



### 'GLASS HOUSE' TO UNDERGO REPAIR WORKS

The Cultural Affairs Bureau plans to revamp Tap Seac's 'Glass House,' due to the building's poor construction quality

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### UNIVERSAL SIGNS DEAL TO OPEN BEIJING THEME PARK

The theme park, slated to open in 2019, will be Universal's 3rd in Asia, after Singapore and Osaka

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WILFRED WONG

# Former NPC member appointed Sands China president and COO

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### WORLD BRIEFS

#### PAKISTAN-CHINA

Pakistan's military says Chinese and Pakistani troops have conducted a joint field exercise to improve their ability to combat terrorism. In a statement released to the media yesterday, the military said the seven-week long exercise was held in the district of Attock in the eastern province of Punjab. It said Pakistani army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif and senior Chinese army officer Gen. Li Fayi witnessed the concluding session of the exercise.



**JAPAN-VIETNAM** Japan said yesterday it will give Vietnam used boats and other equipment to improve its maritime security capabilities as China asserts its territorial claims in regional seas. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the grant worth 200 million yen (USD1.7 million) after holding talks with Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong in Tokyo.

More on backpage



Catarina Pinto

**T**HE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, has revealed the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) plans to revamp Tap Seac's 'Glass House,' due to the building's poor construction quality.

Mr Tam acknowledged that the structural integrity of the building "was not good," and admitted that its continued vacancy is a shame.

Speaking on the sidelines of a Youth Affairs Committee meeting held yesterday at the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Mr Tam recalled that the 'Glass House' has experienced several construction problems, including rainwater leakages.

"The IC is now requesting the building's renovation. [The building] will undergo renovation work which may take about a year," he added.

The 'Glass House,' designed by local architect Carlos Marreiros, has been almost vacant and inactive since 2007, when its construction was completed.

Mr Tam was asked to elaborate on the government's plans for the revamp of the Hotel Estoril. He recalled that the administration is hoping to develop the Tap Seac area into a recreational zone for Macau's youth.

Mr Tam hinted that the go-

## Tap Seac 'Glass House' to undergo repair works



The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam

vernment isn't neglecting the needs of elderly citizens, but is simply prioritizing youth in this particular project, as many

schools are located in the Tap Seac area.

The majority of Youth Affairs Committee members are in fa-

vor of Hotel Estoril's demolition, said Loi Man Keong from the Collective Wisdom Policy Center. Mr Loi, a committee

member at the Center, said that most of his colleagues believe that a new building should be constructed, but opinions differ when it comes to whether or not to preserve the mural.

Another committee member, Wong Kuok Wai from the General Union of the Neighborhood Associations of Macau, revealed that preliminary survey results showed that 40 percent of respondents support the plans

### The 'Glass House' construction was concluded in 2007

to demolish the building.

The union launched a survey last month, gathering a total of 2,500 valid opinions from Macau residents.

Secretary Tam attended a Youth Affairs Committee meeting yesterday, where members discussed Macau's current youth policy.

DSEJ's Youth Department chief, Un Hoi Cheng, recalled at a press conference that an interdepartmental task group has been established to effectively implement policies for youth development.

## CE highlights room for improvement in building restoration

**T**HE Chief Executive has acknowledged that there is room for improvement in building renovation works. In his online column "Words from the Chief Executive," Chui Sai On said that the government would be stepping up its efforts to speed up revamp works, aiming to learn from other regions' experiences and experts' opinions.

Preserving Macau's cultural heritage is one of the government's responsibilities and missions, Chui Sai On stressed. The CE said that the government would step up efforts to

promote the value of cultural heritage preservation to different generations.

Mr Chui said he was pleased to learn that citizens are expressing more enthusiasm toward heritage conservation than when Macau's historic center was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site ten years ago.

Since then, the local government has made an effort to better protect cultural heritage, and perfect the Cultural Heritage Protection Law.

Mr Chui reviewed the UNESCO World Herita-

ge application, which was submitted while he was serving as the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and recalled that the successful inscription of Macau's historic center in UNESCO's list would not have been possible without the support from the central government, as well as from the mainland and input from overseas experts.

"Words from the Chief Executive" is a new online platform through which Macau's leader shares his thoughts on society, the economy and livelihood matters.

ARTS

## 'Júlio Pomar and Friends' at Tap Seac Gallery

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and Albergue SCM (ASCM) have jointly organized two exhibitions, showcasing works by the renowned Portuguese master Júlio Pomar. The official inauguration ceremony for one of the two exhibitions took place yesterday at the Tap Seac Gallery.

The ceremony was attended by the IC president, Ung Vai Meng, and the deputy director of the Liaison Office in the MSAR, Zhang Xiaoguang, among others.

The exhibition at the Tap Seac Gallery showcases different phases of Pomar's artistic career with a total of thirty-one works by the artist and his contemporaries on display, including famous oil paintings and prints. The exhibition is intended to help the audience better understand Pomar's work and life, as well as to apprecia-



te his artistic world, feelings, and the unique vision behind each piece. This exhibition will be open to the public until October 29.

The second exhibition related to the Portuguese painter's works will be inaugurated on September 18 (Friday) at 6.30 p.m. at the Albergue SCM. **RM**

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José Tavares (left) and Costa Antunes (right) speak to journalists on the hotel's rooftop



A view of the rooftop

## HOTEL ESTORIL

# Revamp option proves costly, gov't asks for structural assessment

Paulo Barbosa

**T**O revamp the Hotel Estoril would be far costlier than to build a new facility from scratch, structural engineer Costa Antunes said yesterday during a visit to the decrepit hotel and its adjacent swimming pool, which is still-operational.

"I have no doubt that it would be more expensive to revamp the building. Its structure would need to be strengthened and some parts replaced. It would take much more time to complete and I don't know if the investment would be worth it. Secondly, if we want to build standard places to host musical events, the ceiling heights in this building are very limitative, and multiple technical experts should assess whether it's worth keeping [the building] or not."

With some sectors of local society showing opposition to the government's plans to demolish the hotel, located near Tap Seac Square, in order to transform the space into a youth center for arts education, the Secretariat for Social Affairs

and Culture organized a press visit to the site.

Concerning the structure, Costa Antunes noted that the older part of the building is "close to ruins" and an assessment of the edifice's resistance has been requested from the Civil Engineering Laboratory

**■ ■**  
**If we want to build standard places to host musical events, the ceiling heights of this building are very limitative**

COSTA ANTUNES

(LECM). "The building is not at risk of collapsing because it is empty. But if we start to use it more, things need to be assessed," Mr Antunes, who is also the coordinator of the Macau

Grand Prix Committee, added.

The media excursion started with a visit to the closest section to the Tap Seac Multi-sports Pavilion, which was built more recently. The dance floor and bar of a club that operated there until the 90s are still visible. Adjacent to the former club, but accessible through an exterior door, there is a former sauna, consisting of a maze-like set of corridors and many small rooms, all of them equipped with bathtubs. In its heyday, this was one the biggest saunas in Macau, perhaps in Asia. Now it is no more than a ruin.

The visit proceeded with a glimpse of the core of the building, or its oldest part, where the hotel's operations and main entrance were located. With a wall covered with mirrors in the lobby, and plaques with numbers providing directions to the guest rooms, one can clearly see that the place was once a hotel, although its interiors are reminiscent of a war zone. On the upper floor there used to be a club named "Diane," where a rugged picture of the deceased Princess of Wales still adorns the main wall.

The visit also included the adjacent Estoril Swimming Pool, over which many rooms of the hotel have a view. The president of the Sports Development Board (ID), José Tavares, highlighted that the pool has been operating for over 60 years and is entering a phase of "some degradation."

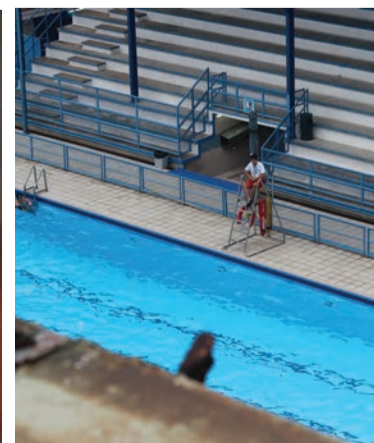
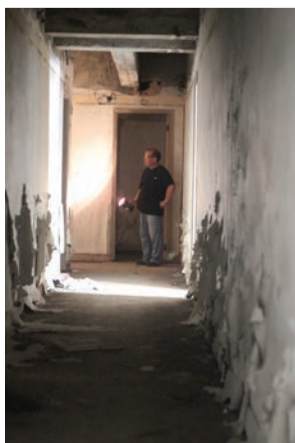
Therefore he feels that this is a good opportunity to build a new pool with technology to remain open all year long. The facility would be equipped with a removable rooftop. The Olympic-sized swimming pool wouldn't need to be so deep (the current pool reaches 3 meters depth) since the diving board has long since been removed. The slight displacement of the pool would provide space for a multiuse pavilion, which could be used for cultural or sporting activities, as well as for car parking, Mr Tavares said.

"We intend to have an indoor swimming pool that can work all year long, a high-quality facility with heated water and easily accessible by handicapped people. This is located in a luxury neighborhood, there is no

space like this [in Macau] to develop infrastructure devoted to sports and culture. So, for us, it is very important to go on with the [Hotel Estoril] revamp," José Tavares said. "The current pool has reached its maturity and fulfilled its historical mission. We now have an Olympic swimming pool in Taipa, so it is not needed anymore. We have other pools suited for competitions, so we should think of a new phase," he added. The ID president concluded by saying that "it doesn't make sense to keep a pool that has been running for more than 60 years, the pumps and water filter systems are degraded and do not match the current needs."

The president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Ung Vai Meng, also attended the initial phase of the visit, giving an historical overview of the site.

The government intends to grant designing of the building that will replace the Hotel Estoril to Siza Vieira. The renowned Portuguese architect is expected to visit Macau soon to offer insights into the former hotel's revitalization.





## SURVEY

# Gaming and hospitality staff show improvements

Aries Un

**FRONTLINE** employees in the gaming and hospitality sectors delivered the highest quality service to their guests in the second quarter of the year than they have since the beginning of 2014, according to gaming service index (GSI) research jointly conducted by the Macau Gaming Research Association and SGS Hong Kong.

Despite the economic woes that Macau has faced since early last year, the survey — which dispatched mystery shoppers to 11 major casino resorts owned by six companies — suggested that the assessed staff appeared very smiley, proactive and patient when dealing with patrons, at least far more than they were one year ago.

The indices of smiling, pro-activeness and tolerance, according to the two researchers, were identified as the most significant factors to determine one's service performance. These findings came after their efforts in 2013 to seek consensus from the industry representatives, academics and tourists to lay down a benchmark.

Nonetheless, the groups' findings drew concerns from the authorities of the assessed resorts during yesterday's finding debriefing. Their representatives argued that the 2013 standards were most likely still referential to all of the gaming operators, who each have their own variety of standards and rules when it comes to gauging staff performance.

"We do have concrete standards to measure [performance.] Since di-

AP PHOTO



fferent brands or operators have their own standards, we can only count on one rule to fit all," said SGS research manager Lee Kim Cheung, who presented the outcomes of the report to the representatives.

Sands China was the only casino absent from the discussion, which was attended by repre-

sentatives from the other five gaming operators.

Wynn representatives went on to challenge whether the deployed customers carried out their assessment based on quantifiable factors, instead of simply resorting to their personal perception, which they deemed as subjective.

"In the future, I think

it's possible to provide training to the mystery shoppers to see if they can provide some quantifiable figures regarding how long they wait for services," said Dr. LC Koo, assistant director of the association.

About 80 percent of the anonymous personnel hired to assist with the research last year have remained to contribute to this year's research. All of them, including the new recruits, were under strict supervision and received professional training in advance, stressed the researchers.

The body of such a research project would likely be tweaked if it were to run again in the near future, as the gaming operators executives suggested amendments to the sample sizes. It has also been said that the gaming company authorities could "improve their customer service using GSI as their benchmark."

The research shows that all of the variable determinants over the previous year have displayed an upward trend, suggesting a tendency for the overall service to con-

tinue improving.

Compared to the base index of 100 in 2013, the pro-activeness index revealed the most noteworthy transition, as its value slid to a record low of 82 in this year's first quarter before soaring to 144 in the following quarter.

Specifically, the staff responsible for security outperformed the rest of their fellow colleagues while the performance of croupiers, who dominated the sample size, remained much below the general par despite a quarter-on-quarter growth in performance.

Comments from the mystery guests on the air quality inside the properties suggested that it was a "generous good" in the first half of the year. More than 60 percent of the bathrooms were rated as having a "satisfactory environment" since the second half of 2014. Their comments also included the length of wait for a shuttle bus. Guests generally spent 4.7 minutes waiting for one to arrive in the first quarter of the year, while the following quarter saw the duration bounce back to 9.2 minutes, similar to the data from last year.

**FAR** more road users are recorded to have their eyes on their mobile phones whilst driving in the first seven months of this year, in comparison to the equivalent period last year, the Public Security Police Force's latest data highlights.

For private car drivers, the total of 2,238 cases recorded in that period is roughly 13 times higher than the number the region saw last year. Such a number alone is even seven-fold all the offenders caught throughout the whole of last year.

## More drivers reported using cellphones while driving



Only 188 offenses have been recorded when it comes to motorcyclists, yet the number has

still increased by 2.8 times year-on-year and the entire number has gone up 1.9 times for the whole year.

The figures released also suggest that drivers in the first half of the year are more likely to forget to fasten their seatbelts than compared to the same period last year, given that the number of cases climbed 7.5 times. Similarly, the number of scooters caught carrying mi-

nors aged below six has risen almost fivefold.

The total amount of traffic accidents in the first seven months totaled 9,045, suggesting a year-on-year increment of 1.33 percent. Last year's eight fatal collisions were among the accidents.

Jaywalking offences continued to have dwindled by around 75 percent to merely 355 incidences.

# 9,045

Traffic accidents  
in the first seven  
months of 2015

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**C**ASINO operator Sands China Ltd. has appointed a former member of the National People's Congress of the PRC, Wilfred Wong, as the company's new president and Chief Operating Officer (COO).

Mr Wong, whose appointment will be effective as of November 1, will be replacing Rob Goldstein, according to a Sands China Ltd. press release issued yesterday.

Mr Goldstein has been serving as Sands China's interim president since earlier this year. He is also the president and COO of Las Vegas Sands.

The gaming operator stressed that Mr Wong will be joining the company after serving in a variety of senior business roles, including as the chairman and CEO of the Hong Kong listed Hsin Chong Construction Group Ltd.

Mr Wong has also held top management positions in a number of other Hong Kong listed companies in the property development and construction business sectors, including K. Wah International Holdings Limited, Henderson China Holdings Limited and the Shui On Group.

The company also highlighted Mr Wong's public sector career, as he has served in a variety of positions within the Hong Kong government, and in many posts appointed by the central government. He was elected a member of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China for 15 years from 1997 to 2012.

Mr Wong has also served as a member of the Hong Kong Basic Law Consultative Committee; as well as a member of the Preliminary Working Committee and subsequently the Preparatory Committee for the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR.

"Wilfred has a unique combination of private and public sector experience we think will be invaluable to the

WILFRED WONG

# Former NPC member appointed president and COO of Sands China



Wilfred Wong

company at this point in our history. We've been a part of the Macau community for more than a decade and our needs, along with our responsibilities to the people of Macau, have changed dramatically since we opened the Sands Macao in 2004," said Sheldon Adelson, chairman of both Sands China Ltd and Las Vegas Sands.

He added that, "as president

of Sands China, Wilfred will be able to put his experience to work helping us chart a path for our next decade of success in Macau."

Mr Goldstein recalled that, "we reached outside the gaming industry to find an executive who is highly educated, distinguished, and ethical." According to Sands China's interim president, "Wilfred's successful career in business

and public service is going to provide the company with a different set of perspectives, insights and approaches that will be valuable to Sands China in the future."

Sheldon Adelson took over as the CEO of Sands China earlier this year after former Macau CEO Edward Tracy retired. Mr Sheldon said in May that the company would like to hire a Chinese executive

for their Macau operations, hopefully one who has dealt with officials in Beijing.

"I suspect that having an influential Chinese person at the helm of the ship would be

**I suspect that having an influential Chinese person at the helm of the ship would be a distinct positive as it relates to concession renewal**

GRANT GOVERTSEN

a distinct positive as it relates to concession renewal, not to mention any other approvals along the way," stated Union Gaming Group analyst Grant Govertsen, as quoted by Bloomberg.

Sands China is planning to open its USD2.7 billion Parisian Macao project in 2016, as the city's casino operators hope to draw more mainland Chinese tourists to help offset the drop in VIP gamblers. **CP**

## Dore Group contributed 4 pct of Wynn Macau EBITDA

**C**REDIT Suisse issued a note on Monday revealing that Dore Entertainment Group Ltd contributed approximately 4 percent of casino resort Wynn Macau's annual earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA).

Last week, Wynn Macau led declines in Macau gaming stocks following an analyst's report that alleged a junket group operating



A tram is reflected in the window of an entrance to a branch of Credit Suisse AG in Zurich, Switzerland

out of the company's HKD2 billion from em-casino in the city may bezzlement, Bloomberg have lost as much as reported.

"Even if we conservatively assume the [Dore] business dropped by half, its annualized EBITDA impact would be HKD120 million, or two percent of our expected HKD5.2 billion EBITDA for Wynn Macau in 2015," said Credit Suisse analysts Kenneth Fong and Isis Wong, as quoted by news website GGR Asia.

Junket operator Dore, which acts as a middleman for high rollers, has confirmed that it has

been the victim of internal fraud by a former employee.

Bloomberg reported that the alleged theft could crimp liquidity among junkets while triggering closures of exclusive gambling rooms operated by junket groups.

Wynn Macau filed a voluntary announcement with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Monday, stating that, "Dore owes no money to the Company and

continues to operate at Wynn Macau." They assured that "Dore is an independent, registered and licensed company operating a gaming promoter business at Wynn Macau (...) the company hopes that all parties will be able to resolve their differences in the near future. The company will continue to monitor the situation." The statement was issued by Wynn Macau's chairman Stephen Wynn.





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Pedestrians are reflected on an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo

# Asia stocks mostly lower, BOJ policy unchanged ahead of Fed

Elaine Kurtenbach, Business Writer, Tokyo

ASIAN stock markets were mostly lower yesterday after Japan kept its monetary policy unchanged ahead of a much anticipated U.S. Federal Reserve decision later this week on whether to raise interest rates.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Japan's Nikkei 225 rose 0.4 percent to 18,045.76 and South Korea's KOSPI edged 0.1 percent higher to 1,933.19. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.5 percent to 21,467.58. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 1.4 percent to 5,024.00 after the country's prime minister was ousted in an internal party revolt. China's Shanghai Composite Index fell 2.5 percent to 3,036.57. Shares were also lower in Singapore, Taiwan and Indonesia, but rose in New Zealand.

**BANK OF JAPAN:** Japan's central bank issued a statement saying it had not changed its policy calling

for 80 trillion yen (USD666 billion) in annual asset purchases by the central bank, to help spur inflation and stimulate growth. A small minority of experts had speculated the BOJ could spring a surprise increase in its asset purchases to combat recent recurring signs the recovery is faltering.

**FEDERAL RESERVE:** Trading has been light as investors looked ahead to a much-anticipated Federal Open Market Committee meeting later this week. Opinions are split over whether the Fed will raise its benchmark interest rate at the end of its two-day meeting tomorrow, given China's slower economy and recent turbulence in financial markets.

**ANALYST'S VIEW:** "The highly-anticipated FOMC meeting continues to dominate market sentiments this week, although investors will monitor other events, including several central bank events

and the Chinese markets," Bernard Aw, a market strategist at IG, said in a commentary.

**WALL STREET:** Major U.S. indexes opened higher Monday (local time) and then sank slowly through the rest of the day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 8.02 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 1,953.03 and the Dow Jones industrial average gave up 62.13 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,370.96.

**ENERGY:** U.S. crude fell gained 20 cents to \$44.20 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 63 cents to close at \$44 a barrel on Monday. Brent Crude, a benchmark for international oils, fell 3 cents to \$48.22. It lost \$1.77 on Monday to close at \$46.37 a barrel in London.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar fell to 120.07 yen from 120.30 yen late Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1327 from \$1.1309. AP

## BMW CEO collapses during presentation at auto show



BMW CEO Harald Krueger collapsed yesterday during a news conference at the Frankfurt auto show and was helped off stage by staff.

His condition was not serious, the company said later. Krueger stumbled backward and fell on his back during the first five minutes of the presentation of the German auto house's new lineup. Staff rushed to help Krueger back on his feet, and he rubbed the back of his head, looking stunned as he was lifted up and led off stage by staff. BMW spokesman Maximilian Schoeberl said that 49-year-old Krueger had been recently traveling a lot, and was not feeling well ahead of the presentation but decided to go ahead with it. Schoeberl said Krueger, who took over as BMW's CEO earlier this year, was seen by a doctor following the incident, who recommended that he cancel his other appointments for the day and rest at home. "His condition is not worrisome, they've ruled out anything serious," Schoeberl said. A round table Krueger was to hold with journalists was instead conducted by the company's CFO.

## Toyota launches hydrogen-fueled sedan



Toyota is taking the next step in its quest for carbon-free travel with the launch of the Mirai hydrogen-fueled sedan. The Japanese brand that

pioneered the hybrid gas-electric powertrain sees hydrogen cars as the end-game, following plug-in hybrids and full-electric vehicles. The region's new CEO, Johan van Zyl, told reporters on the sidelines of the Frankfurt auto show on Monday that "It's not a question of if, it's a question of when," hydrogen technology will go mainstream. Toyota Europe expects sales of between 50 and 100 Mirai's this year and next, with 47 ordered to date. It is being sold only in Britain, Germany, Denmark and Belgium, where Toyota is working on getting in hydrogen pumping stations with local partners. Toyota Europe sales chief Karl Schlicht said that current customers include governments and companies looking to reduce their carbon emissions. He expects the technology to be affordable for average consumers by 2025. Toyota Europe last year sold 880,000 cars, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Twenty percent of those were hybrids. Schlicht forecasts sales will be down 1-2 percent this year due to the economic slowdown in Russia.

### corporate bits

#### "INSPIRE HOPE" FOR UNICEF AT SHERATON FUNDRAISING EVENT

For 19 years UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and Starwood Hotels and Resorts have been working together to raise funds for the world's most vulnerable children. In that time, almost USD10m has been raised.

In line with Starwood's 2015 commitment to improving schools and educational facilities in the poorer areas of the Asia Pacific, Sheraton Macao Hotel, Cotai Central will bring together hotel associates and local schools for a two day event this Saturday and Sunday at the Sala Pool located on Level 4 of the hotel.

The carnival-like event, named "Inspire Hope", will take place between 2pm and 8pm

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and will comprise of a series of game booths and activities, including the Junior Hotelier program alongside art and craft activities, a story telling corner, face painting and a range of F&B offerings.

In support of this initiative, DreamWorks will also be sending some of their most popular Kung Fu Panda superstars, Po and Tigress to meet and mingle with all at the event. Funds will also be raised through the sale of souvenirs and memorabilia including T-shirts, toys and festive hampers. One of the event's highlights will be a Silent Auction, where from as little as MOP 50, guests can put in a bid for Two Nights' Accommodation at Sheraton Shanghai Jiading with Breakfast for two.

#### SHORTLISTED NOMINEES ANNOUNCED FOR HOTELIER AWARDS CHINA 2015



Applications were received from more than 40 brands and close to 100 properties for the 2015 edition of The Hotelier Awards China. The five judges gathered recently at Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, in Shanghai to begin the selection process, where they narrowed

down the candidates to leave just 6 nominees for each of the 17 different categories.

Alison Gilmore - Senior Exhibition Director - International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM), Worldwide commented: "It is so fantastic to see so many talented individuals working in

the hospitality industry across China. These hoteliers are truly passionate about their jobs and after reviewing the applications it is clear that they deserve this recognition. It is important for us to honor these individuals for their dedication and continued commitment to providing guests with outstanding experiences."

Among the candidates in the category for GM of the Year was Bede Barry - General Manager - Conrad and Holiday Inn Hotels, Cotai Strip Macao, while two other Macao candidates, Ines Leung - Senior Manager - Teleservices - Galaxy Hotel, Galaxy Macau and Suzanne Chan Chi San - Assistant Manager, Service Quality - Hard Rock Hotel Macau at City of Dreams Macau, were among local nominees for the Unsung Hero category.



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## Haitong Securities plans to expand in Europe from Lisbon base

**T**HE Chinese group Haitong Securities plans to make Lisbon the European base of Haitong Bank, the new name given to the newly acquired BESI. Moreover it's looking to expand in the European market, both organically and through more acquisitions, according to the Financial Times.

The deed of purchase of Banco Espírito Santo de Investimento (BESI) by the Chinese group was signed last week, after approval of various regulators, including Portuguese, European and Brazilian, ending a process that began in December 2014, which involved investment of 379 million euros.

Hiroki Miyazato, Deputy Executive Chairman of the Haitong Securities Group, told the FT that after completion of the BESI acquisition the investment bank is now strengthening its staff aggressively, planning double staff in the next three years, from 800 to over 1,600 people.

The recent volatility in the Chinese markets, Miyazato told the Financial Times, will not change expansion plans and actually makes it possible to forecast in-

creased demand for investment banking services.

"I see this short-term market trend to have an impact on the long-term trend towards internationalization of Chinese enterprises," the deputy executive chairman of Haitong said.

In Haitong Securities "sights" is the acquisition of a European asset holding company and a US investment firm to add to the BESI structure, the biggest and most internationalized Portuguese investment bank, now renamed Haitong Bank.

"We want to increase our UK presence, one of the world's major markets," Miyazato said.

In recent weeks, Haitong Bank made 20 new hires for its London office, which has about 100 people.

In addition to the acquisition of an asset manager to strengthen the supply of such services, Haitong Bank intends to become a leading provider of off-shore services in yuan, from London.

Other areas to expand, according to the deputy chairman of Haitong, are analysis and mergers and acquisitions. **MDT/Macauhub**

## ANGOLA

# Cotton production re-launched with South Korea support

**T**HE revival of cotton production in two locations in the city of Sumbe, the capital of Angola's Kwanza Sul province, will begin in January 2016, according to technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture assessing the progress of the project.

The project comprises 2,824 hectares and it began with land clearing, conducted between November 2012 and March 2013, and required an investment of USD30.737 million, of which USD15.981 million were granted by the South Korean government in the form of a loan. The remaining USD14.756 million was provided by the Angolan State Budget.

The project to re-launch cotton production began between August 2006 and December 2009 and the second phase was between January 2011 and July 2014. Last Thursday, according to Angolan news agency Angop, Ministry of Agriculture technicians spoke with project manager, Abel Bala Kinzeza, who said infrastructure work would be completed in Decem-



Unprocessed cotton

ber and that planting of cotton and other crops would begin in January.

At the end of the visit, the provincial director of Agriculture,

Isaiah Nawela, said the revival of cotton production was of benefit to communities and boosted the trade balance of the province and the country. **MDT/Macauhub**

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UNIVERSAL Studios has signed a deal with a Chinese state-owned consortium to build a Hollywood theme park in Beijing to open in 2019, state media reported yesterday.

A signing ceremony for the joint venture took place Sunday at the New York headquarters of Comcast NBCUniversal, which owns Universal Studios Hollywood.

Universal Parks & Resorts, a Comcast unit, is partnering with Beijing Shouhuan Cultural Tourism Investment Co. Ltd., a consortium of four state-owned companies, to invest in and operate the project.

China's Cabinet and national economic planning agency approved the theme park project — 13 years in the making — in September last year.

It will be Universal's third theme park in Asia, after Singapore and Osaka, Japan. The park, an entertainment complex and the first-ever Universal-branded hotel will occupy a 120-hectare site in Tongzhou district in Beijing's east. A second phase would involve another theme park, a

## Universal signs deal to open Beijing theme park



water park and a further five resort hotels, according to state media. Universal has said

the resort will eventually encompass 400 hectares. Investment in the project is reported

ly more than 50 billion yuan (USD8 billion), including the expansion of a subway line.

As U.S. and European amusement parks see flattening or declining attendance, entertainment companies are betting on China to drive expansion.

The Walt Disney Co. is building a \$5.5 billion theme park resort including hotels and a theater in Shanghai, expected to open in spring 2016.

In 2017, Dreamworks Animation SKG Inc. and Chinese partners are expected to complete a \$2.4 billion entertainment complex in Shanghai, featuring bars, restaurants and performance venues. It will also showcase a "Dream Avenue" theater district modeled on London's West End and New York City's Broadway.

State media said a ceremony to mark the signing of the joint venture agreement between Universal and Shouhuan was attended by Brian L. Roberts, chairman and CEO of Comcast Corp. and Shouhuan's general manager, Yu Xuezhong, among others.

NBCUniversal didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. **AP**

## Gov't names veteran diplomat to lead global crime team

CHINA named a veteran diplomat to lead its global hunt for fugitive former officials, people with knowledge of the matter said, part of the Communist Party's effort to improve cooperation with overseas law enforcement authorities in corruption cases.

Former Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao has been installed as director general for international cooperation at the Communist Party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, said the people, who asked not to be named because the move hasn't been publicly announced. The division of the anti-graft agency oversees Sky Net, President Xi Jinping's initiative to repatriate corruption suspects.

The appointment of the English-speaking, Oxford-educated Liu comes as China seeks greater international help in its efforts to track down fugitive officials as part of Xi's graft crackdown. The country lacks formal extradition pacts with many destinations popular among ex-officials, with 40 of the 100 "most wanted" fugitives announced by authorities in April believed to be residing in the U.S.

"The appointment is a signal that shows China will enhance its international cooperation during the next



Liu Jianchao

stage of the anti-corruption campaign," said Ma Chengyuan, a professor of international law at the China University of Political Science and Law. "As an official who built his career at the foreign ministry, Liu must have a better understanding of the rules of the international game."

Xi is expected to seek progress on the issue of Chinese fugitives with U.S. President Barack Obama during his state visit to the U.S. later this month.

Liu was previously the chief press officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served stints as ambassador to Indonesia and the Philippines.

His name was removed Monday from a list of senior officials on the ministry's website. Yesterday, the State Council announced

his appointment as deputy chief of the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention, a government job that corresponds to the post at the party-run anti-graft agency.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection's press office didn't immediately respond to three calls seeking comment.

Liu's predecessor in both jobs, Fu Kui, was last month put in charge of CCDI's provincial branch in Hunan. In an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek in May, Fu said U.S. officials have been more helpful on fugitives over the past two years but international cooperation remains a headache.

China's international pursuit of corruption suspects — earlier dubbed Fox Hunt — resulted in the repatriation of 680 former officials in the second half of last year, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The broader Sky Net focuses on cracking down on underground banks and confiscating misappropriated assets, in addition to rounding up fugitives.

Senior U.S. officials have privately urged China to provide more evidence on priority cases. The U.S. will require a high standard of evidence for the indictment of alleged fugitives, two U.S. officials told Bloomberg in May. **Bloomberg**

## Citic securities chief probed for insider trading, Xinhua says

Kyoungwha Kim and Alfred Liu

CITIC Securities Co. President Cheng Boming is being probed by the police for insider trading, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday.

A Citic spokeswoman said it has no comment.

The investigation of Cheng comes after Xinhua reported last month that four executives at Citic, China's biggest brokerage, had admitted to alleged insider trading. The firm is part of Citic Group, the nation's first state-owned investment corporation, which was set up in 1979 as part of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's push to modernize the country.

After a USD5 trillion stock rout, Chinese officials have been hunting for culprits, from so-called "malicious" short sellers to a journalist from business magazine Caijing whose report was alleged to have caused market panic. The government has also squeezed out some of the leverage that fueled the boom and intervened in the market by purchasing shares.

"The rumor of this investigation had already been on the streets for some time," said Castor Pang, the head of research at Core-Pacific Yamaichi Hong Kong, referring to the Cheng probe. "The central government may use this case to accelerate its probe into insider trading and tighten regulation further."

The Citic executives caught up in the investigation include ma-



Elderly Chinese women walk near the logo for Citic Securities in Beijing

naging directors Xu Gang and Liu Wei. The brokerage's shares have tumbled more than 60 percent from an April peak in Shanghai on the market collapse, failed government efforts to prop up stocks, and the widening crackdown.

"Citic Securities should come out and clarify what's happening and tell investors if they have any management changes," said Linus Yip, a Hong Kong-based strategist at First Shanghai Securities Ltd. "That's the only way to calm investors down."

The market collapse put an abrupt end to Citic Securities's ascent among the world's biggest brokerages by market capitalization. Less than a year ago, the firm came close to matching Switzerland's UBS Group AG. Now, it's sinking closer to Japan's Nomura Holdings Inc.

Since its inception, Citic Group has been the "pilot of national economic reform and an important window on China's opening to the outside world," the company said on its website. **Bloomberg**



**W**HEN top leaders from China's Communist Party made their annual pilgrimage to the seaside resort of Beidaihe last month, they turned to an old master for economic advice, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The leadership, ensconced on the shores of the Yellow Sea, consulted former Premier Zhu Rongji, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the talks were private. Zhu, 86, has been hailed for his role in transforming China's economy nearly two decades ago. Specifically, they wanted the retired leader's thoughts on President Xi Jinping's plan for overhauling the country's USD16 trillion state-run industrial sector, one of the people said.

The last time China launched such a shakeup, the charge was led by Zhu: Some 60,000 firms were closed and 40 million workers let go, according to government data. It remains to be seen whether today's leaders will stomach such change given that the reform blueprint released Sunday still centers around state control.

"In the 1990s under Zhu Rongji, there was a clear vision that the state sector had to be radically downsized and focused on a relatively small number of truly strategic sectors; everything else could be let go," said Arthur Kroeber, founding partner and managing director at Gavekal Dragonomics, a research firm. "Today, there is no apparent belief that the state has to give up anything."

While it's not known what Zhu said when his advice was sought, it's clear his influence continues to loom large in Xi's administration. Officials who worked under him are now in key positions: People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan was a deputy governor from 1996 to 1998 and Finance Minister Lou Jiwei was a vice minister from 1998 to 2007.

The Beidaihe meetings date back to the era of Mao Zedong. There, incumbent leaders dis-

# Leaders consult old master Zhu Rongji over reform



Zhu Rongji in 2001



Zhu (second left) leading the Chinese delegation at the European Management Forum in 1986

cuss among themselves and with former senior officials the most pressing issues facing the party and nation.

Under the new plans, the government aims to sell shares of some state-owned enterprises and consolidate others. Authorities want to reform unproductive "zombie enterprises" while encouraging a "blending"

**In the 1990s under Zhu Rongji, there was a clear vision that the state sector had to be radically downsized**

ARTHUR KROEBER  
FOUNDING PARTNER AND  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, GAVEKAL  
DRAGONOMICS

between state-owned capital and private investments, government agencies overseeing the plan said in statements Monday.

By overhauling bloated and debt-ridden companies, China hopes to remove a brake on growth in the world's second-largest economy, which is set to expand this year at its slowest pace in 25 years. Underscoring the drag, the value added by SOEs declined in August from a year earlier for the first time since 2008, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

State-owned firms in China do everything from running power plants and tourism kiosks to building spacecraft and trading silk. SOEs accounted for 40 percent of industrial assets and 18 percent of urban employment in 2013, down from 69 percent and 51 percent in 1998, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

The latest round of SOE reform could be a "game-changer" for the economy as the government is repositioned as a capital investor rather than operator of state businesses, Australia & New Zealand

Banking Group Ltd. economists wrote in a report this month.

"By encouraging private sector participation and allowing market force to play a decisive role in resource allocation, the reform will unlock a massive amount of economic value," the economists wrote. While they expect more mergers, acquisitions and privatizations, they said it will be a "gradual process."

A reform panel led by Xi approved guidelines yesterday to encourage and regulate private investment in SOEs, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The rules were intended to make state companies more competitive and transparent.

Han Meng, a senior researcher at the Institute of Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, said the reform plans don't represent a major breakthrough.

"There are no major changes in the plan," Han said. "There was expectation for bigger and stronger measures, but that hasn't happened yet. True, the SOE reform is an extremely complex and painful process;

but judging from the guideline, there seems no consensus on execution."

The plan's five "basic principles" make it clear that the Communist Party will remain firmly in control. Zhang Yi, a party disciplinarian who is chairman of State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, or Sasac, which oversees more than 100 of the biggest SOEs, told Xinhua that the reforms would bolster the role of party units in selecting and promoting company managers.

So long as the state continues to maintain a controlling hand in the sector, it's hard to see how true reforms will be pushed through, said Paul Hubbard of the Australian National University, who studies Chinese SOEs.

"The reforms try to insulate state-owned enterprise management from state ownership, while strengthening the role of the Party," Hubbard said. "When the chairman of the board is also the party secretary, it's hard to draw a bright line between business and politics." **Bloomberg**

## Authorities release scholar ahead of Xi's US visit



Chinese President Xi Jinping

**A** Chinese scholar who helped an activist escape house arrest has been released from jail conditionally, his lawyer said yesterday, a move that comes ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Washington later this month.

Beijing lawyer Li Jin said that Guo Yushan, founder of the nongovernmental think tank Transition Institute, was released late Monday, but she could not provide

details on why he was freed or whether the release had anything to do with Xi's upcoming meeting with President Barack Obama.

Guo was detained last October and charged in January with operating an illegal business. The charge remains, but can expire one year after his release.

The scholar is best known for his 2012 efforts to help shelter the blind activist Chen Guang-

cheng in Beijing and send him to the U.S. Embassy there after Chen escaped from house arrest in an eastern Chinese village. Chen eventually made it to New York, after Hillary Rodham Clinton, then the U.S. secretary of state, negotiated for him to attend school in the United States.

Guo's Transition Institute conducted research on China's social and economic issues, but Beijing authorities, citing lack of

proper registration, shut down the organization in 2013.

Guo was detained at a time when Hong Kong protesters were demanding universal suffrage in elections for the semiautonomous city's top official. Dozens of other people also were detained for showing support for the protesters. Guo was not known to have made any public comments in support of the pro-democracy movement. **AP**



Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA

## New PM Turnbull sworn in, says gov't remains strong

AUSTRALIA'S turbulent political world took another twist yesterday with Malcolm Turnbull sworn in as prime minister — the nation's fourth leader in little more than two years — after he led a party revolt that ousted his predecessor.

Turnbull was sworn in as Australia's 29th prime minister after a surprise ballot of his conservative Liberal Party colleagues voted 54-44 on Monday night to replace Prime Minister Tony Abbott only two years after he was elected. Turnbull's elevation has cemented a culture of disposable leaders as the new norm in Australian politics since the 11-year tenure of Prime Minister John Howard ended in 2007.

"There's been a change of prime minister, but we are a very, very strong government, a very strong country with a great potential and we will realize that potential working very hard together," Turnbull told reporters as he left his Canberra apartment yesterday morning.

"This is a turn of events I did not expect, I have to tell you, but it's one that I'm privileged to undertake and one that I'm certainly up to," he added.

Shortly before Turnbull was sworn in, a grim-faced Abbott spoke for the first time since his sudden ouster, warning that the persistent volatility in Australia's government could hurt the nation's standing on the global stage.



Malcolm Turnbull with deputy leader Julie Bishop

"Australia has a role to play in the struggles of the wider world: the cauldron of the Middle East and security in the South China Sea and elsewhere,"

Abbott told reporters. "I fear that none of this will be helped if the leadership instability that's plagued other countries continues to taint us."

Abbott did not say during his speech whether he will quit politics. But said he would not destabilize the new prime minister.

Turnbull, a 60-year-old former journalist, lawyer and merchant banker known for his moderate views, was party leader for two years before he was ousted in 2009 by Abbott by a single vote in a similar leadership ballot.

Abbott, a 57-year-old former Roman Catholic seminarian, has been described as the most socially conservative Australian prime minister in decades, while Turnbull is considered not conservative enough by the right wing of the party.

Abbott acknowledged his government had not been perfect, though he blamed the poll-heavy culture of modern politics for the frequent upheaval in the nation's leadership.

"We have been a government of men and women, not a government of gods walking upon the earth. Few of us, after all, entirely measure up to expectations," Abbott said. "The nature of politics has changed in the past decade. We have more polls and more commentary than ever before — mostly sour, bitter character assassination. Poll-driven panic has produced a revolving door prime ministership, which can't be good for our country. And a febrile media culture has developed that rewards treachery."

Turnbull's return to the helm will likely lead to a major Cabinet reshuffle, with Treasurer Joe Hockey and Defense Minister Kevin Andrews among the ministers who publicly supported Abbott. **AP**

THAILAND

## Police chief links Bangkok blast to Uighur trafficking

Nattasuda Anusondisai, Bangkok

THAILAND'S national police chief said yesterday that authorities are now certain that last month's deadly bombing at a Bangkok shrine was related to the trafficking of Uighur Muslims from China to Turkey.

Somyot Poompanmoung's comments marked the first time authorities have publicly linked the Aug. 17 bombing to the smuggling of Uighurs, after weeks of hinting at it and saying only that authorities believe the attack was carried out by human traffickers angered by a crackdown on their network.

In the past week, several Turkish and Chinese links to the bombing appeared to strengthen



In this Aug. 17 file photo, police investigate the scene at the Erawan Shrine bombing in Bangkok

the theory that the attack was to avenge Thailand's forced repatriation of more than 100 ethnic Uighurs to China in July. The deportations stirred anger in Turkey, where the Thai Consulate in Istanbul was attacked by a group protesting the expulsions.

"It's a network that smuggles Uighurs from

one country to the other," Somyot told reporters. "The bombing at Rajaprasong resulted from the fact that Thai authorities destroyed or disrupted their human trafficking network and they couldn't continue their business."

Rajaprasong is the area of Bangkok where the bombing at the busy

Erawan Shrine occurred. The blast killed 20 people and left more than 120 injured.

Thai authorities have avoided calling the bombing an act of terrorism, which they fear would harm Thailand's image as a tourist destination. For the same reason, authorities said they wanted to avoid singling out motives linked to specific countries or religious groups.

Somyot said that the bombing and the attack of the consulate in Istanbul "came from the same cause," apparently referring to the trafficking network. "We destroyed their business, which caused anger," he said.

On Monday, police said that a key suspect in the bombing traveled on a Chinese passport and

had fled to Turkey.

The suspect, identified as Abudurehman Abudusataer, left Thailand on Aug. 16 for Bangladesh, said national police spokesman Prawut Thavornsiri. He said information gathered by Thai police and Bangladeshi officials showed that the man departed Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, on Aug. 30 and traveled to Istanbul as his final destination, via New Delhi and Abu Dhabi.

Thai police had previously said the man may have directed the bombing.

"He departed Dhaka on Aug. 30 for Delhi by Jet Airways," Prawut said. "From Delhi, he continued his travel to Abu Dhabi, and from Abu Dhabi he traveled on Aug. 31 to Istanbul. This

is his final destination. It's clear."

A senior Turkish government official, however, denied that the man had escaped to the country.

Two other key bombing suspects have been arrested and are in custody, charged with possession of illegal explosives. One of them was captured from an apartment on the outskirts of Bangkok where police also discovered bomb-making material — and was in possession of a fake Turkish passport, police said.

The other was caught near the border between Thailand and Cambodia, and carrying a Chinese passport. Police said his fingerprints were found on a container with explosive material confiscated from the apartment. **AP**



## NORTH KOREA

# Pyongyang warns it has restarted all nuclear bomb fuel plants



A South Korean man watches TV news program showing file footage of the Unha rocket in North Korea, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul

Hyung-Jin Kim and Foster Klug, Seoul

After threatening long-range rocket launches, North Korea declared yesterday that it has upgraded and restarted all of its atomic fuel plants so it can produce more — and more sophisticated — nuclear weapons.

Neither announcement was entirely unexpected, and outside analysts see the back-to-back warnings as part of a general North Korean playbook of using claimed improvements in its nuclear and missile programs to push for talks with the United States that could eventually provide the impoverished country with concessions and eased sanctions.

But the threats could deepen a standoff between North Korea and the U.S. and its allies because they strike at Washington's fear that each North Korean rocket and nuclear test puts it another big step closer to its stated goal of an arsenal of nuclear-tipped long-range missiles that can hit the U.S. mainland.

North Korea has spent decades trying to develop just such a weapon, and while it is thought to have a small arsenal of atomic bombs and an impressive array of short- and medium-range missiles, it has yet to demonstrate that it can produce nuclear bombs small enough to place on a missile or can make reliable long-range missiles.

Still, it has conducted three past nuclear tests and a series of steadily improving long-range rocket launches, and some analysts see yesterday's announcement as foreshadowing an upcoming fourth nuclear test, which would push North Korea further along in its nuclear aims.

North Korea said yesterday in its

state media that, as it pledged to do in 2013, the plutonium and highly enriched uranium facilities at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex have finally been "rearranged, changed or readjusted and they started normal operation." It said its scientists had improved "the levels of nuclear weapons with various missions in quality and quantity."

## Analysts see yesterday's announcement as foreshadowing an upcoming fourth nuclear test

North Korea, an autocracy run by the same family since 1948, closely controls information about its nuclear program, which it describes as a sovereign right meant to combat U.S. military hostility. As a result, just what is happening at Nyongbyon is unclear. North Korea booted out international inspectors in 2009, and independent assessments by outside experts since then have been spotty.

At various points in the decades-long standoff over its nuclear ambitions, North Korea has said it has shut down or restarted its atomic fuel production. In 2013, it restarted a plutonium reactor that had been shuttered under a 2007 disarmament agreement. Satellite imagery earlier this year showed signs it still wasn't operating fully. A uranium enrichment facility unveiled to a visiting American scientist in 2010 presumably gives Nor-

th Korea a second way to make fissile material for bombs.

On Monday, the North's aerospace agency said it is ready to launch new satellites aboard long-range rockets as part of celebrations of next month's ruling communist party anniversary.

The world will "clearly see a series of satellites soaring into the sky at times and locations determined" by the Workers' Party, an unidentified director at the North's National Aerospace Development Administration director was quoted as saying by state media.

North Korea has said its satellite launches are peaceful and meant for weather observation, but the West considers them covers for banned tests of long-range missiles.

Analysts in Seoul said the rocket launch announcement suggests an imminent nuclear test. "A nuclear test without a long-range rocket test is not effective," said Lim Eul Chul, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam University. "The vicious circle is being repeated."

After several failures, North Korea put its first satellite into space with a long-range rocket launched in late 2012. The U.N. said it was a banned test of ballistic missile technology and imposed sanctions. Experts say that ballistic missiles and rockets used in satellite launches share similar bodies, engines and other technology.

An angry North Korea then conducted its third nuclear test in February 2013, inviting further international condemnation and sanctions. Later that year it threatened Seoul and Washington with nuclear strikes.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said yesterday that it had not detected any sign indicating North Korea is preparing a rocket launch. AP

## MALAYSIA

# Gov't to begin cloud-seeding as schools shut due to haze

A layer of heavy haze forced Malaysian authorities to shut schools yesterday in three states and two key cities as aircraft were to begin cloud-seeding operations to induce rain to help clear the air.

The thick, dirty white haze blanketed many parts of Malaysia — an annual phenomenon that is mostly caused by the burning of forests in Indonesia to clear land for farming. Some 34 of 52 air quality stations recorded unhealthy air levels early yesterday.

A plane equipped with chemicals it aims to release in the air that will help clouds produce rain was due to take off later yesterday to cover Kuala Lumpur and surrounding areas, said Maznorizan Mohamad, a meteorological department senior official. A second aircraft was scheduled to fly over Kuching in Sarawak state on Borneo island.

She said the cloud-seeding is planned for three days but will depend on cloud availability and weather conditions. The inter-monsoon season is expected to start in late September, bringing more rain over peninsular Malaysia to clear up the haze.

"It will bring temporary relief but whatever it is, we have to address the source of the problem," she said.

Malaysia's education ministry earlier ordered schools in Kuala Lumpur, government administrative capital Putrajaya as well as Selangor, Negeri Sembilan and Malacca states to close yesterday.

Indonesia's Riau province has declared an emergency that shut schools and set up health posts to treat those suffering respiratory problems after its air pollutant index hit extremely dangerous levels.

In Singapore, air pollution reached very unhealthy levels. Organizers of this weekend's annual Formula One night race are keeping a close watch on the situation to decide whether it will be safe to race. The Singapore Grand Prix has always been held at this time of year, and while there has been some haze in past years due to the forest fires, it has never prevented the race from going ahead.

Indonesia's government has dispatched planes and helicopters for cloud seeding and water dropping, along with more than 1,000 soldiers sent to Sumatra island to help extinguish the fires. AP



Malaysia's landmark Petronas Twin Towers, center, and other buildings are shrouded by haze in Kuala Lumpur



## EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

# Stark contrasts in continent's welcome to migrants

Karl Ritter, Malmö

**T**HE bleary-eyed travelers arriving in Malmö's glass-and-steel train station agreed on one thing: Sweden was a better place to go than Denmark, which has cut welfare benefits for refugees.

But many said Finland was even better.

"Why Finland? I tell you, because they give us the documents faster," said Ghanem, a 23-year-old Iraqi, who like many making the journey declined to give his full name. They are worried about being identified by authorities and prevented from going to their preferred destinations. "Sweden, Germany, they will take one year, two years."

Though the 28-nation European Union has common rules for how to receive asylum-seekers, the benefits provided once they arrive vary widely from one country to the next.

Greece, the European entry point for more than 200,000 migrants this year, has been so overwhelmed that it can't even provide basic services like housing and food. Italy's reception conditions are also straining under a constant stream of sea arrivals from North Africa, while Hungary's hostility toward migrants jolts them to get out of the country as soon as they can.

Most are aiming to reach wealthier countries in northern Europe, particularly Germany and Sweden, which stand out for their efforts to offer a generous welcome. However, German authorities say the expectations of people arriving are sometimes unrealistic.

"Germany isn't just the country of milk and honey, where everything you would want flies into your mouth like a fried pigeon," German Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Shaefer said last week.

EU rules require member states to ensure "a dignified standard of living" for asylum-seekers. That includes housing, food, clothing, a daily allowance, and access to public health care, education and the job market while their claim is processed, which can take up to a year or more.

Many countries don't live up to those standards — the EU's executive commission has 32 infringement cases open against member states. Those who do apply them in different ways.



Food and drink is distributed by volunteers to refugees that after arriving at the train station in Malmö, Sweden

In France, asylum-seekers can work if they haven't received a decision after nine months. In Germany they can work after three months and in Sweden from day one, but only if they are deemed likely to receive asylum. Britain, which is exempt from the EU asylum rules, doesn't normally allow asylum-seekers to work at all.

**More than 80,000 people applied for asylum in Sweden last year — the highest per capita in the EU**

The quality of migrant housing also varies. Spain provides asylum-seekers shelter at refugee centers, but spending cuts and an increase in migrants means some of them are sleeping in the streets, said Cristina Manzanedo of Spanish human rights group Pueblos Unidos.

Italy and France also keep asylum-seekers in large-scale refugee centers, while Sweden places them in apartments, hostels or camp ground cabins

across the country.

"There is an aspect of integration to it," explains Tolle Furegard, housing director of the Swedish Migration Agency. "We don't want to lump together a lot of new arrivals in a building where there isn't a single Swede."

He acknowledged that this ambition is getting increasingly hard to fulfill: The agency has taken over entire apartment blocks as it scrambles to find rooms for new arrivals.

More than 80,000 people applied for asylum in Sweden last year — the highest per capita in the EU — and officials expect a similar number this year. Only Germany is seeing higher total arrivals, with 200,000 in 2014 and up to five times as many expected this year.

Most EU countries allow asylum-seekers access to their public education and health systems. In Germany they receive free health care, special help with pregnancy and childbirth, and other medical services depending upon need.

The cash handouts for asylum-seekers are typically small and vary from zero in Greece to up to 718 euros a month for a family of six in France. Some countries offer more if there are special needs.

While rumors about Europe's generous welfare systems

abound, experts say there are more important draws for the newcomers, like joining friends and family already in Europe and expectations about whether and how fast their asylum applications will be approved.

For example, only one in four Eritreans received asylum in France in 2014, while in Sweden essentially all of them did. For Iraqis, the approval rate was 14 percent in Greece and 94 percent in France, according to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, a non-government group. Syrians, considered the most vulnerable group, had an average 95 percent approval rate in the EU.

Many countries fast track applications from people who aren't likely to get asylum because they're not deemed to be in need of protection, including Albanians and Kosovars. Asylum is typically offered to those fleeing war and persecution, not running away from poverty.

Often people have a destination in mind when they start their journey and try hard to get around EU rules that require them to be fingerprinted and apply for asylum in the first EU country they enter.

Last week, hundreds refused to be fingerprinted in Denmark and continued their journey to Sweden. Danish

police initially tried to stop them but pulled back as their numbers swelled.

Even though the two neighboring welfare nations may seem very much alike, to refugees they're not, said Annika Holm Nielsen, a 24-year-old Dane who smuggled more than a dozen people to Sweden on her sailboat when Danish police were still trying to hold them back.

"If you are a refugee in Denmark, you are treated as a problem," she said.

The center-right Danish government is trying to discourage migrants and refugees from coming to Denmark. Last week, the government placed ads in Lebanese papers saying that benefits for refugees had been cut by up to 50 percent and that it takes least five years to get permanent residence in Denmark.

Sweden has chosen another path, trying to defend its reputation of being a humanitarian superpower and a safe haven for refugees fleeing war and persecution.

The Swedish Migration Agency sometimes uses the hashtag #refugeeswelcome on its official Twitter account. As a private initiative, a group of Swedish police officers posted a video that's been viewed half a million times on Facebook in which they assure migrants and refugees they will be treated with respect and dignity.

"If you have fled your own country with your family to find safety, you must know that we, the Swedish police, will do our utmost to ensure everyone in this country feels safe," one officer says before wishing the migrants "a warm welcome to Sweden."

Just how long the welcome will remain is unclear. Germany has temporarily re-introduced border controls to stem the flow of migrants coming in from Austria. The Sweden Democrats, an anti-immigration party that just a decade ago was considered too extreme to ever have an impact in Swedish politics, won 13 percent of the vote in last year's parliamentary election. It is now polling around 20 percent.

However, that wasn't on Hassan Noor's mind as he arrived in Malmö after a four-month-long journey from Turkey. Passing through Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Germany and Denmark, the 20-year-old Somali had evaded authorities all the way to Sweden to avoid being fingerprinted. For the first time, he said, he could relax.

"Now I don't have any fear," Noor said, cheerfully accepting a chocolate cookie sprinkled with powdered sugar from a red-vested volunteer. "I am the happiest man in the world today." AP



Vanessa Gera and Pablo Gironi,  
Budapest

## EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

# Hungary to deploy army to stop refugees at border

**H**UNGARY yesterday declared a state of emergency in two of its southeastern counties in response to the migration crisis, a move that paves the way to deploy the army to the border with Serbia to stop the flow of migrants that has been entering the country.

The state of emergency gives authorities greater powers to deal with the crisis, allowing them to shut down roads and limit the working of public institutions. It also speeds up court processes for asylum-seekers.

Technically, parliament must still approve the deployment of the military. However, Associated Press reporters at the border have already spotted heavily armed military personnel with vehicles and dogs at the border in recent days.

The announcement on the state of emergency comes as tougher laws also came into effect yesterday aimed at preventing asylum-seekers from entering the country. The legislation makes it a crime to breach a razor-wire fence along the border with Serbia and also includes longer prison terms for convicted human traffickers.

Hungarian officials closed two of seven border crossings with Serbia yesterday morning. The night before, officials deployed a boxcar covered with razor wire to close a key border crossing along a railroad track that had been the main entry point for migrants.

There were chaotic scenes at the main border crossing near Roszke, Hungary, as the Hungarians opened a small temporary office to process people on the edge of no man's land and



Hungarian police officers repair a hole at the fence where migrants tried to cross the border line between Serbia and Hungary in Roszke

crowds tried to squeeze inside. A first group of about 20 managed to get in, but thousands remained outside.

A group of migrants also blocked the main highway connecting Serbia and Hungary, saying they will refuse food and water until they are allowed to cross into Hungary. The sit-in protest is happening on the no man's land between Roszke and Horgos, Serbia, which is the main border crossing between the two countries.

Those who were lucky enough to make it into Hungary the day before were boarding buses. One Hungarian police officer said they were being sent directly to Austria.

People had dashed to make it into the country in recent days, hoping to reach Western Europe before it was too late. A record 9,380 migrants entered Hungary on Monday, beating the previous record of 5,809 set just a day earlier.

Some 200,000 migrants have

entered Hungary so far in 2015, nearly all by walking across the southern border with Serbia. Almost all, however, simply transit Hungary on their way to Germany or other Western European nations.

Under the new laws, most migrants entering the country from Serbia can be turned away because that country is considered safe and could theoretically provide them asylum.

The new law also makes it a crime to damage the 4-meter

razor-wire fence that Hungary has built on the 175-kilometer border with Serbia, giving police the power to detain anyone trying to breach it.

The state of emergency allows the government to mobilize the army — pending parliamentary approval next week — to help police with border control, and forces courts to prioritize cases involving migrants caught entering Hungary illegally. Police can enter and search homes where migrants who entered Hungary illegally are believed to be hiding.

Germany's interior minister, Thomas de Maiziere, on Tuesday said he supports the idea of cutting European Union funding to countries that refuse to share the burden of hosting refugees.

Several EU countries, particularly in the former Eastern bloc, have rejected calls from Germany and the EU's executive Commission for mandatory quotas to spread refugees out among the 28-nation bloc.

De Maiziere told ZDF television that there needs to be discussion of how to exert pressure and that the countries rejecting quotas often receive significant amounts of EU funding.

He said that Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker has suggested — “and I find that right” — that “we should talk about (them) getting less money from the structural funds.” AP

## SYRIA

# Putin defends Russia's military assistance to Assad regime

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin yesterday strongly defended Moscow's military assistance to the Syrian government, saying it's impossible to defeat the Islamic State group without cooperating with Damascus.

Putin's statement comes amid the signs of an ongoing Russian military buildup in Syria, which the U.S. says signals Moscow's intention to set up an air base there.

Speaking at a meeting of heads of states at a Moscow-dominated security alliance of ex-Soviet nations in Tajikistan, Putin urged other nations to follow Russia's example

and offer military support to Syrian President Bashar Assad's government.

“We are supporting the government of Syria in the fight against a terrorist aggression, are offering and will continue to offer it necessary military-technical assistance,” Putin said in televised remarks. “Without an active participation of the Syrian authorities and the military, it would be impossible to expel the terrorists from that country and the region as a whole, and to protect the multi-ethnic and multi-confessional Syrian people from destruction.”

He said that Assad was ready to conduct political transformations and engage a “healthy part of the opposition,” but added that “pooling forces in the fight against terror takes the priority now.”

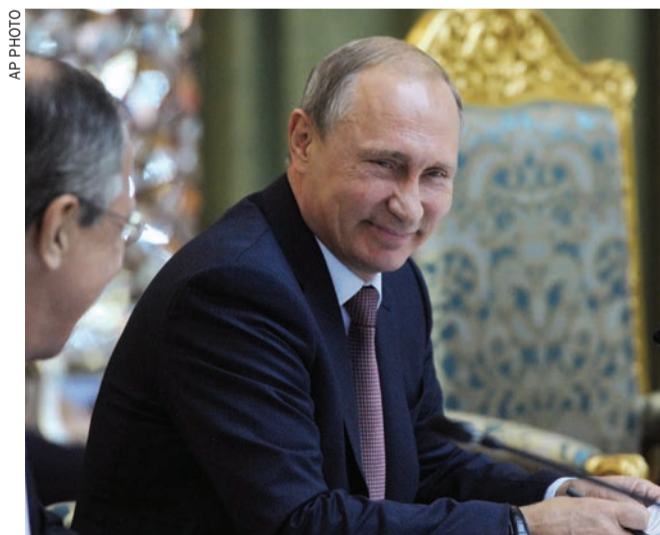
Russia has staunchly backed up Assad throughout Syria's devastating civil war that has killed about 250,000 people and turned millions into refugees, shielding him from United Nations sanctions and continuing to provide him with weapons despite Western criticism.

Putin shrugged off allegations that Moscow's support for Assad has sparked a flow of refu-

gees, saying that without Russia's support for Assad's regime the number of Syrian refugees heading to Europe would have been even bigger.

“People are fleeing Syria primarily to escape fighting that has been fueled from the outside with supplies of weapons and hardware, they are fleeing to escape terrorist atrocities,” he said. “Without Russia's support for Syria, the situation in the country would have been worse than in Libya, and the flow of refugees would have been even bigger.”

The Pentagon says that Russia is in the midst of a steady military buildup at



Russian President Vladimir Putin

an airport in Syria's coastal province of Latakia, indicating Moscow intends to create a forward air operations base there, although no fighter jets or helicopters have arrived yet.

Asked earlier this month if Russian troops could join the fight against IS, Putin seemed to keep the

door open for that, saying that “we are looking at various options.”

The Russian leader is set to address the Syrian crisis when he speaks to the U.N. General Assembly later this month, and observers in Moscow believe he wants a Russian military force on the ground to be ready by that time. AP



## what's ON

EXCHANGE EXHIBITION OF CERAMICS  
— JINGDEZHEN AND MACAU

TIME: 9am-8pm

UNTIL: September 22, 2015

VENUE: Meng Tak Building Exhibition Hall,

Macau Polytechnic Institute

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6662 0747

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

## TRAVERSE: VIDEO INSTALLATION BY ROBERT CAHEN

TIME: 10am-7pm

(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: September 20, 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

## Offbeat

WITH PASSPORT RETURNED, AI  
WEIWEI ATTENDS LONDON EXHIBITION

It was an unexpected photo opportunity, as Ai Weiwei stood inside London's Royal Academy of Arts yesterday surrounded by 20 years' worth of his artworks.

The Chinese artist is world famous for works addressing human rights abuses, official corruption and the collision between Chinese culture and Western consumerism. But in his homeland, he has been imprisoned, put under house arrest and barred from international travel.

In July, Chinese officials unexpectedly returned Ai's passport after four years, allowing him to visit Britain for the opening of the academy's major retrospective show.

"We didn't think he'd come," said Royal Academy artistic director Tim Marlow, who co-curated the exhibition. "We thought eventually he might be able to travel, but it could have been months, years. As it happened, it was weeks."

There was one further snag when the British Embassy in Beijing turned down Ai's request for a six-month business visa, giving him a shorter visa instead, on the grounds that he had failed to disclose a criminal conviction. Ai was jailed for almost three months in 2011 amid a wider crackdown on dissent, but wasn't charged with a crime.

After a media uproar over what Marlow calls "a national embarrassment," British Home Secretary Theresa May overturned the embassy's refusal.

Marlow hopes the show, which opens to the public Saturday and runs to Dec. 13, will "let the art speak louder" than Ai's political woes.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:20	Trail of Lies (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Interview (Repeat)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Montra do Lilau
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:45	Miscellaneous

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

10 SEP- 16 SEP



## MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.45, 7.315 9.30 pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas

Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min

## NO ESCAPE\_

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: John Erick Dowdle

Starring: Lake Bell, Pierce Brosnan, Owen Wilson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min



## ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE\_

ROOM 3

2.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Richie Jen

Starring: Richie Jen, Shu Qi, Ti Lung

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 104min

## LOVE DETECTIVE\_

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Wong Pak-Kei

Starring: Ivana Wong, Pakho Chau, Ram Chiang

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 105min

## MACAU TOWER

10 SEP - 30 SEPT

## MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS\_

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: IDylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario, Thomas

Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 131min

## this day in history

1978 THOUSANDS DEAD  
IN IRAN EARTHQUAKE

More than 11,000 people are feared dead after an earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale hit the south-east region of Iran.

The three-minute quake, the world's strongest this year, struck at 7.38 p.m. local time this evening.

The town of Tabas, 965km from Tehran, has been completely flattened and 40 villages within a 48-km radius of the epicenter have been damaged.

The shock demolished mud-walled houses and brick structures alike. It is estimated that just 2,000 of the 13,000 inhabitants of Tabas are still alive.

An eye-witness and survivor described the scene. "One giant heave, and the town turned into a graveyard. All that is left are thousands of bodies, mounds of ruins and hundreds of dazed survivors," he said.

It is reported that all the town's doctors perished. More than 700 soldiers have been drafted in to help with the relief operations and medical teams, field hospitals, food and other supplies are being flown in.

Water and electricity supplies have been cut and all communication lines into Tabas have also been destroyed. Water is being brought in from Mashad, nine hours' drive away.

Survivors and aid workers on the ground have appealed for international assistance. Local people are frantically pulling bodies from the rubble and taking them to the cemetery but aid workers have already warned of disease and infection.

The Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, has announced three days of national mourning. The last major earthquake to strike Iran was in 1962 when 10,000 people were killed in the north-west region of the country.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The final number of those who died rose to 26,000. Rescue teams continued the clean-up operation in Tabas and surrounding villages for several weeks.

However, there was widespread discontent with the way the Iranian government handled the aftermath of the quake and this fuelled growing opposition to the Shah.

Four months later, on 16 January 1979, the Shah and his family were forced into exile. Iran is very vulnerable to earthquakes - the capital, Tehran, is known to sit on at least 100 fault lines.

In December 2003 a quake in Bam killed about 30,000 people and, in February 2005, more than 500 people died in the Zaranj area in another quake.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can be as charming as comes naturally to you, but the bottom line is still the bottom line. Remember that the other person has the same motive you do: money. If nothing else, read the fine print.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You might feel like spending the day on yourself, but the best way to put yourself first is to protect your assets. In this case, it means old-fashioned work. Yes, you need the money, so go to it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Start, stop. Start, stop. You wouldn't treat your car the way you treat your savings plan. Keep putting money aside and don't let any excuses get in between you and a smooth ride.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Don't sit back and watch your assets dwindle. Even if it doesn't generate money today, you'll be better off tomorrow if you stay on top of things. Be active.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Doing nothing is harder than taking heroic measures. But with no real plan in front of you, you'll be tempted to fake yourself out. Don't equate spending money on things with taking action.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You can handle the truth. What you're going through is more than one of life's minor setbacks. In fact, it will have a deep, meaningful and lasting impact on you. Start by curbing the impulse buys.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The aesthetics of minimal living have never seemed so appealing, and with good reason. Do what pretties up both your life and your bank account for a change and you'll be flirting with real beauty.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Rolling with the punches is a lightweight way of saying, deal with life's changes. You're forced to cope with some big ones. It's not easy, but you have all that it takes to keep standing.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't feel sorry for yourself. Life doesn't have to be fair, but in this case it actually is quite reasonable. For future reference, stick with a plan that is sustainable.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You have sticktoitiveness, but outside forces are making you to abandon your plans. Don't beat yourself up over it. Starting new projects is the only sensible approach.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you crave something new, you're going through withdrawal. You'll get over the need for novelty soon enough, like it or not. You might as well learn to love the thread bare.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Money and debts are your new companions, and you're letting them become your task masters. Take away their power over you. Do what you can to pay down your own debts and to forgive what others owe you.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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Easy+

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8 | | | 5 | | | 3 | | | |
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	3 9			1					
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Hard

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1 | | | | | | | | | | |
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WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong.

WORLD

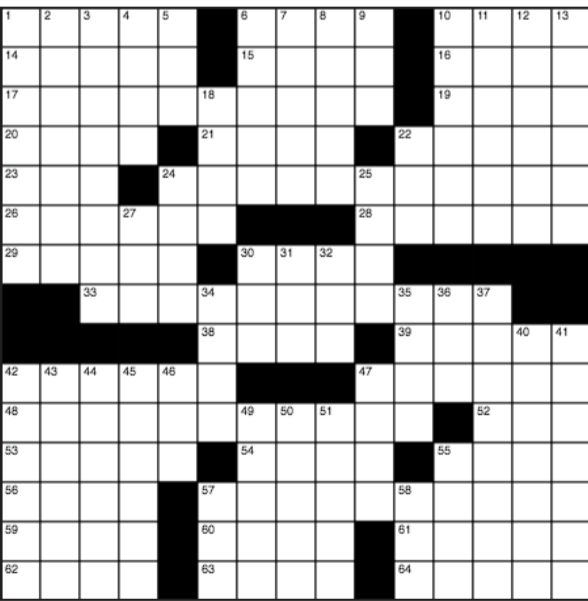
Table with 4 columns: City, Min, Max, Condition. Includes Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cow catcher; 6- Cookbook armts.; 10- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 14- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 15- Yours, in Tours; 16- Revenuers, for short; 17- Smuggling; 19- Baseball's "Walking Man" Eddie; 20- Speaker of note; 21- Attic; 22- Campaign tactic; 23- Switch settings; 24- Improvable; 26- Bristly; 28- Soap ingredient; 29- Utopias; 30- Alpo alternative; 33- Hindrance; 38- Some wines; 39- Covered with water; 42- Momentarily; 47- Russian plain; 48- Capital of Florida; 52- Actor Linden; 53- Cleft; 54- Become closer to; 55- \_\_\_ extra cost; 56- Fencing sword; 57- Clamorous; 59- Staying power; 60- Env. notation; 61- Floor worker; 62- Worry; 63- Trial; 64- Like a sasquatch;

DOWN: 1- Milk sugar; 2- Decked out; 3- Ominous; 4- Complete collections; 5- \_\_\_ Town; 6- Small drum; 7- Personnel; 8- Florence's \_\_\_ Vecchio; 9- Caesar of comedy; 10- Hinder; 11- One-celled organism; 12- Make drinkable, perhaps; 13- Main dish; 18- Away from the wind; 22- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 24- Attention-getter; 25- Price paid; 27- United; 30- Indignation; 31- Make another point; 32- Barker and Bell; 34- St. Louis landmark; 35- Must've been something \_\_\_; 36- Have debts; 37- One of the 12 tribes of Israel; 40- Wrench; 41- Slavery; 42- In and of \_\_\_; 43- Textile worker; 44- Claim; 45- Most cunning; 46- Use, consume; 47- Slave; 49- Make \_\_\_ of (write down); 50- Religious offshoots; 51- Person of exceptional holiness; 55- Horne solo; 57- Large container; 58- Biblical verb ending

Yesterday's solution
ETAL L O B O T A T U M
M A N U O N O R O R A L E
T I P O S A S S I G N M E N T
T E N A N T C O O A L A E
K A H N N O R M
A G R A R I A N D E E P E N
D U O A N D E S C N O T E
D I R E G I G O T T E T E
E L E V E R E B U T M A D
R E M I N D V I B R I S S A
D E A R G E E R
E L T E H U H L E E R A T
C A N N E L L O N I N E B R
C R A C K E R I K I D E O
E S T E E S A L E C O E D



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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The Manhattan Unit E Taipa 1,626sq ft / HKD 13.5M
leng Kok, Unit A Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Residential or Shop HKD 9,800 / 756 sq ft

The Studio Macau 399 sq ft / HKD 2.98M
Chong Fok Taipa 3 Bedrooms Apartment Close to Macau University HKD 12,900 / 1,300 sq ft

Dahlia Court, Ocean Gardens Taipa 1,054 sq ft / HKD 6.88M
One Oasis, Tower 3, Unit B Coloane 2 Bedrooms Apartment Great location with Cotai Strip HKD 15,500 / 1,286 sq ft

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BOXING

# Australian Browne Jr. dies after fight

**A**USTRALIAN boxer Davey Browne Jr. has died of injuries suffered in Friday's IBF super-featherweight regional title bout against Carlo Magali of the Philippines.

Browne, a 28-year-old father of two, was knocked out 30 seconds from the end of the final round of the 12-round bout. He regained consciousness but later collapsed and was rushed to Sydney's Liverpool Hospital in critical condition, suffering from a brain injury.

Police confirmed Davey's death on Monday and said a post-mortem would be conducted.

"It's 30-odd years since we've had a fatality or a serious injury," Australian Boxing Federation president John McDougall said. "It's tragic, tragic news."

"We did hear that he'd recommenced breathing on his own, and we were hoping and praying that that was a good sign, but this morning's news is shattering." AP

# Official: Toronto not bidding for 2024 Olympics

**T**ORONTO will not be bidding to host the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Mayor John Tory has confirmed the city won't submit a bid to host the event. He had until yesterday to write a letter to the International Olympic Committee to express interest. The declared bidders for 2024 include Los Angeles, Paris, Rome, Budapest and Hamburg.

Toronto declining to bid is good news for Los Angeles as it becomes the only North American bidder. The winning city will be chosen in 2017.

Tory began researching the feasibility of a bid only when excitement built for the Pan Am Games. The competition was hosted by Toronto this past summer. Canada spent about \$2.5 billion Canadian (USD2 billion) to organize the Pan Am Games — the most expensive in history — and has several Olympic-style venues in place.

After an initial wave of en-



Toronto's Mayor John Tory

thusiasm for an Olympic bid, many expressed concerns in recent weeks about the cost. The Canadian Olympic Committee had been urging To-

ronto to enter the race. Toronto has failed twice with recent Olympic bids. It lost out to Atlanta for the 1996 Games, and to Beijing for 2008.

■ The declared bidders include Los Angeles, Paris, Rome, Budapest and Hamburg

Also etched in the country's memory are the 1976 Montreal Games, which ran up a \$1.5 billion debt that took the city 30 years to pay off.

IOC President Thomas Bach has pushed recently to cut Olympic costs, embarrassed that Russia spent \$51 billion organizing the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Los Angeles hosted the 1932 and 1984 Olympics and was the only city to bid for the 1984 Games at a time when the Olympics were torn by boycotts and financial problems. The success of those games helped revive the Olympic movement. MDT/AP

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**THE BUZZ** 'CLOSE THE CANIDROME' VIGIL ON SEP 30

Local animal rights group Anima is organizing a candlelight vigil on September 30 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. across the road from the government headquarters, close to the Nam Van Lake.

According to the organizers, the "peaceful, silent and non political event" will happen in around 26 cities all over the world under the title "Close the Canidrome."

**opinion**

**World Views**

William Pesek, Bloomberg

**TURNBULL HAS AN EXTENSIVE TO-DO LIST IN AUSTRALIA**

The first time I met Malcolm Turnbull, Australia's new leader, all he could talk about was Japan. It was June 2002 and the Goldman Sachs banker-turned-politician couldn't comprehend how a smart, democratic government could simply stand by as an enervating malaise strangled the economy.

When I asked him whether something similar could happen in Australia, Turnbull stared out his Sydney office window. "There are real risks for Australia in globalization and we could be a loser in the future just as we have been a winner to date," he said.

Those risks are more than obvious now. Unlike Japan, Australia isn't suffering from deflation and demographic blight. But its leaders, too, are guilty of not moving fast enough to adjust to a changing economic reality. Over the last two years, neither then-Prime Minister Tony Abbott nor Treasurer Joe Hockey implemented the structural reforms needed to increase incomes and boost competitiveness.

Rather than invest in education, training and infrastructure and tweak taxes to empower small businesses, Abbott's team protected mining billionaires (by scrapping carbon-tax policies). His government championed fiscal austerity even as the economy experienced its weakest run of growth since the 1991 recession. Business leaders complained, rightly, about a lack of resolve to overhaul an outdated labor market. As a historic property bubble from Sydney to Perth massively outpaced wage growth, Hockey told voters they were imagining the problem.

In fact, it's the government that's appeared blind to the competitive pressures of globalization. For years, China's voracious appetite for iron ore, coal, copper and other commodities fueled growth and filled Canberra's coffers. That dampened the urgency for Abbott or his predecessors to diversify growth engines away from the mining industry, leading to a two-speed economy and widening inequality.

There's plenty of blame to go around, but Abbott's Liberals deserve much of it thanks to Prime Minister John Howard's failure to diversify the economy during his 1997-2007 term. Howard's stint followed those of reformists Bob Hawke (1983-1991) and Paul Keating (1991-1996). Governments during the Hawke-Keating era lowered trade tariffs, opened the financial industry, floated the Aussie dollar and built a compulsory, national pension system. And then Howard coasted, riding China's coattails and leaving economic management to the central bank.

Howard's successors, the Labor Party's Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard, should've done more to rebalance the economy. But their fight to impose taxes on excessive mining profits, share Australia's wealth and put a price on carbon emissions was the right one. By contrast, Abbott allowed even Beijing to grab the mantle of leadership on climate change away from Canberra.

Australians need Turnbull to lead on reform, not relax. The new government must be less ideological about attaining budget surpluses and more attuned to how Australia risks getting left behind by globalization. It must invest more in human capital to increase productivity and in physical hardware — better roads, ports, power grids and telecommunications systems. Turnbull needs to create new jobs to mitigate the hollowing out of industries, including manufacturing.

He also must overhaul an antiquated tax system to encourage Australia's best and brightest to create a homegrown Apple or Google. The good news is that, as far back as 2002, Turnbull was mulling this very problem. At the time, he said Australia's tax system was "totally uncompetitive," driving would-be entrepreneurs to Silicon Valley and Singapore. "These risks are real, because the playing field is, by force of geography, tilted against us," Turnbull told me. "The allure of Bondi Beach isn't enough to make us competitively attractive to the talent we need to attract and retain."

For 15 years now, Turnbull has been touted as a future Australian prime minister - the Sydney Morning Herald didn't dub him the "raging Turnbull" for nothing. Now he finally has his chance to rage against the Canberra smugness that's holding back one of the world's great economies. I'm convinced he knows what needs to be done.



Madonna performs at the opening night of her Rebel Heart Tour at the Bell Center in Montreal, Quebec on Wednesday, Sept. 9

**Madonna's 'Rebel Heart' tour coming to Macau**

THE pop star Madonna is bringing her "Rebel Heart" tour to Macau in February next year. The US artist is set to perform at Studio City's Event Center, according to an announcement made yesterday by Melco Crown.

The 'Rebel Heart Tour', which will arrive in Macau on February 20 and 21, 2016, is supporting Madonna's 13th studio album 'Rebel Heart' which includes the Billboard Hot 100 hit, 'Bitch, I'm Madonna'. The hit single features star-studded cameos by Beyoncé, Nicki Minaj, and Kanye West, as well as appearances by Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, and Rita Ora.

Madonna's Rebel Heart album (Interscope Records) received good reviews from the press. According to Rolling Stone Magazine, it is "a long, passionate, self-referential meditation on losing love and finding purpose in chilling times." The NY Daily News said: "Rebel Heart's best moments boast some of the most finely structured pop melodies of

Madonna's 32-year career." "We are extremely proud to announce that Studio City, representing Macau, will be one of the key destinations to stage the world's biggest act at its futuristic event center, alongside the famous Madison Square Garden in New York and The O2 Arena in London," said Studio City president Mr JD Clayton.

"This is also the first time for Macau to confirm such a world-class concert. With the theater-quality acoustics, premium seating and intimacy provided by the skillfully designed space within our event center, we believe the spectacular musical experience delivered at Studio City will be the most theatrical spectacle ever hosted in Macau's history," he added.

The celebrated artist's tour kicked-off in Montreal last week. According to an Associated Press report, last Wednesday's show in Montreal included a mix of her iconic hits as well as new music from her recently released album. She even performed

"Material Girl" for the first time since her "Blond Ambition" tour in the 1990s.

DJ and producer Diplo warmed up the crowd with an hour-long set.

Madonna, 57, got the biggest standing ovation of the night during her rendition of the French classic "La Vie en Rose."

According to AP, Madonna joked about her marriages during the show. "Who wants to get hitched? Anybody want to get married? Sucker? It's downhill from here." She later followed up with: "In spite of all of that heartbreak, pain and suffering, I wouldn't trade love for anything."

After performing for nearly two hours, and changing into countless outfits designed by Miuccia Prada, Jeremy Scott and Alexander Wang, among others, the pop star ended the concert with a crowd favorite.

Draped in a Canadian flag, she had nearly everyone on their feet dancing to "Holiday." The tour is set to wrap up in Australia in March 2016. **MDT**



Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**

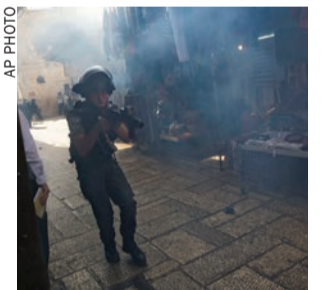
**MALAYSIA** A layer of heavy haze forces Malaysian authorities to shut schools in three states and two key cities as aircraft are to begin cloud-seeding operations to help clear the air. The thick, dirty white haze blanketed many parts of Malaysia — an annual phenomenon that is mostly caused by the burning of forests in Indonesia to clear land for farming. **More on p13**

**PHILIPPINE** troops rescue nine road construction workers who were abducted by Abu Sayyaf militants.



**UK** Prince Harry marked his 31st birthday yesterday at a gathering of vintage aircraft honoring the pilots who helped protect the country during World War II.

**RUSSIA-SYRIA** Russian President Vladimir Putin strongly defends Moscow's military assistance to the Syrian government, saying it's impossible to defeat the Islamic State group without cooperating with Damascus. **More on p15**



**ISRAELI** police clashed with Palestinian protesters yesterday in a third straight day of unrest at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site. Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said police entered the Al-Aqsa mosque compound early in the morning to disperse a group of protesters who had holed up inside the mosque overnight.

**USA** A wall of water sweeps away two vehicles carrying women and children in a Utah-Arizona border town, killing at least eight people and leaving five others missing in a community that serves as a home base for polygamous sect leader Warren Jeffs, authorities say.