.4 percent lower at 4,963.

U.S. stocks were poised for a lower opening too, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.3 percent.

As Greece's bailout appears

to be inching closer toward resolution, China has become the main concern in financial markets.

The surprise move last week by the country's monetary authorities to devalue the yuan is expected to aid Chinese exports and help make the Chinese currency more responsive to

market forecasts.

But it has also renewed questions about the outlook of the world's second-largest economy. The prices of oil, metal and other commodities fell as global demand was expected to be weak.

The Chinese currency has remained stable this week following Beijing's move last week to devalue its tightly controlled yuan. But there is an expectation for a further slide in the yuan, which prompted investors to sell Chinese assets, including stocks, before their values fall further, said Angus Nicholson, a market analyst at IG.

Other Asian stock markets finished lower. Japan's Nikkei 225 dipped 0.3 percent to 20,554.47 and South Korea's Kospi declined 0.6 percent to 1,956.26. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index sank 1.4 percent to 23,474.97 while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 1.2 percent to 5,303.10. Stocks in Taiwan and Southeast Asia also fell.

Trading in currency markets was similarly tepid with the euro 0.1 percent lower at USD1.1061 and the dollar 0.2 percent down at 124.25 yen. **AP**

Gov't says it has arrested 15,000 people for cybercrimes

CHINESE police have arrested 15,000 people on suspicion of cybercrimes as the government tightens its control over the Internet, the Ministry of Public Security said yesterday.

Police throughout the country have investigated more than 7,400 cases of possible cybercrimes, including hacking, online fraud and illegal sale of personal information, resulting in 15,000 arrests, the ministry said. It did not say when the arrests were made.

Authorities launched a six-month special operation to clean the Internet in July, but some of the cases date back as far as December.

Beijing considers the Internet to be a virtual territory that must be ruled by laws and regulations.

Recently, authorities detained a man for exaggerating the death toll from blasts last week in the port city of Tianjin. Police also detained a woman who falsely claimed her father was killed in the explosions and sought donations from the public. At least 114 people were killed in the disaster, which is one of the worst industrial accidents in recent years in China.

The ministry said the special operation has snared suspects who hacked into websites of companies, banks and government agencies. Some obtained personal information illegally, some altered web information or uploaded content related to online gambling, and some used the Internet to defraud others, it said.

Beijing also prosecutes improper online speech, although the ministry's announcement did not list cases involving that.

Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent rights defense lawyer, has been indicted on charges of fanning ethnic hatred and provoking trouble. The charges stem from online comments that questioned China's ethnic policies and practices and mocked political figures. **AP**

HONG KONG

FT: Pop-up mall aims to ease tensions over mainland shoppers

FROM London's trendy Shoreditch to a downtown revitalization project in Las Vegas, pop-up shopping malls have become all the rage among urbanites keen to sample craft beer and buy designer sneakers.

But according to a Financial Times article published yesterday, in Hong Kong, plans for the first temporary mall are being designed to assuage popular anger with visiting shoppers from mainland China — derided by locals as "locusts" — rather than cater to the whims of hipsters.

As political tensions between Hong Kong and Beijing have risen, the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has seen a growing backlash against the thousands of "parallel traders" who come from the mainland every day in search of cheap



Shoppers sort through items in Sheung Shui district near the border with mainland China

baby milk, jewelry and other goods they can sell back home for a profit.

The article by Ben Bland and Gloria Cheung in Hong Kong reports that two of the city's biggest property developers have teamed up with lawmakers to turn a car park near the Chinese border into a mall made out of shipping containers that is meant to serve mainland visitors attracted by the city's low-tax shopping.

Wong Ting-kwong, one of the legislative council members promoting the project, told the FT it would "reduce the nuisance brought by excessive mainland tourists and relieve the traffic inside the city".

Mr Wong is a member of the main pro-Beijing political party in Hong Kong, which has frequently come under attack for failing to defend residents' interests in the face of pressure from the

central government in China.

He hopes that the mall, which will be about the size of two football pitches, according to a recently submitted planning application, will open for business early next year.

The land for the pop-up mall is jointly owned by Henderson Land and Sun Hung Kai Properties, which are controlled respectively by Hong Kong billionaires Lee Shau-kee and the Kwok brothers.

According to the paper, SHKP said that if the plan was approved by the government, they would lease the land for a nominal HK\$1 (USD0.13) per square meter to a charitable foundation, which would run the pop-up mall on a non-profit basis for two years.

After that period, the

developers expect to remove the shipping containers and start construction of a permanent mall on the same site.

The initiative has succeeded in grabbing the headlines in Hong Kong, but those who have organized protests against mainland shoppers are far from convinced it will solve their problem.

Ray Wong, a member of HK Indigenous, a group that campaigns against mainland Chinese influence in Hong Kong, said that while the pop-up mall could alleviate some pressures, it could also disturb local residents if it generated too much traffic.

"I think the root of the problem is that mainlanders don't trust Chinese goods so they have to turn to Hong Kong for guaranteed quality," he told the FT.



Residents of the Harbour City apartment complex light candles at a memorial near their building for victims of the Tianjin blasts in northeastern China's Tianjin municipality

Thunderstorms complicate recovery from Tianjin port blasts

Paul Traynor, Tianjin

THUNDERSTORMS yesterday complicated recovery efforts from last week's massive explosions at a warehouse in China's Tianjin port that killed at least 114 people, left 57 missing and exposed dangerous chemicals — including some that could become flammable on contact with water.

Experts have expressed concern that rain could spread some of the vast quantities of hazardous material at the site or set off chemical reactions sparking further explosions. Rain began falling mid-morning, but there was no immediate word of new blasts.

The storms began shortly after residents, firefighters, police, medical staff and officials held a moment of silence marking the sixth day since the disaster, the first observance in the 49-day traditional Chinese mourning cycle. Sirens wailed and car and boat horns blared while assembled groups bowed in respect for the dead.

At the now-evacuated Seaport City housing complex, 33-year-old Fan Jie joined other residents in lighting candles for first-responders killed in the explosions.

"There were many firefighters who went into the blast

and sacrificed themselves. So we're here today for them, to give thanks to them and grieve for them," Fan said.

As of yesterday, 50 firefighters were confirmed killed and another 52 were among the 57 missing, marking the disaster as the deadliest ever for Chinese first-responders. About 1,000 firefighters responded to the disaster.

Residents, firefighters, police, medical staff and officials held a moment of silence marking the sixth day since the disaster

The blasts originated at a warehouse for hazardous material, where 700 tons of sodium cyanide — a toxic chemical that can form combustible substances on contact with water — was being stored in amounts that violated safety rules. That has prompted contamination fears and a major cleanup of a 3-kilometer-ra-

dius, cordoned-off area in the port city southeast of Beijing.

Cyanide contamination was found at levels up to 28 times those considered safe at eight of 29 testing sites within the blast zone, said Bao Jingling, chief engineer of the Tianjin Environmental Bureau. No unsafe levels were found at 14 inspection sites outside the zone, he said.

"If the rain gets heavy, water will have to be drained. It is not good for water to remain in the craters," Bao told a news conference, referring to massive cavities left by the explosions.

Officials have said there have been no substantial leaks of the toxic sodium cyanide. They say they have sealed all waterways leading into the sea from the blast site and built retaining walls to prevent any runoff. Sodium cyanide can form a flammable gas upon contact with water, and several hundred tons would be a clear violation of rules cited by state media that the warehouse could store no more than 10 tons at a time.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has ordered authorities at all levels to check whether companies that produce and store hazardous materials comply with safety regulations, including if they are a safe distance from residential areas and do

not exceed storage limits.

China's Cabinet, the State Council, said an investigation team headed by Executive Vice Minister of Public Security Yang Huanning has launched a probe into the explosion. Media reports say 10 people have been taken into custody, including top officials of the warehouse's management company.

In unusually strong language, the Cabinet referred to the Aug. 12 blasts as an "especially major fire and explosion incident." Along with the cause, the probe will identify those responsible and provide recommendations on how to deal with them.

Prosecutors previously have said they would investigate any dereliction of duty and abuse of power that may have contributed to the blasts.

More than 40 different types of hazardous chemicals were being stored at the site with a total volume of about 3,000 tons, deputy national fire chief Niu Huguang was quoted as saying on the China Fire Services' official website.

That included 800 tons of ammonium nitrate, sometimes used in explosives, and about 500 tons of potassium nitrate, often used in rocket fuel and fireworks.

Chinese work safety rules require such storage facilities to be at least 1,000 meters

away from residences, public buildings and highways. But online map searches show the Ruihai International Logistics warehouse was within 500 meters of both an expressway and a 100,000-square meter apartment complex. Those apartments' walls were singed and windows were shattered, and all residents have been evacuated.

Some owners of damaged residences have demanded the government buy back apartments that may no longer be habitable due to chemical contamination.

Tianjin officials have been hard-pressed to answer how the warehouse was allowed to operate in its location. Questions also have been raised about management of the warehouse, and the country's top prosecuting office announced Sunday that it was setting up a team to investigate possible offenses related to the massive blasts, including dereliction of duty and abuse of power. Ruihai's general manager is in a hospital under police watch.

The Tianjin blasts are among the deadliest industrial accidents in China in recent years. In June 2013, a fire at a poultry plant in the northeastern province of Jilin killed 121 people. In August 2014, a dust explosion at a metal plant in the eastern province of Jiangsu left 97 people dead. **AP**

INDONESIA

Official says missing plane 'totally destroyed'

Alfian Kartono, Jayapura

AN Indonesian passenger plane that went missing two days ago was destroyed when it slammed into a mountain, killing all 54 people on board, the country's top rescue official said.

More than 70 rescuers reached the crash site only yesterday after being hindered by rugged, forested terrain and bad weather.

The flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder, the plane's "black boxes," were found in good condition, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, the National Search and Rescue Agency chief. The data they contain could help explain what caused the crash.

"The plane was totally destroyed and all the bodies were burned and difficult to identify," Soelistyo told The Associated Press.

He said all 54 bodies had been recovered and will be taken to Jayapura, the capital of Papua province, so they can be identified.

The Trigana Air Service plane was flying from Jayapura to the city of Oksibil with 49 passengers and five crew members on a scheduled 42-minute flight

when it lost contact Sunday.

Soelistyo said the wreckage was at an altitude of 2,600 meters. Much of Papua is covered with impenetrable jungles and mountains. Some planes that have crashed in the past have never been found.

The airline's crisis center official in Jayapura's Sentani airport, Budiono, said all the passengers were Indonesians,

■ **The flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder, the plane's 'black boxes,' were found in good condition**

and included three local government officials and two members of the local parliament who were to attend a ceremony Monday in Oksibil marking the 70th anniversary of Indonesia's independence from Dutch colonial rule.

Oksibil, about 280 kilome-

ters south of Jayapura, was experiencing heavy rain, strong winds and fog when the plane lost contact with the airport minutes before it was scheduled to land.

The victims' relatives, who had been waiting at the airport, broke down in tears when they heard the news. Many of them accused the airline of taking too long to give them information.

"They are unprofessional ... they play with our feelings of grieving," said Cory Gasper, whose brother Jhon Gasper was on the plane.

The airline released a public apology just after a search plane spotted the smoldering wreckage of the ATR42-300 twin turboprop on Monday.

It was unclear what caused the crash, Indonesia's transportation safety commission has opened an investigation.

The passengers included four postal workers escorting four bags of cash totaling USD468,750 in government aid for poor families to help offset a spike in fuel prices, Francisus Haryono, the head of the post office in Jayapura, the provincial capital, told The Associated Press.

Indonesia has had a string



Plane wreckage is strewn across dense terrain in Pegunungan Bintang, Papua province

of airline tragedies in recent years. In December, all 162 people aboard an AirAsia jet were killed when the plane plummeted into the Java Sea as it flew through stormy weather on its way from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore.

Trigana Air Service, which began operations in 1991, had 22 aircraft as of December 2013

and flies to 21 destinations in Indonesia. The carrier has had 19 serious incidents since 1992, resulting in the loss of eight aircraft and major damage to 11 others, according to the Aviation Safety Network's online database.

The airline remains banned from flying to Europe along with other six Indonesian airlines. AP

MYANMAR

Suu Kyi allies with beleaguered speaker Shwe Mann

Esther Htusan, Naypyitaw

MYANMAR'S parliament reopened yesterday for its final session before November's national elections, with the spotlight on the influential speaker — who was violently ousted just days ago as head of the military-backed ruling party.

Opposition leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi criticized the manner in which Shwe Mann, a close political ally, had been removed. Hundreds of armed police seized the headquarters of the Union Solidarity and Development Party in the middle of the night, witnesses said, confiscating computers and preventing some members from leaving.

It was a political purge reminiscent of the days



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the media at Parliament in Naypyitaw

of dictatorship in the Southeast Asian country.

"This is not what you expect from a working democracy," Suu Kyi told reporters.

The Nobel laureate also slammed an impeachment bill Shwe Mann was being pressured to table — possibly as early as yesterday.

The bill says parliamen-

tarians who have lost the trust of even 1 percent of their constituents can be stripped of their seats, meaning Shwe Mann could be a target.

"Ridiculous," Suu Kyi said. "It is now clear who the enemy is and who is the ally."

Myanmar only recently started moving from dictatorship to demo-

cracy, but critics say the strings of power behind the quasi-civilian government remain members of the old military elite, including former dictator Than Shwe, who lives a generally secluded life in a sprawling compound in the capital, Naypyitaw.

As elections approach, tensions have been building between President Thein Sein and Shwe Mann, both former generals and members of the governing party. Tensions were exacerbated last week when the names of nearly 100 newly retired military members did not make it onto the party's candidate lists. Some hardliners blamed Shwe Mann.

The parliament speaker — seen as a reformist — set a no-nonsense tone as parliament resumed yesterday, immediately

rejecting a motion by several USDP lawmakers to suspend the session because of floods and landslides.

The MPs could excuse themselves, he said, but there was important business to attend to in the parliamentary chambers.

Shwe Mann had lost the support of conservatives in the party, in part because of his close ties to the wildly popular Suu Kyi. The two met for an hour on Monday, apparently to discuss the political upheaval and its potential impact.

There was murmuring yesterday that polls now scheduled for Nov. 8 could be delayed by up to a month.

Suu Kyi said that while leadership changes within the ruling party were an "internal matter," if they affect the election,

resulting in either a cancellation or delay, "we must not be silent."

She was also critical of a bill that could lead to Shwe Mann's impeachment.

Last month, 1,700 members of his constituency in Zayarthiri, located in the heart of the capital, said he violated the law by showing disrespect for the military's role in parliament. That followed deliberations on a bill that could have ended the military's right to veto all proposed amendments to the country's 2008 constitution.

"One percent to the right of recall? It's ridiculous ... it doesn't make any sense," Suu Kyi said. "There are so many things to do. If we start voting on that ... we won't even have time to do the other things." AP

THAILAND

Man in yellow shirt is Bangkok bomber

Nattasuda Anusonadisai and
Papitchaya Boonngok, Bangkok

THAI police said yesterday investigators believe a man seen in security video wearing a yellow T-shirt and carrying a backpack set off the explosion at a central Bangkok shrine that killed 20 people and injured more than 100.

"The yellow shirt guy is not just the suspect. He is the bomber," Police Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri, a police spokesman, told The Associated Press.

Prawut earlier released several photos of the man, with and without the backpack, on a social media platform. The images were apparently taken from closed-circuit video at the Erawan shrine on Monday before the central Bangkok bombing. He confirmed that the man is suspected in the bombing when contacted by The Associated Press.

Video footage posted separately on Thai media appeared to show the same man sitting on a bench at the crowded shrine, then taking off the backpack and leaving it behind as he walked away.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha called Monday's explosion at a busy intersection "the worst incident that has ever happened in Thailand," and he promised to track down those responsible.

"There have been minor bombs or just noise, but this time they aimed for innocent lives," Prayuth said. "They want to destroy our economy, our tourism."

Without elaborating about possible perpetrators, the prime minister said yesterday, "Today we have seen the closed-circuit footage, we saw some suspects, but it wasn't clear. We have to find them first."

The improvised explosive device scattered body parts, splattered blood, blasted windows and burned motorbikes to the metal. The explosion went off around 7 p.m. in an upscale area filled with tourists, office workers and shoppers. No one has claimed responsibility.

Bangkok was rocked again yesterday when another explosive device blew up at a ferry pier, but no one was hurt.

Police Senior Sgt. Maj. Worapong Boonthawee said an explosive device was thrown from the Taksin Bridge and blew up at Sathorn Pier after falling into the Chao Phraya River below. "There is no injury," he said. Security camera footage shows a sudden blast of water over a walkway at the pier as bystanders run for safety.

Prayuth gave his first televised address since the bombing yesterday, saying the government will expedite "all investigative



This Aug. 17 image, released by Royal Thai Police spokesman Lt. Gen. Prawut Thavornsiri shows a man wearing a yellow T-shirt near the Erawan Shrine before an explosion occurred

efforts to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice."

Thai authorities identified five victims as Thai and four as Chinese — two of them from Hong Kong — along with two Malaysians and one Singaporean, and said the nationalities of the other eight victims remained unknown.

Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said authorities had no idea an attack had been planned.

"We didn't know about this ahead of time. We had no intelligence on this attack," the defense minister said.

Prayuth vowed to "hurry and find the bombers," though he noted there may be just one perpetrator. Speaking to reporters, he continued what has been a notoriously prickly relationship with the media since the former general took control of the government in a May 2014 coup.

Asked if there were leads on the suspects' identities, Prayuth bristled, "We are still investigating. The bomb has just exploded — why are you asking now? Do you understand the word investigation? It's not like they claim responsibility."

Thailand has seen many violent attacks in recent years, particularly through a more-than-decade-long insurgency by Muslim separatists that has left more than 5,000 dead in the country's deep south. Those attacks have never extended to the capital, however.

Bangkok has seen politically charged violence over the past

decade; the deadliest, in 2010, killed more than 90 over two months and was centered on the same intersection where Monday's bomb went off. But none of those attacks included a bomb blast that seemed intended to produce mass casualties.

Matthew Wheeler, Southeast Asia security analyst for the International Crisis Group, said the bombing was a "new type of attack for Bangkok" that doesn't bear the trademarks of typical violence over the past decade from political instability or Muslim separatists.

"It is certainly not like politically motivated attacks we've seen in the past which have generally been designed to grab attention but not cause casualties," Wheeler said, adding that

Authorities identified five victims as Thai and four as Chinese — two of them from Hong Kong — along with two Malaysians and one Singaporean

he expected it would have "major ramifications for security in Thailand."

Early yesterday morning, investigators surveyed the damage as police and soldiers guarded the area, still littered with shattered glass and other debris. The normally busy intersection that was closed off to traffic and eerily empty aside from onlookers standing behind police tape to take pictures. Barricades were set up outside five-star hotels in the neighborhood and security stopped cars to inspect trunks before letting them pass. The intersection was reopened by midday.

At least 20 people were confirmed dead and 140 injured, according to the Narinthorn emergency medical rescue center.

National chief of police Somyot Poompanmoung said the bomb was made with a pipe wrapped in cloth and weighed 3 kilograms.

It detonated at the Erawan Shrine, which is dedicated to the Hindu god Brahma, but is extremely popular among Thailand's Buddhists as well as Chinese tourists. Although Thailand is predominantly Buddhist, it has enormous Hindu influence on its

religious practices and language.

Bangkok has been relatively peaceful since a military coup ousted a civilian government in May last year after several months of sometimes violent political protests against the previous government.

At the same time, the military government has tightly controlled dissent, arresting hundreds of its opponents and banning protests. Tensions have risen in recent months, with the junta making clear that it may not hold elections until 2017 and wants a constitution that will allow some type of emergency rule to take the place of an elected government.

Stirring the pot has been exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup. It was his sister Yingluck Shinawatra who was ousted as prime minister last year.

Last week, Thaksin posted a message on YouTube urging his followers to reject the draft constitution because he said it was undemocratic. The draft charter is supposed to be voted on next month by a special National Reform Council. If it passes, it is supposed to go to a public referendum around January.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok issued an emergency message for U.S. citizens, advising them to avoid the shrine's area. In Washington, State Department spokesman John Kirby expressed deep sympathy to those affected by the Bangkok explosion. He said authorities were still determining whether any Americans were among the victims.

Tourists reacted with concern. "We didn't think anything like this could happen in Bangkok," said Holger Siegle, a German who said he and his newlywed wife had chosen Thailand because it seemed safe. "Our honeymoon and our vacation will go on, but with a very unsafe feeling." AP



Police investigate a scene the morning after an explosion in Bangkok, Thailand

USA

Probe of Clinton's server could find more than just emails

Jack Gillum and Stephen Braun, Washington

NOW that federal investigators have Hillary Rodham Clinton's homebrew email server, they could examine files on her machine that would be more revelatory than the emails themselves.

Clinton last week handed over to the FBI her private server, which she used to send, receive and store emails during her four years as secretary of state. The bureau is holding the machine in protective custody after the intelligence community's inspector general raised concerns recently that classified information had traversed the system.

Clinton leads the race for Democratic presidential nomination by wide margin even though questions about her use of the server have since shadowed her campaign. Republicans have seized on the issue to raise questions about Clinton's trustworthiness.



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks during a news conference during a visit to the Iowa State Fair, Saturday

Clinton again this weekend repeated a carefully constructed defense of her actions, in that she did not send or receive emails marked classified at the time.

But her emails show some messages she wrote were censored by the State Department for national security reasons before they were publicly released. The government bla-

cked-out those messages under a provision of the Freedom of Information Act intended to protect material that had been deemed and properly classified for purposes of national defen-

se or foreign policy.

What hasn't been released: data that could show how secure her system was, whether someone tried to break in, and who else had accounts on her system. A lawyer for Platte River Networks, a Colorado-based technology services company that began managing the Clinton server in 2013, said the server was provided to the FBI last week.

Indeed, many physical details of the server remain unknown, such as whether its data was backed up. In March, The Associated Press discovered her server traced back to an Internet connection at her home in Chappaqua, New York.

A computer server isn't a marvel of modern technology. Just like a home desktop, the computer's data is stored on a hard drive. It's unclear whether the drive that Clinton used was thoroughly erased before the device was turned over to federal agents.

If it had been, it's also uncertain whether the FBI could recover the data. Clinton's lawyer has used a precise term, "wiped," to describe the deleted emails, but it was not immediately clear whether the server had been wiped. Such a process overwrites deleted content to make it harder or impossible to recover.

An FBI spokesman declined to comment. **AP**

RUSSIA

Ex-Kremlin Internet 'troll' wins suit against ex-employer

Irina Titova, St. Petersburg

ARussian court on Monday awarded symbolic damages of one ruble (USD0.01) to a former "Kremlin troll" who sued her ex-employer and demanded closure of what she describes as a "factory" that has been churning out Internet propaganda defending President Vladimir Putin.

In an interview in April, Lyudmila Savchuk told The Associated Press how she and hundreds of colleagues in St. Petersburg managed several social media accounts, flooding the Internet with pro-Putin commentary and doctored images that landed on Russian and Western news websites.

Savchuk's descriptions of the work coincide with those of other former trolls who have spoken publicly, although she was one of the few willing to disclose her identity. She quit after two months, deciding she couldn't stand being part of a propaganda machine. She said most of the workers were young and attracted by relatively high monthly salaries of 40,000 to 50,000 rubles (\$600 to \$770).

The Petrogradsky district court yesterday set the damages at just one ruble as the plaintiff requested, but didn't close the facility. Savchuk said she was happy with the ruling becau-



Lyudmila Savchuk speaks in an interview in her apartment in St. Petersburg

se she thought her mission had been accomplished.

"We have managed to prove that the trolls exist, which was the main goal," she said outside the courtroom.

In her lawsuit, Savchuk sought moral damages, compensation of unpaid wages and demanded the closure of the company, Internet Research, saying its employees didn't have proper Russian employment contracts.

Internet Research wasn't immediately available for comment on the ruling. **AP**

TURKEY

6 migrants drown off coast trying to reach Greece

Mike Corder, Bodrum

SIX Syrian migrants, including an infant, drowned off the Turkish coast yesterday as they tried to reach a Greek island, a rescuer said, underscoring the deadly risks taken by migrants making even short crossings to Europe in overcrowded smugglers' boats.

Three more migrants survived for hours in the motorboat's overturned hull, breathing air trapped in a pocket, before being rescued by divers, the emergency worker said.

Those who drowned were attempting perhaps the safest, shortest sea crossing in the risky journey to Europe, for the Greek island of Kos is only four kilometers from Turkey at its closest point.

Turkish coast guards unloaded five body bags at the harbor in the western tourist town of Bodrum as the rescued migrants, one man clutching his head in his hands, sat on the



A migrant who was rescued by the Turkish Coast Guard sits in the foreground, while Turkish Coast Guard personnel carry a body bag

wharf. A rescue team later found the drowned infant's body, said a member of the Bodrum Sea Rescue Association, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized by coast guard officials to talk about the rescue.

The Turkish divers pulled a child and two men out alive from a sealed area of the capsized boat, a 9-meter motorboat, the rescue official said. Medical staff carried a wailing young boy, an oxygen mask around his neck, and a man to ambulances.

It wasn't the only rescue yesterday in the Aegean Sea.

About 20 other migrants were picked up by Turkish authorities and taken to the nearby town of Turgutreis. It was not clear what boat they had been on.

Greece's coast guard says it rescued 576 migrants in 23 search-and-rescue operations off the islands of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Agathonisi and Kos in the last 24 hours. Before that, Greece reported more than 135,000 arrivals from Turkey this year. **AP**



Innovation that excites



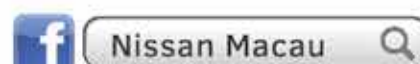
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what's ON



CURRENCY IN THE PAST CENTURY
- EXHIBITION OF MACAU'S ISSUED CURRENCY
TIME: 9am-9pm
UNTIL: September 13, 2015
VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau
ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

2015 ART TROUPE-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME
- FREE YOURSELF
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: November 1, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

TEA CULTURE HOUSE
TIME: 9am-7pm daily
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: Macau Tea Culture House, Lou Lim Ioc Garden, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 7103 / 2858 6250

WESTERN VIEWS ON CHINA: PAINTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY ABOUT CHINA
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

MACAU ARTS WINDOW - FORM OF ANIMALS
- PHOTOGRAPHY BY WONG WANG LAP
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: August 30, 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

MACAU FASHION ILLUSTRATION CONTEST
- AWARDING EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-8pm
(Closed on Mondays, open on public holiday)
August 30, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
ADDRESS: Macau Fashion Gallery / No. 47, Rua de S. Roque, Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

US: GROUP FILES COMPLAINT AGAINST JUDGE OVER MARRIAGE SENTENCE

A group that advocates the separation of church and state has filed a complaint about a Texas judge who ordered a man to marry his girlfriend as a condition of probation.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation said last week it filed the complaint against Smith County Court-at-Law Judge Randall Rogers a day earlier with the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct in Austin.

On July 2, Rogers gave 21-year-old Josten Bundy 30 days to marry 19-year-old Elizabeth James or face 15 days in jail for pleading guilty to misdemeanor assault. Bundy admitted punching Jaynes' ex-boyfriend twice in the jaw for "saying disrespectful things" about her. Rogers also ordered Bundy to scrawl a Bible verse 25 times daily.

Rogers didn't return a message seeking comment. Bundy and James have since married.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:50	The Presence of Anita (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Bedlam Behind Bars
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	The Presence of Anita
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

13 Aug- 19 Aug

**FANTASTIC FOUR**

ROOM 1
2.15, 5.55, 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
4.05 pm
Director: Yoshihiro Osugi
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 100min

ATTACK ON TITAN

ROOM 2
2.15, 4.05, 5.55, 9.45 pm
Director: shinji Higuchi
Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara
Language: Japanese (English and Chinese)
Duration: 90min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 2
7.45 pm
Director: Yoshihiro Osugi
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 100min

DORAEMON THE MOVIE: NOBITA AND THE SPACE HEROES

ROOM 3
2.30 pm
Director: Yoshihiro Osugi
Language: Cantonese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 100min

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

**1991 HARDLINERS STAGE COUP AGAINST GORBACHEV**

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been overthrown after a coup by Communist hardliners.

Mr Gorbachev is reported to be under house arrest at his holiday home in the Crimea.

News of the coup was broken in an announcement on state radio earlier on Monday.

It said Mr Gorbachev was "unable to perform his presidential duty for health reasons".

Soviet television has since been broadcasting regular condemnations of Mr Gorbachev's policies.

The new leaders, headed by former vice-president Gennady Yanayev have declared a state of emergency.

In a televised broadcast, the eight coup plotters, who include the heads of the army, the KGB and the police, said they were saving the country from a "national catastrophe".

Tanks are now patrolling the streets of Moscow but in spite of their presence thousands of people have come out to demonstrate against the takeover.

They included the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Yeltsin climbed on to a tank outside the Russian parliament building to confront the troops and appeal to the army not to turn against the people.

He said the coup was a "new reign of terror" and called for civil resistance.

Despite a ban on demonstrations, several hundred demonstrators gathered outside the Kremlin calling for the reinstatement of the legal government.

Nearby troops made no move to break up the demonstration but the army is reported to have warned hospitals to be ready for "casualties".

US President George Bush has called the coup a "disturbing development" and cut short his holiday to return to the White House.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The coup suffered from an apparent lack of planning. None of the opposition leaders was arrested and they continued to whip up public opinion and turn the army against the new regime.

Less than three days after the coup its leaders attempted to flee the country.

Mikhail Gorbachev was freed from house arrest and returned to power.

Seven of the eight coup plotters were arrested - one committed suicide.

The coup attempt brought to the surface widespread dissatisfaction with the Communist system.

By the end of 1991 the Soviet Union has been replaced by the Commonwealth of Independent States - with many republics eventually gaining full independence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you have any health concerns, now is the time to address them, if only to save money.

Taurus April 20-May 20
Ah, cash is a thing of beauty. You may not be making it with the same ease, but it's still coming in.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You'll be getting some correspondence, and not just of the superficial variety.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's time to wrap up the loose ends, even if the year isn't exactly over yet.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Review your budget. You're more thrifty and conservative than usual.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Can you look back with a sense of achievement? Either way, put frayed and worn out plans to bed.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
It's a good time for socializing. In fact, the next two weeks are.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Can you bring yourself to part with your financial secrets? Even for a friend?

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
It's not business as usual but it's just as boring.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Be thankful for modern conveniences. Your finances may make you grounded.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Whether you or others have their minds on personal issues, it's hard to get everyone on the same page.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
You know it's more about giving than receiving, but what you have in mind is really only helping others help themselves.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Michelangelo masterpiece; 6- Actress Davis; 11- Downcast; 14- Good point; 15- Fencing blades; 16- Bass, e.g.; 17- Governs; 18- Taboos; 19- Bigger than med.; 20- New Mexico art colony; 22- Brainstorms; 24- "CHiPs" star; 28- Suppose; 30- Talks; 31- Angry; 32- Slight trace; 33- Helper; 37- Before, once; 38- Gum; 39- ___ anglais (English horn); 40- Having bristles; 43- Like a smokestack; 45- Heavy metric weight; 46- True skin; 47- Perches; 49- Ryo; 50- Lure; 51- Siamese sound; 52- One ___ million; 53- Free laces, say; 56- Excuse; 61- Biblical verb ending; 62- Had in mind; 63- V-shaped fortification; 64- Penlight battery; 65- Causing goose bumps; 66- Portals;

DOWN: 1- Hole goal; 2- Terre Haute sch.; 3- Night school subj.; 4- Driving aid; 5- On the line; 6- Columbus's birthplace; 7- Epic poetry; 8- Bard's nightfall; 9- "The Matrix" hero; 10- Aids; 11- "The Crucible" setting; 12- Aquarium buildup; 13- Poor grades; 21- Classified items; 23- Musical composition for two; 24- Adlai's running mate; 25- Steeple; 26- Dogma; 27- Old cloth; 28- Upbeat, in music; 29- Spahn teammate; 31- Magazine copy; 33- Ages; 34- Pueblo Indian village; 35- Out; 36- Romantic rendezvous; 38- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 41- On the peak of; 42- Ensemble; 43- Undertow direction; 44- Surgery sites, briefly; 46- ___ gratias; 47- Oscar de la ___; 48- City in Nebraska; 49- Gaffer Calvin; 50- ___ yellow ribbon...; 51- Start of something small?; 54- Born; 55- Paving material; 57- The fifth sign of the zodiac; 58- Promising words; 59- Ingot; 60- Officeholders



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PJ (Open line) 993
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PSP 28 573 333
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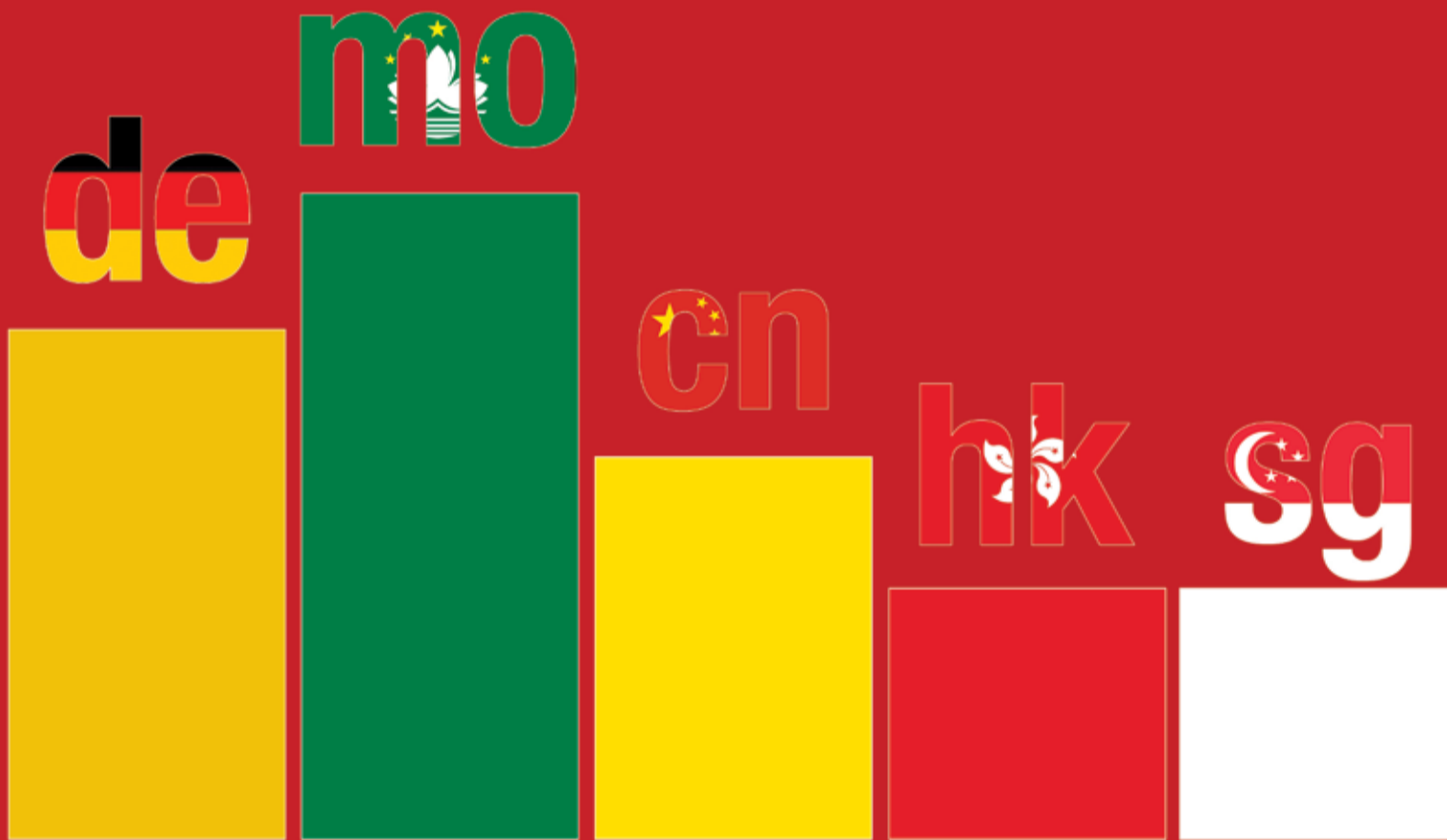
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TENNIS

Fish opens next-to-last tournament with upset of Troicki

Mark Schmetzer, Mason, Ohio

MARDY Fish surprised even himself.

Fish opened the next-to-last tournament of his career with a convincing 6-2, 6-2 victory over 20th-ranked Viktor Troicki in the first round of the Western & Southern Open yesterday (Macau time).

"I was a little surprised at my level," Fish said. "I hadn't practiced a ton or particularly well for a little while. I was struggling with my serve."

"A friend of mine came in a couple days and helped, but it was still sort of a struggle even yesterday to sort of find my serve and stuff. I was obviously real happy with the level."

Fish, a wild card who plans to retire after the U.S. Open, next faces second-ranked Andy Murray. It was Fish's first singles victory on tour since Aug. 18, 2013, against Evgeny Donskoy at Winston-Salem.

Two seeded players lost in the first round. Jerzy Janowicz surprised 14th-seeded Gael Monfils 6-4, 7-5, and Ivo Karlovic improved to 3-1 in his career against 10th-seeded Gilles Simon with a 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3 win.



Mardy Fish celebrates his victory over Gilles Simon of France in the third round of play at the 2012 U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York

Jack Sock rolled to a 6-1, 6-2 win over wild card Bjorn Fratangelo, and Roberto Bautista Agut beat Pablo Cuevas 6-3, 6-4 in two late matches.

The match between wild card Jared Donaldson and qualifier Nicolas Mahut was suspended because there were no lights on their court. Donaldson leads 7-5, 6-7 (2), 4-1 in the third set.

Venus Williams had to wait out a rain delay of more than 2 hours before beating Zarina Diyas 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Two women's qualifiers advanced in matches delayed

twice by subsequent showers. Timea Babos outlasted Samantha Stosur 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-5, and Yaroslava Shvedova knocked off Wimbledon finalist Garbine Muguruza 6-4, 7-6 (0).

No. 12 seed Timea Bacsinszky also lost, falling to Madison Keys 6-4, 6-3 in a matchup of Wimbledon quarterfinalists.

Keys overcame 26 unforced errors — 17 in the first set — to advance.

"I didn't know I had that many, to be honest," she said. "The way I play my game, I'm always going to have more un-

forced errors, but I'm going to have more winners, too."

Play was interrupted three times for a total delay of just under three hours, according to tournament officials.

Fifteenth-seeded Andrea Petkovic moved on with a 6-4, 6-2 win over qualifier Julia Goerges, and 14th-seeded Elina Svitolina shook off determined wild card Alison Riske 6-2, 4-6, 6-0. Tsvetlana Pironkova advanced with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-1 win over qualifier Lucie Hradecka.

Irina-Carmelia Begu got past Alize Cornet 6-4, 6-4 in the last

singles match of the night.

In other men's action Monday, No. 13 seed David Goffin rallied past qualifier Yen-Hsun Lu 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Joao Sousa defeated Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-2, and Bernard Tomic beat Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-4, 6-3. Gilles Mueller eliminated lucky loser Benoit Paire 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6), and Thomaz Bellucci topped Jiri Vesely 7-6 (5), 6-2.

In the last men's match of the day, qualifier Thanasi Kokkinakis rallied to beat Fabio Fognini 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

In more women's first-round play, Varvara Lepchenko edged Barbora Strycova 2-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6), and Wimbledon quarterfinalist CoCo Vandeweghe cruised past qualifier Yulia Putintseva 7-5, 6-2. Jelena Jankovic advanced with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over Madison Brengle, and Karin Knapp defeated Ana Konjuh 7-5, 6-2.

Vandeweghe met Putintseva for the first time since May 2013, when Vandeweghe claimed on Twitter that Putintseva and her father insulted her after the match.

"The win speaks for itself," Vandeweghe said. "The scoreline speaks for itself. That's all I have to say." AP

FOOTBALL

Bilbao holds off Barcelona to win Super Cup 5-1 on aggregate

ATLETIC Bilbao ended a 31-year trophy drought with a 1-1 draw at Barcelona yesterday (Macau time), claiming the Spanish Super Cup with a 5-1 aggregate victory over the reigning European champions.

After Bilbao's stunning 4-0 win in Friday's first leg, Barcelona threatened a comeback when Lionel Messi put the hosts ahead a minute before halftime. But their hopes of an improbable turnaround diminished when Gerard Pique earned a rash red card for screaming in the face of a line judge in the 56th.

That helped Bilbao withstand the onslaught before Aritz Aduriz netted the equalizer in the 74th, adding to the striker's hat

trick on Friday.

Bilbao also finished with 10 men after Kike Sola was sent off in the 86th for a challenge on Javier Mascherano.

Bilbao won its last title in 1984, when it beat Barcelona 1-0 in the Copa del Rey final to complete a double of cup and league trophies. The Super Cup traditionally pits last season's league winners against the cup champion — but since Barcelona won both, Bilbao played courtesy of its runner-up finish in the Copa del Rey.

"We have been waiting for this for a long time," said Bilbao coach Ernesto Valverde. "Generations of players have passed through Athletic since those league and cup titles of the 1980s.

We knew it would arrive eventually."

The result means Barcelona can't match the six titles it won in a single calendar year under Pep Guardiola in 2009. Last week, Barcelona won the UEFA Super Cup after completing a rare treble of the Champions League, Spanish League and Copa del Rey last season, and it will play in the Club World Cup in December.

Luis Enrique's Barcelona won't have to wait long to try and avenge the defeat. His side travels back to Bilbao to start their defense of the Spanish league title on Sunday.

After losing to Barcelona's collection of international stars in three Copa del Rey finals since 2009, the win is quite an achieve-

ment for a club that only fields homegrown players from the northern Basque Country or neighboring territories.

And its players savored the moment with the smattering of fans wearing their red-and-white shirts after the final whistle.

"This makes up for those finals we lost to Barca," said Valverde. "It isn't a league or a cup, but this has an enormous value for us. There will no better place than Bilbao for a party tonight."

With its pride stung and nothing to lose, Barcelona showed the verve it lacked from the first leg right from the start. But missed chances and bad tempers soon quashed any slim hopes



Barcelona's Lionel Messi, center, and Athletic Bilbao's Benat Etxebarria, left, and Athletic Bilbao's Ander Iturraspe challenge for the ball during the second leg Spanish Super Cup soccer match

of a comeback.

"I saw a very good Bilbao side, and we were seeing a very good final until Gerard was sent off," Luis Enrique said.

Pedro Rodriguez had Barcelona's first chance when he blasted the ball high from close range. Moments later, Pique began his frequent incursions into attack and smashed the ball off the bar in the sixth minute.

The Camp Nou crowd finally erupted when Messi broke through just before the break after

Luis Suarez chested Ivan Rakitic's cross down for the forward to poke past goalie Gorka Iraizoz.

But instead of unsettling Bilbao, it was Barcelona that came undone. The team paid dearly for Pique's outburst at the line judge for what the Spain defender thought was an offside situation that wasn't flagged.

Aduriz sealed the result against the undermanned back line when he was left unmarked and with enough time to put his own rebound. AP

opinion

Artifacts

Vanessa Moore



TEHRAN AND A TALE OF THE TOPSY TURVY

Like the oil wells this pariah Persian state is most dependent on, Iran's population erupted in spontaneous celebrations last month following the signing of the long-awaited nuclear accord. With the US media reaction critical or ambivalent at best, most foreign coverage has more skewedly focused on the defiant Israeli reaction and Republican congress members threatening to vote the deal down. Strangely it's almost been a side thought that the real beneficiaries of the landmark deal will actually be ordinary Iranians. The country has been suffering from the pain of sanctions that have flattened the economy and caused snowballing unemployment. And the new accord offers its population hope more than anything for the future.

In a weekend op-ed piece for the New York Times, Iranian author Hooman Majid most eloquently reinforced this point when he put it that "what Iranians were celebrating on the evening of July 14 was their version of the storming of the Bastille — a potential break with an order that included sanctions, isolation, vilification of their country, and, more importantly, their own 36 years of struggle for normalcy".

What most young Iranians are more interested in now is an end to isolation, a re-joining of the world economy, job prospects and finally being able to travel. People see the return of foreign firms as a key outcome from the deal, and the country's domestic oil and gas sector, carpet and pistachio producers are all anticipating a boost in exports as sanctions are lifted in the months ahead. A key question now though will be whether hardliners on both sides will accept the deal. Some in the Iranian parliament and the powerful Revolutionary Guards have criticised the agreement, but they are not expected to derail it. If anything, US hawks will be the ones to do so, leaving Obama with a massive loss of credibility, not to mention face.

And what about the international repercussions? In a geopolitical sense, the nuke pact goes to show that old Cold War thinking no longer cuts it. Evidence of the shift in dynamics can already be seen by Obama's renormalisation of ties with communist Cuba. To great fanfare on Saturday, the US flag was re-hoisted over its newly reinstated embassy, proof that there are bigger fish to fry in the grand scheme of things. In an increasingly topsy-turvy global landscape, the threat Tehran's ayatollahs once held likewise pales in comparison to the current regional challenge ISIS poses. In the great post-Cold War rejig, Iran is now a necessary ally in a Middle East threatened by 21st century jihad.

Iranian Vice-President Masumeh Ebtekar, speaking to the BBC's Kim Ghattas during a weeklong assignment in Iran, told the broadcaster yesterday that her country hoped to regain the trust of neighbouring states and co-operate to counter extremist groups. "We hope to be able to restore that trust working with different regional states to be able to stand firm against extremism, against terrorism, against Da'esh which is a terrible phenomenon," she added, using a pejorative term for IS based on the acronym of the group's former name in Arabic.

Likewise, in an attempt aimed at stymying further Islamic State gains, the nuclear detente has additionally led to renewed diplomatic attempts to realise some sort of breakthrough in Syria. Last week Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with members of the Syrian opposition, while his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif was in Damascus to discuss ways of ending the war with Assad. As a regional heavyweight, no solution is possible without the Islamic Republic's say-so, and getting the Iranians to play nuclear ball now seems to be bearing additional diplomatic fruit.

Finally, and most paradoxically of all though, a rabble of brainwashed social-media savvy suicide bombers may have just prompted the biggest international rapprochement since the fall of the Berlin Wall. My enemy's enemy is my friend, as the old saying goes, and the jihadists in the desert are probably kicking themselves now as a result. #Epic fail as those on Twitter would say.

THE BUZZ TEENS' E-CIGARETTE USE LINKED WITH LATER SMOKING

A study at 10 Los Angeles high schools links e-cigarettes with later tobacco use.

University of Southern California researchers found that 14-year-olds who'd ever tried e-cigarettes were more likely than others to later try other tobacco products.

The study doesn't prove that electronic cigarettes are a "gateway drug" but some doctors say it bolsters arguments that the

devices need to be strictly regulated. The government-funded study was published in yesterday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

National data show e-cigarettes have become more popular among teens than regular cigarettes. The Food and Drug Administration has proposed rules that would ban the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors.



Glass vessels, Burial Tomb cave Akeldama, Jerusalem, early Roman Period

Bible Museum to display artifacts from Holy Land under deal

The Museum of the Bible, now under construction in Washington, will feature ancient artifacts and treasures from the Holy Land under a new deal with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

An agreement announced yesterday will bring a selection of artifacts excavated in Israel to be displayed in a top-floor gallery at the Bible museum. The new museum is set to open near the National Mall in the heart of the capital in 2017.

Officials say the specific artifacts to be displayed haven't been settled. In 1993, the Israel Antiqui-

ties Authority exhibited the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Library of Congress in Washington.

The Museum of the Bible already holds a collection of rare biblical texts and artifacts. There are cuneiform tablets dating to the time of Abraham, Torah scrolls and rare printed Bibles, bought in 2009 by an American family.

According to the museum website, "When the Green family, founders of U.S. retail chain Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., purchased their first biblical artifact in November 2009, they never expected to assemb-

le in only a few years what is now one of the world's largest private collections of rare biblical texts, objects, and artifacts.

Known as the Green Collection, the compilation of around 40,000 objects includes some of the rarest and most significant biblical texts and artifacts ever assembled under one roof. Highlights of the Green Collection include cuneiform tablets dating from the time of Abraham, Dead Sea Scroll fragments, biblical papyri and manuscripts, Torah scrolls, and rare printed Bibles. **MDT/Agencies**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Matt Syles/Invision/AP, File



J Lo & Pitbull. Jennifer Lopez and Pitbull will headline the iHeartRadio Fiesta Latina concert in Miami this November, which will be streamed live online. Other performers joining Lopez and Pitbull at the AmericanAirlines Arena in Miami include Don Omar, Wisin, Prince Royce, Marco Antonio Solis, Camila, Becky G., Fonseca and Voz de Mando. The Nov. 7 event will be streamed live on Yahoo Live.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA's beleaguered prime minister faces a political test next month, with an opinion poll showing his center-right party faces a large swing against it in a by-election in the nation's most conservative state.

PAKISTAN Gunmen riding on a motorcycle open fire in the southern port city of Karachi, seriously wounding a senior leader of a political party and killing his driver.

INDIA Suspected rebels open fire at a police post in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, killing a police constable and a civilian.

TURKEY Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appears a shadow of his former self after his party suffered major losses in June elections — embattled and no longer in control of his political fate.

USA Faced with escalating aggression from Russia and China, the Pentagon is planning to increase its use of drones by about 50 percent over the next several years, using the U.S. Army and civilian contractors to put more of the unmanned aircraft in the air.

NORWAY's USD870 billion sovereign wealth fund has excluded four Asian companies over environmental concerns linked to their palm oil activities in Indonesia. Acting on a recommendation from its ethical council, Norway's central bank on Monday said the fund would divest from South Korean steelmaker Posco, its subsidiary Daewoo International Corp. and Malaysian companies Genting Berhad and IJM Corporation Berhad. The council said the companies may be responsible for environmental damage linked to the conversion of tropical forests into oil palm plantations in Indonesia.

ZIMBABWE has charged a man on whose land the well-known Cecil the lion was shot by American dentist Walter James Palmer in July. Charges have not been filed against Palmer, according to prosecutors, while in Minnesota the dentist has reopened his practice. Prosecutors yesterday accused Honest Ndllovu, whose property is near the vast Hwange National Park in western Zimbabwe, of allowing an illegal hunt on his land.