



### BASTILLE DAY EVENT MARRIED BY NICE

France's National Day reception in Macau was marred by the shocking Nice terrorist attack that happened only a few hours before

P2,14



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The New Macau Association is urging the Public Prosecutions Office to probe the Iec Long Firecracker Factory land swap

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA**'s economic growth held steady in the most recent quarter, suggesting policies meant to counter the slowdown in the world's second biggest economy are paying off for the moment. [More on p11](#)



**USA** Three officers are confirmed dead and three others wounded after a shooting in Baton Rouge yesterday, authorities said. The shooting comes amid spiraling tensions across the city — and the country — between the black community and police.

**VIETNAM** Dozens of people who gathered for an anti-China protest in central Hanoi were taken away by authorities as they tried to rally support for an international tribunal's ruling rejecting Beijing's claims in the South China Sea. [More on p13](#)

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TIMES

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its unruly  
tourists

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# Macau, HK strengthen trade cooperation

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# Turkish government cracks down after coup try; 6,000 detained

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## Chan Meng Kam aiming for more support at AL

Lawmaker Chan Meng Kam is preparing two lists for the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections which will take place in 2017, the media reported last Friday. Chan is reportedly expecting to be invited by the Chief Executive to become a part of the AL as an appointed legislator. According to the weekly newspaper O Clarim, the two lists in preparation by Chan will be headed by Si Ka Lon and Ung Choi Kun, a former lawmaker that currently heads the Association of Property Agents and Realty Developers of Macau. As for the lists' second runners, Song Pek Kei and Si Li Ya will occupy the positions respectively.

## Handover exhibition hall to be shown in Guangxi

Shi Wan Shan Qi Xing Ding integrated tourism zone is expected to undergo a trial period next year and to host a dragon boat festival next summer, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. The whole project sits between 545 to 745 meters above sea level, and it occupies an area of 940,000 square meters at Fang Cheng Gang city of Guangxi. Nearly 10 facilities, including hotels, are still under construction. However, a lotus statue and a Macau handover exhibition hall are ready to welcome customers.

## Man dies escaping illegal detention

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have arrested two men for the illegal detention of a third man who, in his attempt to escape, fell to his death from a residential building. According to the PJ, the two suspects from mainland China were involved in a gaming-related scam in the city. First, they encouraged the victim to gamble in the NAPE area, and then offered to lend him money once he had lost his initial capital. When the victim lost the loaned money, he was taken by the suspects and locked in a residential unit. Authorities say he was assaulted and filmed by the suspects. The victim, who was left naked after the assault, tried to escape the residential unit through a window, however he fell to his death.

# Bastille Day celebrations in Macau marred by shockwaves of Nice attack

Renato Marques

**T**HE ceremony organized last Friday evening by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau to celebrate France's National Day (Bastille Day) was marred by the shocking Nice terrorist attack that happened only a few hours before.

The event held at Sofitel Hotel began with a minute of silence to pay tribute to those killed in the attack, as well as their families and friends.

The speeches echoed the same mourning tone, with the French Consul-General, Eric Berti, paying tribute to the victims of the attack and adding that there were, at that moment, no report of Chinese citizens or residents from Macau or Hong Kong among the high number of victims.

"We know that there is a threat. We hoped that the fact that the Euro Cup went so well could mean that the threat was less present. We see that is not the case so we must keep our guards up and maintain a very high degree of vigilance. We are very sad for what happened," Berti told TDM.

Representing the local government at the event, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, said that the Chief Executive and the government "expressed its deepest condolences to the people of France."

In her speech, Secretary Chan also said "the Nice terror attack was a shock to the whole world," reaffirming the posi-



The French Consul-General, Eric Berti (left), toasts with the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan during the French National Day reception

tion of the SAR government in their need to "take a firm stand against terrorism."

In her official speech, the government official highlighted Macau's "strong and friendly relations with France" and the many advances in mutual cooperation between the two nations in areas such as tourism, infrastructure, utilities and luxury products.

Chan also expressed her hopes "that the miniature Eiffel Tower in Macau will bring a sense of closeness to those French citizens residing here."

The director of the Alliance Française de Macao (AF), Xavier Garnier, told the Times yesterday that Friday was in fact a sad day. "For us, it was not such a good thing to celebrate the French National day after learning about this terrible attack," he said, classifying the attack as "even more moving" because it happened during a sensitive moment; during the National Day, during summer, and on the French Riviera, a highly renowned location for tourism and world-class events.

According to Garnier, the tra-

gic occurrence is evidence that "this is not only about French people, it [was] aimed also at the tourists coming from many different countries, it is an international [attack]."

The AF director reaffirmed that "the problem is not French, the problem is international and the victims are also international. These problems concern everyone and everywhere. I think France is a target because it is more visible. We can't even speak about a problem of security, as Nice is one of the safest cities in the world. I think the location was chosen to get international impact."

**“The problem is not French, the problem is international and the victims are also international.”**

XAVIER GARNIER  
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DIRECTOR

"Of course we are worried and people are worried in France too because that's the first time the attacks happened in the 'Provence' which clearly shows that absolutely anywhere can be the next target," Garnier remarked, adding that "this is a worldwide war. I hope all the countries [and their leaders] can strengthen together to fight this barbarity of terrorism, so that the lives of these people were not lost in vain."

### GGCT ISSUES TRAVEL SECURITY ALERT

**THE TOURISM** Crisis Management Office (GGCT) issued a travel security alert for France on Friday. The GGCT informed that although there are no residents affected by the events of the night of July 14 at the "Promenade des Anglais" in the city of Nice, it will continue to closely monitor the latest developments.

In addition, they have advised Macau residents who intend to travel to France to follow the situation closely, critically assess the security risks and cautiously consider their travel plans. As for residents already in France, the GGCT advises them to take security precautions to ensure their personal safety.

## 167 parking infractions issued in first semester

**I**N the first half of 2016, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) recorded 167 cases of illegally parked vehicles in public parking lots.

According to a statement released by DSAT, 91 car owners paid the associated costs for the overtime parking period and proceeded to remove their vehicles from the car parks.

Forty six vehicles were towed either to a temporary governmental storage space by the police, DSAT or the parking lot's management company. Twenty two vehicles saw their registration canceled or were reverted to the government. The remaining

eight cars are currently under treatment processes.

The vehicles were inspected across 40 public parking lots which are under the administration of DSAT. The inspections were conducted between the beginning of the year and June 30. Included in the total were seven electrical bikes, while the rest were light cars.

In 2015, 4,830 vehicles that had either been abandoned or had their registrations canceled were removed from public roads. This figure represents a year-on-year increase of 23.3 percent when compared with 2014.



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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sauttedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

DESIGN EDITOR\_João Jorge Magalhães magalhaes@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS  
Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Viviana Seguí | ASSOCIATE  
CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR  
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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# British Business Association celebrates 10th anniversary

**L**AUNCHED on July 20, 2006 in a bid to promote and represent British business interests in the region, the British Business Association of Macau will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Wednesday.

Throughout its first 10 years, BBAM has sought to create an environment and the circumstances that are conducive to the generation of mutually beneficial business opportunities for British and Macau enterprises, according to the association's statement.

The association's press release highlighted the importance of social networking events in generating business opportunities for its members.

Commenting on the BBAM milestone, Henry Brockman, BBAM chairman noted: "Our networking events are designed to facilitate knowledge exchange

and the development of British and local industries as a whole."

"BBAM takes very seriously its mission of defining, upholding and encouraging best business practices at the member level. We endeavour to act as the focal point in Macau for British industry," he added.

BBAM's Corporate Social Responsibility programme has also supported scholarships for local students during the past decade, demonstrating British businesses' commitment to being responsible members of the region's society.

"It has been a real pleasure to be the chairman of BBAM for many of the past ten years. I have witnessed the Association grow from an idea on a page to what it is today – arguably the most active Western Business Chamber in Macau," Brockman concluded.

# Loss of white dolphins due to bridge, according to experts

**E**XPERTS blame the under-construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, which is currently under construction, as the main culprit for the declining number of Chinese white dolphins.

Figures acquired by WWF Hong Kong from an unreleased report by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department show that the total estimated number of White dolphins in Hong Kong has fallen from 87 to 65.

The city's northern island of Lantau experienced a dramatic 60 percent drop in the numbers of the aquatic mammal, with the figures falling from 25 to 10.

The South China Morning Post reported that Samantha Lee, a WWF Hong Kong conservation expert, attributed the



Construction works on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge

drop to the construction of the bridge. Lee also mentioned that the impending construction of the airport's third runway will see more sea vessel traffic and undersea noise.

The report added that Samuel Hung Ka-yiu, chairman of the Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society, attributed the declining dolphin numbers in the past few years to a combination of habitat

loss, land reclamation and increasing volumes of high-speed ferry traffic in the area.

Meanwhile, experts are urging the Hong Kong government to establish more marine parks in addition to its four existing marine parks. However, according to Hung, the establishment of new parks will not be enough to compensate for the loss of habitat caused by the third runway.

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## ARTS

## Swan Lake coming to Macau

**T**HE internationally acclaimed St. Petersburg Ballet is coming to Macau to present their full-length classic performance of one of the world's most famous ballets, "Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake," at The Venetian Macao.

First staged in St. Petersburg in 1895, Swan Lake is set to Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's immortal score and is one of the most popular ballet productions in the world today, despite its initial failure in the late 19th century.

Swan Lake tells the story of the young Prince Siegfried who falls deeply in love with the Swan Princess Odette, a young woman who was transformed into a white swan by the evil sorcerer Rothbart. The heart-wrenching tragedy is a timeless tale that has captured the imaginations of audience for over a century.

Founded in 1994, the well-known 60-member company of the St. Peter-



sburg Ballet, led by ballerina Irina Kolesnikova, continues to receive praise from around the world. Following sold out seasons in London, Paris and Singapore, the globally renowned St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre is bringing the ballet sensation to Macau.

In reviewing the performance, Paris's Danse Magazine wrote, "The St. Petersburg Ballet has left a

considerable mark on the history of world ballet," while New Zealand's Dominion Post called it "one of those rare and beautiful moments... Not to be missed." The UK's Sunday Times simply termed it "extraordinary" and said it was a "phenomenal night out."

Two performances will be held at The Venetian Theatre on December 2 and 3.

## EDUCATION

## IFT alumna selected as intern at UNWTO headquarters

**A** partnership between the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) is offering a one-year internship for an IFT alumna in the international body's headquarters in Madrid, Spain.

The IFT graduate, Mandy Ho, was selected from a group of candidates for the one-year internship at the UNWTO's headquarters. She is assigned to UNWTO's Regional Program for Asia and the Pacific. IFT is providing Ho with a MOP40,000 scholarship to support her expenses during the internship, which will last until the end of May 2017.

The institute's statement added that the alumna advised all IFT alumni to maintain close ties with the institute after graduating, as the organization regularly provides its alumni with useful information, including details on new courses, promotional offers and other activities.

IFT has been maintaining a long-term partnership with UNWTO. Earlier in 2015, the MSAR and UNWTO signed a Memorandum of Understanding



Mandy Ho

in Macau.

The objective of the memorandum was to enhance cooperation between the two parties in improving the quality of human capital and increasing the competitiveness of tourism destinations (particularly in the Asia Pacific Region) in order to achieve sustainable tourism development.

The Global Centre for Tourism Education and Training, which is soon going to be involved with IFT, is tasked with the responsibility of organizing training and education programs, and other projects in collaboration with UNWTO, so as to achieve the objectives set out in the memorandum.

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# New Macau urges MP to investigate Iec Long case

Renato Marques

**S**ULU Sou and Ng Kuok Cheong, both members of the New Macau Association (ANM) voiced their expectations and concerns regarding the Iec Long Firecracker Factory land swap, which was deemed illegal by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) last week.

In a press conference held Friday at the ANM headquarters, association representatives claimed that there are two areas in this case that urgently need to be addressed according to the former pre-



Ng Kuok Cheong pictured during the press conference

sident of the ANM, Sulu Sou. ANM is urging the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) to pursue the investigations and

bring those "held responsible to justice." The association is also claiming that, in light of the CCAC report, the government has the duty to pursue the recovery of lost public resources.

Questioned by the Times on the sidelines of the press conference, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong said that "it should be the secretary [for Transport and Public Works] to lead the process to claim the government interests and not DSSOPT." Ng indicated that he sees the secretary Raimundo do Rosário as a competent individual and

above all, an individual with no prior connections to the case.

According to Ng, this "first step" in protecting the public interest should start as soon as possible and should be as simple as claiming the land back, or finding an equivalent compensation if the first option is not possible anymore. "The government should claim the land back or [acquire] a compensation," he said.

Regarding eventual legal consequences, the ANM lawmaker thinks that it is up to the government to "submit complete information to the procurator [public prosecutor]" in order to find and hold responsible the people accountable and thereby "protect the interests of Macau SAR government and the public."

In Ng's opinion, the reasons behind cases like this are related to "political interests" and a "political struggle", resulting from the fact that "from 1999 until now the government and the bourgeoisie have had a very close connection, and they have been transferring interests to different bourgeoisie families but some of them do not stop. They ask for more and exert continuous pressure on the government, and therefore there is a political struggle [like what is] happening now."

## Freeman: What works for Vegas may not work here

President and CEO of the American Gaming Association, Geoff Freeman, cautioned that "what works for Vegas may not be exactly what works here [in Macau]," in an interview recently published by Calvin Ayre, a gaming news website. Freeman indicated that even if Vegas' success cannot be replicated in the MSAR, the city can still benefit from a growing non-gaming tourism sector, which will be driven by the gaming operators. "Non-gaming is not as big here [in Macau], in terms of the percentage of the revenue, as it might be in Las Vegas or in other markets, but it's still bigger in total than any other market in the world," he told Calvin Ayre.

## Balloon Dinosaur Carnival ongoing

The Balloon Dinosaur Charity Carnival kicked off on Saturday. Organized by the Macau International Carnival Association, the festival will continue until August 31 at the Macau Tower. This year, the organizer will invite balloon masters from Hong Kong, the mainland and Taiwan to make a large balloon train which will be made with more than 100,000 balloons.

## Cultural Heritage Committee gathers

The Cultural Heritage Committee gathered in a plenary meeting last Friday at the Cultural Centre. In the meeting, presided over by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, the Cultural Affairs Bureau presented the discussed the archaeological findings in Coloane, as well as the works related to the "list and graphic delineation of the heritage classified buildings and their protection zones," published in the government's Official Gazette.

## Basic Law is being used to limit lawmakers' powers

**N**G Kuok Cheong commented on last week's rejection by the Legislative Assembly (AL) president, Ho Iat Seng, of the proposal by Gabriel Tong to "reinterpret" the Land Law.

"Even if I don't agree with the content of the proposal I can't agree with the fact that the president [of the AL] wants to stop it," Ng said. "I do not agree with some regulations in the Macau Basic Law that create too many limitations

for the lawmakers for their law proposals. I can't agree with this principal," he added, referring to the fact that the Basic Law states that all law proposals that are considered to run contrary to government policy should seek consent from the Chief Executive before being discussed at the AL. The lawmaker argues that the referred principal "is being used by the AL presidency to stop Mr Tong's proposal."

## GGCT receives one request for assistance in Turkey

**T**HE Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has received one request for assistance and two requests for information in relation to the attempted coup in Turkey over the weekend, according to a statement from the entity.

The individual who requested assistance is a Macau resident who is currently safe, GGCT informs, and is awaiting a return flight to Hong Kong in the restricted section of the Istanbul airport. She reported to the office that she has been provided food by the airline.

GGCT said that it is in regular contact with

the Office of the Commissioner in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the Macau SAR, and the Embassy of China in Turkey, in order to gather intelligence and provide assistance to the resident.

It has recommended that Macau residents not travel to the country during the turbulent period.

A joint statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Embassy in Turkey advised Chinese citizens not to travel to Turkey during this period.

"Chinese citizens and institutions already in Turkey should remain on high alert,

strengthen security precautions, be prepared for emergencies, [and] avoid leaving their residences or going to areas with large concentrations of people," the statement read.

"In view of the special circumstances in that location, if Chinese citizens insist on traveling to that country after this alert is issued, they might encounter high security risks and be subjected to delays in receiving any assistance," warned the statement.

For more information, individuals can call the 24-hour tourism hotline on 2833 3000.

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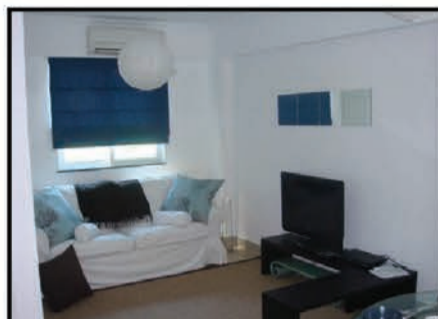
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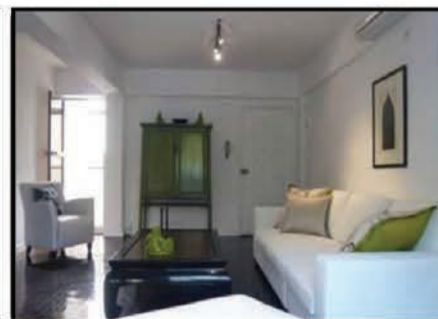
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Email: Juliet@eastcityproperty.com



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TRADE

# HK and Macau sign CEPA to strengthen cooperation

**T**HE ninth Hong Kong-Macau Cooperation High Level Meeting was held in Macau on Friday. Both Hong Kong and Macau initiated the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement Between Hong Kong and Macau (HK-Macau CEPA) during the meeting, according to a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, described the HK-Macau CEPA as beneficial to the liberaliza-



The Financial Secretary of HKSAR, John Tsang (center, left) and his Macau homologue Lionel Leong (center, right) witness the agreement signage

tion and optimization of the investment environment in both regions.

Leong also noted that the new agreement, together with the CEPA

between Macau and mainland China, would positively affect regio-

nal cooperation.

His Hong Kong counterpart, John Tsang, echoed Leong's expectations and said he hoped the new agreement would facilitate economic integration between Hong Kong and Macau as well as raise their competitiveness. The two parties will seek to formally sign the HK-Macau CEPA by the end of this year.

In Friday's meeting Hong Kong and Macau also agreed to set up a task force on promoting economic cooperation, which can include trade, tourism, logistics and foreign direct investments between the two regions.

The task force will be the first joint entity established under the cooperation mechanism and will help the two sides exchange economic information in a more

timely manner.

Other issues discussed in the meeting included the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and cooperation over youth affairs. It was agreed that the two parties will expedite construction of the bridge and will press ahead with talks on cross-border policies.

Created in accordance with the relevant principles and rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the HK-Macau CEPA is a free trade agreement with the aim of strengthening economic integration and trade development between the two parties while facilitating the movements of commodities, services and capital. The agreement does not cover the free movement of people across the border for the purposes of education or work. **DB**

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY ROUNDTABLE

## 'Right now we don't really have an energy policy'

Daniel Beitler

**A**N energy and environment roundtable discussion was held at Jardim de Vasco da Gama yesterday afternoon, seeking to understand energy consumption patterns in Macau, considering alternative sources to power the region, and the effect that these may have on the environment.

Organized by political association, Macao Civic Power, the discussion was partly seeking to frame the group's energy and environment policies for the Legislative Assembly election next year. However, when the Times visited the roundtable in the late afternoon, there were only a dozen people present.

Among these was scholar and roundtable panelist, Agnes Lam, who told the Times that she doesn't think that there is sufficient public awareness in Macau over our energy consumption and even what an energy policy should look like. Her comments reflected the low attendance at the public forum event.

"Right now we don't really have an energy policy," she said. "It's important for us to understand how much energy we are using and where it is coming from. Then we can look at the impact on the environment and consider any alternatives."

The government does have a basic energy strategy but it is undeveloped and non-specific, argued Chen Junming, the pre-



Agnes Lam smiles

sident Macau Green Student Union.

"The government's [intention to] reduce electricity consumption per capita in Macau is not working well because, although they have released some guidelines for this policy, the strategy is not well-developed," said Chen.

He added that he hoped yesterday's roundtable discussion would help pave the way to examine the potential for Macau to further utilize cleaner and renewable sources of energy.

Regarding the gaming industry and its energy demands, Agnes Lam said, "I think we should have some sort of control" over gaming operators.

"Right now the [gaming operators] have arrangements

with energy suppliers that afford them discounted prices per unit of consumption [as large customers]. We need to control this and to prevent them from being encouraged to consume more," she proposed. "I am not suggesting a punishment... but some sort of incentive for them to reduce their usage. And this should be a part of [the government's] energy policy."

On the other hand, Chen highlighted that although the rise in commercial demand for electricity has been driven by the development of the gaming industry, "it is hard [for the government] to bargain with the casinos, because that is the major source of the government's income."

The panel, which included

**It's important for us to understand how much energy we are using and where it is coming from.**

AGNES LAM

two other speakers aside from Chen and Lam, also planned to discuss the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant.

Lam proposed that the panel discuss whether the Taishan facility is the only option for the MSAR. "Is this the only alternative or source we have?" she asked.

Asked whether she would be in favor of the project, which is currently under construction, should it be proven within rea-

sonable doubt to be safe, Lam said: "I can't say whether I will accept it or not, without understanding the other options. Here in Macau we just don't know [what those options are], so that's part of the purpose behind today - to understand our choice."

Safety concerns over the facility were heightened earlier this year when it emerged that certain components had been manufactured in mainland China, not in France as was previously thought. Mainland and Macau authorities stressed that safety assessments of the plant's construction were in line with international standards. Nevertheless, the issue has prompted concerns from lawmakers and the general public.

"Why do we need it near [Macau]? Is it really safe?" Lam asked. "We just don't know whether it will be a security threat to Macau." She added that it would be a good idea for the Macau Liaison Office to voice the concerns of the people in the MSAR, but signaled she is "not sure how much they can say."

**LAND LAW CANNOT BE DECIDED BY THE FEW**

**ON THE** sidelines of the roundtable yesterday, Agnes Lam said that she is opposed to changes to the Land Law, justifying that "any change in the future has to come from a collective opinion, not just a few developers

[with an interest in the matter]." "Some of the developers will lose their land but that's the purpose," she said. "Not to confiscate their land but [...] ensure that it is used for the public interest and not anything else."



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## Discount jumps most since 2012 on Adama stake sale to ChemChina

**D**ISCOUNT Investment Corp. saw the biggest gain in almost four years after entering into an accord to sell its remaining stake in Adama Agricultural Solutions Ltd., the world's largest maker of generic agro-chemicals, to China National Chemical Corp.

Shares in Discount leaped 23 percent to 10.90 shekels at the close in Tel Aviv in 25 times the 3-month average daily volume. The yield on the company's 4.95 percent bonds maturing December 2025 dropped 117 basis points to 6.09 percent, the lowest level since November 2014.

China National, known as ChemChina, will pay Discount, owned by debt-ridden IDB Development Corp., USD230 million for its 40 percent holding in Adama and will forgive a \$1.17 billion loan, the company said in a statement. The Beijing-based manufacturer bought a controlling stake in 2011.

IDB, controlled by Argentine businessman Eduardo Elsztain, needs to raise funds for the company's operations and has been seeking the sale of assets. Discount said it expects to post a 690 million shekel (\$178 million) profit from the sale to ChemChina. The regulator is now demanding the company divest the controlling stake in its Clal Insurance Enterprises Holdings Ltd. unit via the Tel Aviv bourse after several attempts to sell Clal fell through.

The yield on IDB's 4.95 percent debt due December 2025 slumped 189 basis points to 11 percent, the lowest level since January 2015. **Bloomberg**

# Enjoy your cheap summer airfares: You'll pay more next year

Justin Bachman

**D**URING the summer vacation season, think of a commercial airplane as a flying, broken cash machine: It spits out profit from June to September, but come autumn, the money slows.

That's when the seat harvesting begins. This year, that annual airline ritual will likely feature deeper pruning than usual because U.S. carriers are desperate to stop the steady decline in revenues. To do so, they need to boost fares, which have sagged as seat supply outpaces demand.

Delta Air Lines Inc. last week said it would curb its seat growth to only 1 percent in the fourth quarter, with much of that cutting focused on the U.K., where the decision to quit the European Union has left airlines deeply uncertain about future travel demand. Delta had previously planned to expand 2 percent in the quarter, compared with 2015. Its quarterly revenue dipped 2 percent, to USD10.4 billion.

Similar moves may come from rivals American Airlines Group Inc. and United Continental Holdings Inc., which are also striving to reverse slides in this industry metric known as passenger revenue per available seat mile (PRASM); one seat flown one mile, the standard capacity gauge.

Wall Street has soured on airline stocks this year, with the Bloomberg U.S. Airli-



An aircraft marshaller guides a JetBlue Airways Corp. Airbus Group SE A320 aircraft on the tarmac at Long Beach Airport in California

nes Index down 14 percent in 2016. Analysts have adopted a we'll-believe-it-when-we-see-it stance on when passenger revenues will stop declining. Choppy currencies in many regions, periodic terrorist attacks, and the unexpected decision by U.K. voters to leave Europe haven't helped.

Another major problem, from the airline viewpoint, is that business people are reaping some incredible last-minute bargains today compared with what they paid at the counter historically. In some markets, the walk-up fare can be the same as the price six weeks in advance, and many of the traditional rules about Saturday-night stays and advance purchase requirements have collapsed.

"Investors want to hear a robust narrative on managing capacity to right the trajectory," Credit Suisse Group AG analysts wrote July 14. "In nearly every conversation we have with investors, the question of

capacity cuts comes up."

Much of this revenue degradation is the result of rising jet fuel prices, which declined radically in 2014-15 amid a glut of crude. Prices touched a 12-year low in February, near \$25 per barrel, but have since rallied to about \$46. As fuel rises - and airlines are estimating even higher prices this winter - the costs of flying to nonessential destinations make less sense. In this fashion, jet fuel costs operate as a natural capacity restraint. The lag from a fuel increase to the impact on revenue typically takes nine months, Delta President Glen Hauenstein told analysts. All else being equal, fewer seats will mean higher fares.

One irony underlying the current revenue angst is that it wasn't supposed to happen this way. Three years ago, the U.S. Justice Department and six states sued to block the merger of American and US Airways, arguing the new behemoth

would abuse U.S. travelers with higher fares in a rapidly consolidated industry. After a settlement, the merger closed and American became the world's biggest airline. But a funny thing happened on the way to higher fares: Crude oil prices collapsed, and the resulting Big Three post-merger carriers began expanding, while also fighting for the extremely price-sensitive customers they used to cede to ultra-discounters such as Spirit Airlines Inc. and Frontier Airlines Holdings Inc.

Average domestic fares have declined in recent years, to \$377 in 2015, adjusted for inflation, according to federal data. That was down 4 percent from 2014, and more than 19 percent from 2000. The total value of airline tickets fell 4 percent in the first half of 2016, to \$46.1 billion, from the same period last year, on a 6 percent increase in ticket transactions, "pointing to the overall effect of lower airfares," the Airlines Reporting Corp. said July 13.

While this news might cheer travelers, those who focus on revenue declines often overlook some of the hefty numbers that sit near the bottom of airline profit-and-loss statements: net income. At Delta, it was \$1.7 billion before taxes, with billions of dollars more expected across the industry this year.

"I realize the [revenue] numbers have been weak, but the final line results have been phenomenal," Delta's chief executive officer, Ed Bastian, said. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### GRAND COLOANE TO HOST 'SUMMER OPEN DAY'

RENATO MARQUES



The Grand Coloane Resort has announced the hosting of a Summer Open Day on Sunday, July 24.

All children who have been pre-registered will enjoy a full-day of free activities in the resort's outdoor area on July 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to the resort's statement, activities at the Kids' Club include a Slip & Slide, Bootcamp, Summer Fun Fair Games, Arts & Crafts Station, Cooking Class and Science Workshop.

Event-goers, including parents, will receive a 50 percent discount on The Club day-pass, and a 20 percent discount at all restaurants and bike rental services.

### MGM WELCOMES CHANGZHOU STUDENTS WITH FUN-FILLED ACTIVITIES



In a bid to support the younger generation's understanding of the region's unique cross-cultural and historical heritage, MGM Macau has prepared several activities for the "Changzhou Student Study Tour to Macau" participants.

Co-organized by Changzhou Municipal Tourism Bureau and China Diaoyutai Travel (Ma-

cau) Co Ltd, MGM has prepared various art, cultural and family-fun activities with a closing ceremony for over 40 teachers, students and parents, as well as a delegation from Changzhou.

The group visited MGM as the last stop of their study tour, according to the resort's press release.

The participants enjoyed strolling through the Butterfly Garden at Grande Praça and watching the fish-feeding show at the Aquarium, followed by a guided art tour at the "Edgar Degas: Figures in Motion" exhibition at MGM Art Space.

Within the Degas exhibition, guides shared the historical background of the renowned artist and stories about him.

The gaming operator has also prepared fun family activities, such as creating simple art works. The visitors were also given souvenir postcards to write to their families about their experiences in Macau.

A closing ceremony and dinner reception were held afterwards for teachers, students and parents, officials from Changzhou local government and other top officials.

## Cities' expansion plans could house 3.4b people



New areas planned by China's small cities could accommodate 3.4 billion people by 2030 - or almost half the world's current population - a target that even Chinese state media calls problematic. A report by the National Development & Reform Commission, China's central planning agency, found that small- and medium-sized cities were planning more than 3,500 new areas that could accommodate more than twice the country's current population of 1.4 billion. The entire world has a population of 7.4 billion, according to U.S. Census estimates. The findings were detailed in an analysis by the official Xinhua News Agency, which criticized the planned new areas as unworkable: "Who's going to live in them? That's a problem," the piece said.

## Baidu considered bid for Paramount Studio stake

Baidu Inc. considered participating in a bid for a stake in Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures, though it's not currently in negotiations, people familiar with the matter said. The search engine giant had contemplated working with DMG Entertainment & Media Co., a Chinese-American company that has co-produced films such as "Iron Man 3" and is seeking a larger role in Hollywood, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private information. The effort ended in late May when it became clear that Viacom's controlling shareholders, the Redstone family, opposed the sale, the people said.

## Banks urged to step up risk controls

China's banking regulator required banks to step up risk controls and safeguard financial stability as the nation's soured debt rose. Banks' nonperforming loans climbed to 1.81 percent of outstanding credit as of June 30 from 1.75 percent three months earlier, the China Banking Regulatory Commission said in a statement on Friday. While the CBRC said the banking industry's capital adequacy and provision levels are still "relatively sufficient," it urged the lenders to raise capital to enhance their loss-absorbing and risk-management ability.

# Chinese woman brought to US as nanny treated like slave

A Minnesota woman is charged with beating and starving a woman she brought from China to work as a nanny, holding her in a state of "slavery or indentured servitude," a prosecutor said.

Lili Huang, 35, of Woodbury is charged in Washington County with five felony counts, including labor trafficking, false imprisonment and assault. Huang remains in jail after making her initial court appearance Friday, the Star Tribune reported.

The 58-year-old woman, who is not named in the complaint, arrived in the U.S. on a visa in late March. According to the complaint, the nanny was forced to work up to 18 hours a day doing child care, cooking and cleaning. Police calculate her pay at about USD1.80 an hour, but she apparently did not receive any of it.

The woman recently was found wandering in the street, her eyes blackened. A hospital exam found she had many broken bones.

She was rationed crackers for meals and her weight had dropped from 120 pounds when

she arrived in the U.S. to 88 pounds, the complaint said.

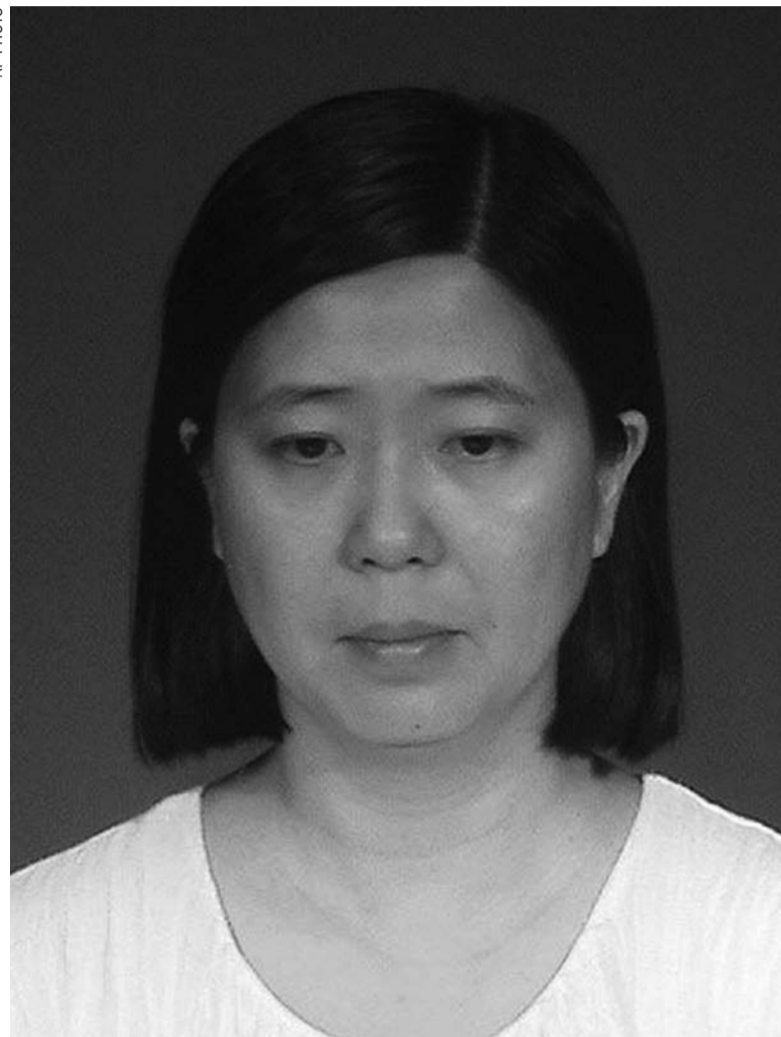
The woman was never allowed to leave the house, the complaint said. The nanny told a police investigator she eventually fled the house when Huang threatened to kill her with a knife. She told police she was looking for the airport so she could go home to China, the complaint said.

Washington County prosecutor Pete Orput said the nanny was held in appalling conditions, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported.

Dan Le, a Minneapolis attorney for Huang, did not immediately respond to a phone message and email from The Associated Press on Saturday.

Police from four cities and agents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security searched Huang's home and arrested her, the complaint said.

A bag hidden under the nanny's mattress contained a large amount of her hair, which Huang allegedly ripped from the woman's head. The nanny had been hiding it so Huang wouldn't find it "and force her to eat it," the complaint said. AP



This photo provided by the Washington County Jail shows Lili Huang

## PRC to prosecute rights lawyer, 3 activists for subversion

A human rights lawyer and three activists have been indicted on subversion charges, Chinese prosecutors said Friday, signaling that an unprecedented crackdown on legal activism that began one year ago continues despite international criticism.

The prosecutors' office of the municipality of Tianjin posted on its microblog that Zhou Shifeng, a lawyer who heads a Beijing-based firm seen as being at the center of the security sweep, has been charged with subversion of state power. Three activists were

indicted on the same charge, the prosecutors' office said.

The vaguely defined charge carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

China launched its largest-ever crackdown against human rights lawyers and activists on July 9, 2015, seizing and questioning hundreds of people nationwide in a campaign that sent a chill through the country's legal system. Nearly two dozen of them remain in detention and face charges, including subversion and inciting subversion of state power.

Rights groups say the activists are being targeted for organizing protests and social media campaigns to raise awareness of legal rights and hot-button social issues.

On the one-year anniversary of the crackdown last week, overseas bar associations and lawyers' groups issued an open letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping criticizing the detentions. The letter adds to international expressions of concern, including from some Western governments, over the crackdown. AP

CHINA'S Cabinet said Friday that 53 people are in custody in an investigation into a landslide that killed 73 people and left four others missing in the southern city of Shenzhen last year.

The State Council's investigation report said the landslide in which a mountain of construction waste that had been piled up against a hill collapsed during heavy rains onto an industrial park was an "extraordinarily serious production safety accident."

The report did not detail the accusations against those who were detained or who were awaiting prosecution.

The Dec. 20 landslide destroyed 33 buildings and resulted in "direct economic losses" of

## 53 arrests following investigation into Shenzhen deadly landslide



In this Dec. 2015 file photo, rescuers search for potential survivors following a landslide at an industrial park in Shenzhen

USD132 million, the report said.

Shenzhen is a major manufacturing center, making everything from cellphones to cars, and it attracts workers from all parts of China.

In a rare move after the disaster, Shenzhen's top officials, including the city's Communist Party chief and its mayor, bowed deeply at a news conference to apologize.

A week after the landslide, a local government official heading the city's urban management bureau killed himself by jumping from a building. AP

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

# 2Q economic growth steady, signaling stabilization

**C**HINA'S economic growth held steady in the most recent quarter, suggesting policies meant to counter the slowdown in the world's second biggest economy are paying off for the moment.

The economy expanded at a 6.7 percent annual pace in the April-June period compared with a year earlier, according to data released Friday that generally matched expectations.

That pace matched the first quarter's level, which was already the lowest since early 2009, when growth slumped to 6.2 percent amid the turmoil of the global financial crisis.

China's economy posted its slowest annual growth in a quarter century of 6.9 percent last year and is expected to slow further this year, with officials targeting a 6.5 percent-7 percent expansion.

Growth is slowing as China's communist leaders seek to wean the economy off manufacturing, exports and wasteful and inefficient spending on infrastructure. They want growth to be centered on self-sustaining services and private consumption but the transition is proving to be tricky.



A child carries a Chinese national flag as he stands near Chinese government propaganda promoting the "Chinese Dream"

**With stimulus still feeding through, growth is more likely to accelerate than slow in the next few quarters.**

DANIEL MARTIN,  
MARK WILLIAMS  
CAPITAL ECONOMICS REPORT

Officials in Beijing have responded to the unexpectedly sharp downturn of the past few years by rolling out their usual policy tools. Policymakers have held interest rates at record lows since October and loosened bank restrictions. The government has also ramped up spending on public infrastructure projects.

"The national economy has achieved moderate but steady and sound development, which has laid down a solid

foundation for achieving the annual economic development target," National Bureau of Statistics spokesman Sheng Laiyun said at a press briefing. "However we must be aware that the domestic and external conditions are still complicated and severe and the downward economic pressure remains."

Other data released by the statistics agency painted a mixed picture.

Retail sales accelerated in

June, rising 10.6 percent from a year earlier, while industrial production expanded at a faster rate of 6.2 percent for the month. However, fixed asset investment for the January-June period grew 9 percent, less than the 9.4 percent rate in the first five months of the year.

Analysts said that while government policies have helped stabilize the economy, the effect might not last.

"With stimulus still feeding

through, growth is more likely to accelerate than slow in the next few quarters," Daniel Martin and Mark Williams of Capital Economics said in a report. "However, as worries about the outlook have diminished, so has the likelihood of further stimulus. Any turnaround would therefore be short-lived and, with structural issues still unresolved, a renewed slowdown over the next couple of years is looking increasingly likely." AP

## Top US Navy admiral to visit Beijing, discuss South China Sea

**T**HE U.S. Navy's top admiral is making a three-day visit to China and meeting with his Chinese counterpart at a time when Beijing has rejected an international tribunal's ruling that invalidated its expansive claims in the South China Sea.

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, will meet the commander of the People's Liberation Army's Navy, Adm. Wu Shengli, during his trip to the

Chinese capital of Beijing and the port city of Qingdao starting yesterday.

Richardson is scheduled to visit the Chinese navy's headquarters in Beijing and meet with other senior defense officials. He will visit the navy's submarine academy and tour the aircraft carrier, Liaoning, when he is in its home port of Qingdao.

They will discuss the South China Sea, ongoing Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, military drills, and ways to boost interactions between the two militaries.

The visit comes as China has warned other countries against threatening its security in the South China Sea after a five-member tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, ruled that China had no legal basis for its claim to most of the South China Sea. Beijing has responded to the ruling by asserting that the islands in the South Chi-

na Sea are "China's inherent territory."

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said last week that Beijing could declare an air defense identification zone over the waters if it felt threatened.

China's island development in the South China Sea has inflamed regional tensions, including with nations that have competing claims to the land formations. Most fear that Beijing, which has built airfields

and placed weapons systems on the man-made islands, will use the construction to extend its military reach and perhaps try to restrict navigation.

Several times in the past year, U.S. warships have deliberately sailed



close to one of those islands to exercise freedom of navigation and challenge the claims. In response, China has deployed fighter jets and ships to track and warn off the American ships, and accused the U.S. of provocative action. AP

Several times in the past year, U.S. warships have deliberately sailed

# Bangladesh stops open defecation in just over a decade

Julhas Alam

**A**NSWERING nature's call was once a nightmare for Rashida Begum, who had to creep around the jungle for a suitably private spot. Her home had no toilet, like the thousands of others in her crowded cluster of farming villages outside the capital.

In just over a decade, that's all changed, in her neighborhood and many others.

Through a dogged campaign to build toilets and educate Bangladeshis about the dangers of open defecation, the densely populated South Asian nation has managed to reduce the number of people who defecate in the open to just 1 percent of the 166 million population, according to the government — down from 42 percent in 2003.

"Once it was our habit to go to the fields or jungles. Now, it is shameful to us," Begum said in Bormi, a cluster of poor farming villages just outside Dhaka, the capital. "Even our children do not defecate openly anymore. We do not need to ask them; they do it on their own."

Bangladesh's success in sanitation — something so far unattained by its wealthier

**We see clearly that there is a decline in waterborne diseases and diarrheal diseases.**

AKRAMUL ISLAM  
NGO BRAC DIRECTOR



Bangladeshis walk past a public toilet in a slum area in Dhaka

neighbor to the south, India — came from a dogged campaign supported by 25 percent of the country's overall development budget.

"The government has made a huge commitment," said Akramul Islam, director for water, sanitation and hygiene of the development NGO Brac. "The government decided that funds should go to the extreme poor who do not have latrines. So that basically gives a big push from the public sector for spending on sanitation."

The government's engineers also partnered with village councils and charities to spread the message on how toilets are key to better health. Rising incomes — moving from an average of USD1,154 in 2012-13 to \$1,314 in the last

fiscal year, according to the World Bank — also helped to drive demand, Islam said.

Activists say small-scale surveys show that the campaign has improved public health, though there are not yet any government statistics to prove it more broadly.

"We see clearly that there is a decline in waterborne diseases and diarrheal diseases, so there is a clear link there," Islam said, while acknowledging that the improvement was something "we have to study."

Begum said her children have had no stomach illnesses since she installed an in-house toilet.

Open defecation is considered a major public health menace, causing childhood diarrhea, parasitic worm infec-

tions and other scourges that contribute to childhood stunting, malnutrition and tens of billions of dollars in lost productivity every year. Diarrheal diseases kill 700,000 children every year in India alone — most of which could have been prevented with better sanitation.

India has spent about \$3 billion since 1986 on campaigning and sanitation programs, but has not come close to Bangladesh's success. Two-thirds of India's 1.25 billion people still use the great outdoors as their public latrine. About half of Nepal's 30 million people and about 20 percent of Pakistan's 182 million also do not have facilities at home.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made public sanitation a hallmark of his "Clean India" drive, promising that every home would have a toilet by 2019 and setting aside hundreds of millions of dollars for the job. India has already built around 20 million toilets, but still has another 111 million to build to reach its goal.

Bangladesh's sanitation victory didn't come easy. Millions of dollars from the government and charities were spent, and campaign volunteers said they worked hard to change public attitudes and habits.

Many villagers — particularly men — preferred going outdoors, where they could think in private, survey their lands

or just feel the evening breeze or gaze at the sky. For women, however, having no toilet was both a nuisance and a danger, as many said they had to wait for nightfall for privacy.

"We had to cover our noses during rainy season because of the bad smell," said field campaigner Al Amin Akand of the charity Plan International, which works on community issues. "We had to work for years to motivate the villagers."

Back in 2008, most people in Bormi had no choice but to use the surrounding forests to defecate.

"We had to do fierce campaigning," going door-to-door for years, said Mohammed Badal Sarker, chairman of a local village council. The council even turned children into whistleblowers — literally.

"We provided schoolchildren with whistles to alert the villagers. It worked like magic," the chairman said. Children were encouraged to shout slogans like "Defecating in the open is the enemy of the people" and "No one will marry your daughter if you do not have a toilet at home."

The drive has even sparked a new industry in household sanitation, with small businesses cropping up across the country to sell the components for making inexpensive latrines. All it takes, they say, is an investment of \$12 to \$60 to buy two to three concrete rings and a concrete pan.

"Now you will not find a home without a sanitary latrine," Sarkar said.

There is still cause for concern. Bangladesh's overpopulated urban areas are proving to be more of a challenge, mostly because the opportunity for contaminating the water supply is much greater.

"People might be using a toilet or a latrine, but then where does the human waste go from there?" said John Sauer, senior technical adviser of the Washington-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Population Services International (PSI). Waste water could be dumped on a field where children play, or where food is grown. "We must address where the human waste goes and how it is treated, disposed or reused."

Still, Sauer said, the achievement of virtually eradicating open defecation in just a decade is astonishing.

"Bangladesh has a lot to teach the rest of the developing world," he said. **AP**



Bangladeshi volunteers, working to spread awareness on sanitation, lift toilet seats in Bormi village, near Dhaka

INDIA

# Family of man killed by mob accused of cow slaughter

Biswajeet Banerjee

**N**EARLY a year after a mob in northern India killed a Muslim man over rumors that he had slaughtered a cow, his family faces prosecution for alleged cow slaughter following a neighbor's complaint, police said Saturday.

Police registered a case of cow slaughter against Mohammad Akhlaq's family on Friday following a court order, said police officer Daljeet Singh.

The court acted on a forensic report that said the meat found in a dustbin outside the family's home was beef or the meat of "a cow or its progeny."

Hindus consider cows to be sacred, and for many, eating beef is taboo. The eating of beef is not a crime in Uttar Pradesh state, but slaughtering a cow carries a punishment of up to seven years in jail.

No arrests have been made so far. Yusuf Saifi, the family's attorney, said he would challenge the court's order.

The court is hearing a petition filed by the neighbor and backed

by those accused of Akhlaq's murder alleging that his family had killed a calf and that his brother Jaan Mohammad was seen slitting the throat of the animal. It names seven members of the family, including Akhlaq's wife and mother.

The killing of Mohammed Akhlaq last September sparked furious debate about religious tolerance in India.

Akhlaq's family left the village after the attack and is living in New Delhi.

Hindus make up more than 80 percent of India's population of 1.25 billion, and many have revealed in Prime Minister Modi's championing of Hindu culture. Many Indian states banned cow slaughter long ago, and hard-liners want a national ban.

Violent protests have erupted at several places in recent months over rumors of cow slaughtering by Muslims. Near the Himalayan town of Shimla, a mob beat a man to death and injured four other people in October over rumors that they were smuggling cows. **AP**

# Vietnam detains dozens in anti-China protest in Hanoi

**D**OZENS of Vietnamese who gathered for an anti-China protest in central Hanoi were taken away by authorities yesterday as they tried to rally support for an international tribunal's ruling rejecting Beijing's claims in the South China Sea.

About two dozen people were bused away from around the landmark Hoan Kiem Lake in Vietnam's capital even before they began their protest. There was a heavy police presence around the lake, with cars briefly banned from around it.

The rally was organized by No-U, a Hanoi group that opposes China's expansive claims in the South China Sea. It came after the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration issued the ruling last week in a case initiated by the Philippines, which together with Vietnam is one of the claimants in the disputed waters.

China rejected the tribunal's ruling and refused to take



part in the arbitration.

The tribunal ruled that China violated international maritime law, specifically the Philippines' maritime rights, by building up artificial islands that destroyed coral reefs and by disrupting fishing and oil exploration.

Nguyen Chi Tuyen, a member of No-U, said the activists who were detained by police were all released by yesterday afternoon.

Another small group of activists gathered in front of the Philippine Embassy in Hanoi at around noon with banners that read "Thank you, Philippines, you have a brave government" and "China, you must comply with international law," Tuyen said.

Vietnamese authorities have clamped down on such protests before, fearing they could stir dissent in the communist country. **AP**



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# France calls up reservist forces after deadly Nice rampage



People gather at a makeshift memorial to honor the victims of an attack, near the area where a truck mowed through revelers in Nice

Colleen Barry, Lori Hinnant

FRANCE called up thousands of reserve security forces Friday as authorities tried to determine why a Tunisian deliveryman known only to be a petty criminal took the wheel of a 19-ton truck and plunged through a terrified seaside crowd on Bastille Day, leaving 84 people dead and more than 200 wounded.

Witnesses described how Mohamed Bouhlel barreled his truck in a zigzag path down a crowded Nice promenade, aiming directly for children, for mothers pushing strollers and for families cowering behind plastic benches.

President Francois Hollande extended for three months a state of emergency that stretched back to the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and was claimed by the Islamic State group. It had been set to end July 26.

The government tapped its operational reserve of 25,000 — composed mainly of ex-military or former gendarmes — to relieve its tired officers and bolster border security.

Nice's famed Promenade des Anglais, at the heart of city life — and the killing path of the truck — became a place of grieving with bouquets of flowers piling up as residents, some with candles, paid tribute to the dead.

Hollande said the attack was “undeniably terrorist in nature,” but prosecutors said the 31-year-old driver, a Tunisian who lived in Nice, wasn't known to intelligence services.

No group claimed responsibili-

ty for Thursday night's slaughter of tourists and locals packing the upscale seafront, where an estimated 30,000 had just watched a Bastille Day fireworks show.

They fanned out to enjoy nighttime street artists, arcade games and food stalls or strolls to their hotels beside the Mediterranean. Then Bouhlel used his truck to turn a celebration into a dash for survival. Cyril Croisy said he saw the truck accelerate into the first crowds outside Nice's landmark Negresco Hotel, aiming straight for a stand selling candy to children.

He said he tried to help the wounded, including a woman with catastrophic injuries. “I was there when her heart stopped,” said Croisy, his eyes welling with tears. The 40-year-old Parisian suffered a broken arm while fleeing and jumping from the Promenade to the beach below.

Ten of the 84 dead were children. Of the 202 injured, 52 were critically hurt.

Among the dead were immigrants and tourists from many nations, including Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Switzerland and the United States. Two Scots were among the dozens listed as missing.

French prosecutor Francois Molins said Bouhlel had a loaded handgun, three replica weapons and an empty grenade in the truck, which he had rented three days earlier. Police considered him a petty criminal suspected since 2010 of various threats and acts of theft, vandalism and violent conduct, he said.

In March, he was convicted for

a road-rage crime when he struck another motorist with a wooden pallet but received a suspended six-month sentence because it was his first proven offense.

Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, his full name, from the Tunisian town of Msaken, in the center-east, was a resident of Nice, married to a Tunisian with dual nationality.

Bouhlel's father, interviewed in Tunisia by France's BFM TV, said his son was a depressed man who, in Tunisia, took prescription medication to calm fits of

“It was like a chamber of horrors. Every person seemed to have died in an increasingly grotesque way.”

SIMON COATES  
WITNESS

anger. He was not religious, neither praying nor fasting during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, and was “always alone.” Mohamed Mondher Lahouaiej Bouhlel said his son had not been home in four years.

Hollande's government, whose popularity is plummeting record lows in polls, has been buffeted by allegations that France's intelligence services have failed to get a handle on the country's jihadist threat. France has known for

years that it is a top Islamic State target, and France also is the biggest source for European recruits for IS, with more than 1,000 fighting in Syria or Iraq.

Hollande, who flew to Nice to visit the injured in Pasteur Hospital, declared three days of national mourning from Saturday. He was booed by angry members of the public as his motorcade passed the scene of the slaughter.

“Why Nice?” Hollande asked in a television address. “Because it is a city that is known worldwide, one of the most beautiful cities on the planet. Why on the 14th of July? Because it is a celebration of freedom.”

Bouhlel's attack was stopped thanks to a handful of police who pursued the truck on foot and, possibly, by motorcycle as he plowed through the first crowds outside the imposing Negrescol.

German tourist Richard Gutjahr filmed the truck from his hotel balcony as an apparent police motorcyclist mounted a curb and tried to open the driver's door, only to tumble to the pavement and barely miss being crushed by the wheels. The video showed the unseated motorcyclist continue pursuit on foot, briefly climbing on the side of the accelerating truck, as two officers fired shots from handguns into the truck cabin.

The truck tore into a pedestrian area as the crowd scattered, many leaping to the beach below. The truck bore down toward English tourist Simon Coates, who had just lost his wife Amanda in the chaos.

“Within a few seconds it was almost upon me,” Coates told

the BBC. “I looked to my left and there was an old man, perhaps a grandfather, and a young boy of about 10. The truck aimed straight for them. I leapt one way. The little boy, I don't know how, but he managed to get away from the truck by inches.”

Coates said he reluctantly turned to follow the truck to find his wife — and searched among dozens of crushed bodies seeking to identify her from her bicycle or an article of clothing. He couldn't find her before reaching the point where police finally shot to death the driver barely 20 meters in front of him.

“The police were screaming to get away. They thought there was a bomb, so I turned around as quickly as I could. The ground was very slippery with what was left of some people,” Coates said. “I saw some dreadful things. It was like a chamber of horrors. Every person seemed to have died in an increasingly grotesque way.”

Egyptian tourist Nader El Shafei said he tried imploring Bouhlel in Arabic through the attacker's open window to stop what he was doing. Instead, he said, he saw the truck smash into a girl and drag many bodies wedged in its undercarriage.

When police closed in, handguns drawn, El Shafei said Bouhlel opened fire.

“I saw the gun in his hand and I saw him shooting through the window,” he said. “The police surrounded the car and they kept shooting him until they were sure he's dead.”

Watching from his hotel window, English tourist Paul Gordon said he saw the truck bouncing over the bodies of the dead and wounded. “I saw people being knocked over like skittles,” said Gordon, who had just left the promenade with his wife and 18-month-old daughter.

Stephane Erbs said he was heading back to his car with his wife, Rachel, and their two children when he saw the truck bearing down on them. He told AP that his first instinct was to throw his 7-year-old son, Celion, out of harm's way, while his wife pushed their daughter, 12-year-old Noemi, to safety.

“I threw him in the direction of the wall” next to the beach, said Erbs, who broke seven ribs as he tried to get out of the way. His children were unharmed but his wife remained missing Friday.

Coates said he found his unhurt wife, Amanda, after a frantic search of bodies on the path back to his hotel “that was the longest 20 minutes of my life.” He said as horrible as the slaughter had been, the placement of a sidewalk-blocking gazebo and the bravery of a handful of armed officers had reduced the potential death toll.

Police gunfire kept the attacker from reaching much larger crowds where “hundreds of people could have been killed,” he said. “It could have been incalculably worse.” AP

# Turks rally to defend democracy, govt seeks coup suspects

Dominique Soguel, Suzan Fraser

**C**HANTING, dancing and waving flags, tens of thousands of Turks marched through the streets into the wee hours of yesterday in half a dozen cities to defend democracy and support the country's long-time leader after a failed military coup shocked the nation.

It was an emotional display by Turks, who rallied in headscarves and long dresses, T-shirts and work boots, some walking hand-in-hand with their children. Rather than toppling Turkey's strongman president, the attempted coup that left some 265 dead and 1,440 wounded appears to have bolstered Recep Tayyip Erdogan's popularity and grip on power.

"Just a small group from Turkish armed forces stood up against our government [...] but we, the Turkish nation, stand together and repulse it back," Gozde Kurt, a 16-year-old student at the rally in Istanbul, said yesterday.

Security forces yesterday rounded up 52 more military officers for alleged coup links and issued detention orders for 53 more judges and prosecutors, continuing the purge of judges seen as government opponents.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said the perpetrators of Friday's failed coup "will receive every punishment they deserve." The Yeni Safak newspaper used the headline "Traitors of the country," while the Hurriyet newspaper declared "Democracy's victory."

Still, the government crackdowns raised concerns over the future of democracy in Turkey, which has long prided itself on its democratic and secular traditions despite being in a tumultuous region swept by conflict and extremism.

Erdogan's survival has turned him into a "sort of a mythical figure" and could further erode democracy in Turkey, said Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish research program at The Washing-



People chant slogans as they gather at a pro-government rally in central Istanbul's Taksim square

ton Institute.

"It will allow him [Erdogan] to crack down on liberty and freedom of association, assembly, expression and media in ways that we haven't seen before and find strong public support within the country," he said.

The coup attempt began late Friday with tanks rolling into the streets of the capital, Ankara, and Istanbul as Erdogan was enjoying a seaside vacation. Explosions and gunfire erupted throughout the night. It quickly became clear, however, that the military was not united in the effort to overthrow the government. In a dramatic iPhone interview broadcast on TV, Erdogan urged his supporters into the streets to confront the troops and tanks, and forces loyal to the government began reasserting control.

The unrest claimed at least 265 lives, according to a tally compiled from official statements. Yildirim said 161 people were killed and 1,440 wou-

nded in the process of putting down the coup attempt, while Gen. Umit Dunder said at least 104 "coup plotters" had died.

Before the weekend's chaos, Turkey — a NATO member and key Western ally in the fight against the Islamic State group — had been wracked by political turmoil that critics blamed on Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian rule. He has shaken up the government, cracked down on dissidents, restricted the news media and renewed fighting with Kurdish rebels.

But Saturday afternoon, when tensions eased, an atmosphere of celebration broke around as Turks answered official calls to rally to protect Turkish democracy. In Istanbul, crowds gathered at Taksim Square, where a man stood on an iconic monument with a Turkish flag draped on his chest.

Government supporters marched through Ankara, as cars honked in apparent approval. Some gathered outside parliament and amid the burnt cars outside the presidential palace. One man took a selfie with a Turkish police officer standing atop an abandoned tank.

"We are here for democracy, so the country lasts," retired soldier Nusret Tuzak said in Ankara.

Flights resumed late Saturday into Istanbul's Anaturk Airport after being halted for

nearly 24 hours and scores of government supporters gathered to make sure the airport was not a coup target again. The usually buzzing airport was eerily quiet.

In an unusual show of unity, Turkey's four main political parties released a joint declaration during an extraordinary parliamentary meeting Saturday, denouncing the coup attempt and claiming that any moves against the people or parliament will be met "with the iron will of the Turkish Grand National Assembly."

Officials claimed the judges and the coup plotters were loyal to moderate cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Erdogan has often accused of attempting to overthrow the gover-

## The attempted coup left some 265 dead and 1,440 wounded

nment. Gulen, a staunch democracy advocate who lives in exile in Pennsylvania, is a former Erdogan ally turned bitter foe who has been put on trial in absentia in Turkey.

In a televised speech, Erdogan called on the United States to extradite Gulen.

At a news conference Saturday in Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, Gulen strongly denied any role in or knowledge of the coup.

"Government should be won through a process of free and fair elections, not force," he said. "As someone who suffered under multiple military coups during the past five decades, it is especially insulting to be accused of having any link to such an attempt. I categorically deny such accusations."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said the United States would entertain an extradition request for Gulen, but Turkey would have to present "legitimate evidence that withstands scrutiny."

Turkey's NATO allies lined up to condemn the coup attempt. President Barack Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg urged all sides to support Turkey's democratically elected government.

Turkey's military staged three coups between 1960 and 1980 and pressured Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, a mentor of Erdogan, out of power in 1976. AP



Tanks move into position as Turkish people attempt to stop them, in Ankara, early Saturday

### 6,000 DETAINED IN CRACKDOWN AFTER COUP TRY

**TURKEY'S JUSTICE** minister says some 6,000 people have been detained in a government crackdown on alleged coup plotters and government opponents. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag says in a television interview that "the

cleansing [operation] is continuing. Some 6,000 detentions have taken place. The number could surpass 6,000." Bozdag also said he was confident that the United States would return Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen to Turkey.

## what's ON

## SILVER ANNIVERSARY ANIMATION

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Mondays to Thursdays)  
11am-9pm (Fridays to Sundays)

UNTIL: September 11, 2016

ADMISSION: MOP120

(No admission one hour before closing)

TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

VENUE: Macau Convention Centre, Estrada da Ponta da Cabrita Golden Crown China Hotel (Opposite Macau International Airport, Taipa)

## TRANSIENT – SOLO PAINTING EXHIBITION BY SOFIA AREZ

TIME: 2pm-7pm

(Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 23

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai Avenue

ADMISSION: free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

## THE VOICE

– THE EXHIBITION THAT SPEAKS TO YOU

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: November 16, 2106

VENUE: Communications Museums of Macau, No.7, Estrada de D. Maria II, Macao

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

## Offbeat

## HAITIANS TREK TO SACRED WATERFALLS IN VODOO FESTIVAL



Some carrying candles or calabash bowls with offerings of goat meat, thousands of Haitians made a Saturday pilgrimage to bathe in sacred waterfalls and pray for everything from a good harvest

to an end to Haiti's chronic political dysfunction.

A mix of Voodoo and Christian faithful along with a cohort of young, hard-partying revelers gathered in the rushing waters of Saut d'Eau, where they scrubbed their bodies with aromatic leaves and soap. It was the final day of this year's annual three-day festival.

A number of impoverished Haitians made long treks by foot, motorbike or crammed into the back of pickup trucks to reach the 100-tall foot falls, surrounded by white candles placed in moss and tree stumps.

A group of subsistence farmers from the coastal town of Arcahaie spent their meager savings to travel to the falls clad in their best clothes for Voodoo rituals: purple dresses with a red collar for the women and white shirts and pants for the men.

"I've come to put my sickness in the water and gain fresh luck," said Dieudeaue Beauvil, who says she's been struggling with a mysterious malady.

There were no shortage of younger Haitians who came mostly for a good time, drinking shots of homemade moonshine and flirting in the waters.

But many took their prayers seriously, tossing their soaked clothing into the water in a symbolic shedding of their old self. Some shook spastically when the spirits overtook them.

Haitian-American social worker Andrea Bellevue was lured from Boston to seek help from Erzulie, a spirit god of love in Voodoo, or Vodou.

"Whenever you come to her and ask her for something you shall receive," said the Boston resident as she and many others stripped to their underwear and scrubbed their bodies with leaves.

In the nearby town of Saut d'Eau, pilgrims converged on the local church to pray to the Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, closely associated with the Voodoo goddess of Erzulie. Saut d'Eau's mystique owes to a 19th century legend that an image of the virgin appeared in the waterfalls.

Voodoo evolved in the 17th century from African slaves. French colonizers forced them to practice Roman Catholicism, but many remained loyal to their African religions in secret by adopting Catholic saints to coincide with African spirits. The Voodoo religion has long been central to Haitian life. AP

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
17:15	Documentary (Repeated)
18:00	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
18:50	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:20	Miscellaneous
21:45	Portuguese Music
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Documentary Series
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

14 Jul - 20 Jul

## FINDING DORY

ROOM 1  
(2D) 2.15, 4.05, 7.45 pm  
(3D) 9.30 pm

Director: Andrew Stanton

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 97min

## THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2

6.00 pm

Director: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)  
Duration: 90min



## COLD WAR 2

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 110min



## THREE

ROOM 2

4.30, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Johnnie To

Starring: Zhao Wei, Louis Koo, Wallace Chung

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 97min

## THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS

ROOM 2

(2D) 4.15 pm

Director: Chris Renaud, Yarrow Cheney

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 90min

## MACAU TOWER

08 Jul - 20 Jul

## COLD WAR 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

Starring: Aaron Kwok, Tony Leung Ka Fai, Chow Yun Fat

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 90min

## this day in history



## 2000 SARAH PAYNE'S BODY FOUND

Police have confirmed the body they found in a West Sussex field yesterday is that of missing eight-year old Sarah Payne.

A farm worker found the human remains less than 12 miles from where Sarah went missing near her grandparents' home near Littlehampton on 1 July.

The partly covered body was lying 10 yards away from the A29 between Pulborough and Billingshurst.

Sarah's parents, Sara and Michael, spent 20 minutes at the scene and laid flowers there. They looked at the tributes left by hundreds of well-wishers and police.

Earlier Assistant Chief Constable of West Sussex Nigel Yeo announced the finger prints were Sarah's and a murder inquiry was underway.

The press conference then observed half a minute's silence. Police said the naked body had been there for some time and had no obvious sign of injury, but they would not disclose whether any sexual assault had taken place.

They are still looking for Sarah's blue dress and black shoes and they are focusing their search on a white van seen by her brothers when she went missing.

The A29 remains closed and a tent shrouds where the body was uncovered. Sixty-five police officers - some with sniffer dogs - are combing the area for more evidence and further tests are being carried out on the body in search of vital DNA clues.

Sarah went missing 16 days ago after playing in a cornfield with her brothers Lee, 13, and Luke, 11, and her five-year-old sister Charlotte. The family have held almost daily briefings with the media and so far investigators have dealt with 20,000 calls from the public.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two days later police found what they believed to be one of Sarah's shoes in the village of Coolham, a few miles to the east of where the body was found.

On 31 July, Roy Whiting - a known paedophile - was arrested then released on bail. He had already been questioned and released on 2 July.

Whiting was arrested and charged with the murder on 6 February 2001. On 12 December 2001 he was found guilty of abducting and murdering Sarah Payne and given a life sentence. In 1995 Whiting had been given a four-year sentence for attacking a nine-year-old girl.

The News of the World supported Sara and Michael Payne in their campaign for "Sarah's Law" and public access to the sex offenders' register.

Pressure for a so-called Sarah's Law has been maintained. But the government has resisted calls saying there would be a risk of the public taking the law into their own hands.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Only projects could be all about pleasure. But unfortunately, those pesky legal details need to be taken into consideration.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You're getting lazy. The best way to ensure you'll get exercise is to put it on your work calendar.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Loose ends have needed tying up for too long. Nothing kills a mood like something hanging over your head.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
With too much to do you'll be tempted to go into the office. But that would really rock your domestic boat.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Working hard and enjoying your days is a good combination. Others will agree with you, but not necessarily your boss.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
True, a good wardrobe goes a long way in any career and you could certainly use some new duds.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
Ah, you can finally breathe some life into your romance, hobbies or home life.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
It's surprisingly hard to enjoy the day today. Your private life requires more patience than work does.

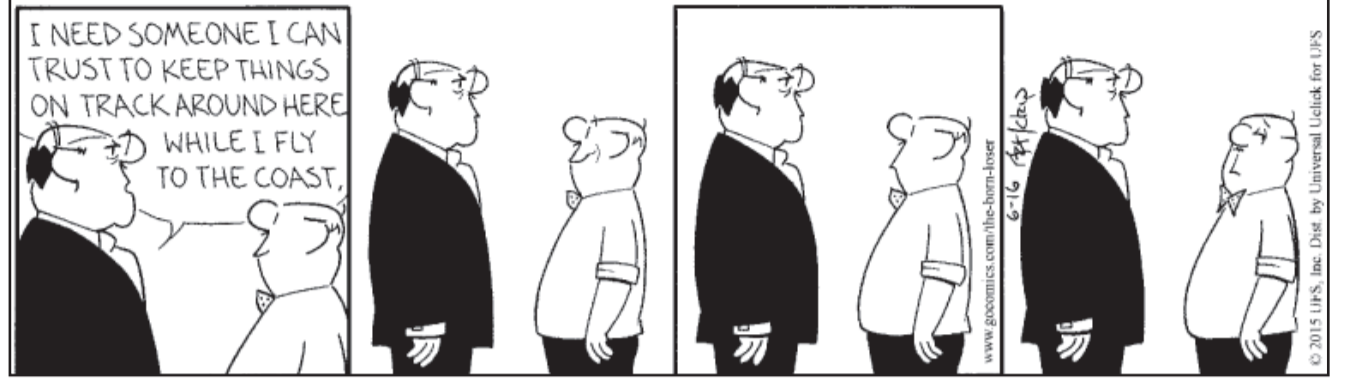
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your days off, in a way, are preparation time for your work week. That should mean doing things that leave you refreshed and fulfilled.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You'll have to apply your work skills to your private life. If you're feeling restless, start some new projects.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Personal issues dominate the day, and that makes perfect sense for a Saturday. But these issues tie into your work concerns in a way that's less than obvious.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Your social life could use a shake-up, and you have nothing but time to give to it. It's time to throw out relationships that aren't going anywhere.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Destroy hearing; 7- Wedding words; 10- Let's just leave \_\_\_ that; 14- Nissan model; 15- It's cold!; 16- String tie; 17- Tap dancer; 18- Writer Fleming; 19- "Return of the Jedi" critter; 20- Transform; 23- Medium of exchange; 26- Verily; 27- As before; 28- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 29- Windy City trains; 30- Lamb's lament; 31- Violent whirlwind; 33- Capitol Hill abbr.; 34- Engine part; 37- B'way hit sign; 38- 1980's movie starring Bo Derek and Dudley Moore; 39- Classic two-seaters; 40- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 41- Battleship letters; 42- Switch positions; 43- Seaport on San Francisco Bay; 45- Ques. response; 46- Part of the Holy Trinity; 47- Home furnishings chain; 48- Digging tool; 51- Director's cry; 52- Hoops; 53- Pool where animals drink; 56- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 57- Get thee \_\_\_ nunery; 58- Muslim veil; 62- Three-player card game; 63- Geom. point; 64- Writing's original form; 65- Tortoise's rival; 66- Yo!; 67- Fashions;

DOWN:1- Morse symbol; 2- "Evil Woman" band; 3- From \_\_\_ Z; 4- Ten plus five; 5- Abrasive mineral; 6- Japan's first capital; 7- Nile waders; 8- Pulitzer category; 9- Yes \_\_\_?; 10- Spain and Portugal; 11- Namely; 12- Up in the air; 13- Capital of Japan; 21- Hose; 22- Polish seaport; 23- Taiwan Strait island; 24- Smells; 25- Peter and Franco; 29- Perfect places; 30- Started; 32- Yom Kippur observer; 33- Not rough; 34- Singer Khan; 35- Synthetic fiber; 36- Purple Heart, e.g.; 44- Freedom; 45- \_\_\_ Fideles; 46- Sweet; 48- Swagger; 49- Anorak; 50- Shed \_\_\_; 51- Benjamin; 52- Utter impulsively; 54- Need a scratch; 55- Numbered work; 59- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 60- Chopping tool; 61- Elevs.

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
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
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BOXING

# Wilder retains WBC heavyweight title, stopping Arreola

**D**ESPITE fighting mostly one-armed for half the fight, Deontay Wilder remained in control in the ring before quickly heading to the hospital.

Wilder retained his WBC heavyweight title with a technical knockout when Chris Arreola's corner stopped the fight after the eighth round Saturday night at Legacy Arena.

Arreola's left eye appeared swollen shut. An injured Wilder (37-0, 36 knockouts) knocked down Arreola in the fourth and peppered him with left jabs and hooks after landing hard rights early.

Promoter Lou DiBella said Wilder was taken to nearby UAB Hospital after a doctor confirmed he had a broken right hand and a probable distal tear in that biceps. Both injuries happened early in the fight.

Wilder showed reporters his injured biceps as he headed to the locker room and said he was already certain the hand was broken. He threw the right, his biggest weapon, sparingly after the fourth round.

Even hurting, Wilder didn't lose his bravado. Before leaving the ring, he was talking about wanting to fight the winner of the upcoming Wladimir Klitschko-Tyson Fury fight or Anthony Joshua.

"My goal is to unify the division," said Wilder, who didn't hold a post-fight news conference. "I'm one of the baddest, hardest-hitting heavyweights in the business. Right here from Alabama, baby. I came a long way. So whoever's got those belts, that's who I want. It don't matter if I got a broke hand, got a torn muscle, I'm going to fight like heavyweight champions do. I don't play boxing. Of course I want the Furies, of course I want the Joshuas but the question is, do they want me?"

It was Wilder's fourth title defense and third in Birmingham, about an hour from his home-

AP PHOTO



Deontay Wilder throws a left at Chris Arreola during the WBC heavyweight title boxing bout on July 16

town of Tuscaloosa

Arreola (36-5-1) took the fight on short notice after Wilder's mandatory defense against Russian Alexander Povetkin was called off in May. Povetkin failed a drug test.

Arreola said he never realized Wilder was injured.

"I just thought he didn't throw the right hand because I was just waiting for it," he said. "That was the last thing on my mind, whether he hurt his arm or not."

Wilder wobbled Arreola with a right hand then knocked him down with a barrage late in the fourth. He had Arreola off-balance on the ropes when the round ended.

With his right hand mostly out of commission, Wilder appeared to hurt Arreola again with a left in the final seconds of the seventh. Wilder also broke his right hand in winning the title against Bermane Stiverne in January 2015 and had surgery.

He had a wound on his right elbow going into the fight, and it was bleeding by the end in addition to his more serious injuries. Trainer Jay Deas said Wilder hurt it doing yard work and that it didn't affect him in the fight.

"I wanted to give you guys a knockout, but I broke my hand and I tore a muscle in my right hand," Wilder told the crowd of

nearly 12,000. "I couldn't show it, because Chris is a tough, tough man. I had to fight like a champion, like a champion [does] and use my jab all night."

Wilder connected on 152 of 346 punches (43.9 percent). Arreola landed only once in the first round and connected on 52 of 188 (27.7 percent).

"He beat me with that jab, that strong jab, that smart jab," said Arreola, who also had seven stitches to repair an early cut over his right eye. "I couldn't figure him out, very simple."

Wilder had to go looking for another opponent after his May fight with the WBC mandatory challenger Povetkin in Russia

fell through. Povetkin tested positive for the banned substance meldonium.

Wilder has filed suit seeking at least USD5 million in damages after losing that \$4,369,000 payday plus a potential bonus for a victory. He settled for some \$3 million less (\$1.4 million) for the fight with Arreola, calling him the perfect opponent because of his heart and toughness.

Arreola indeed withstood a barrage and landed some body shots at times after getting Wilder against the ropes. At least twice, Wilder made a gesture with his hips while absorbing those punches. **AP**

OLYMPICS

# Head of Rio Games: Golfers skip because no money involved

Stephen Wade, Rio de Janeiro

**T**HE head of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics says the world's top four male golfers have withdrawn from the games because there is no money to be won — not because of the Zika virus.

"They tried to blame Zika, but the media have shown that they are not coming because there's no prize money," Rio organizing committee President Carlos Nuzman said Saturday, speaking

with the games set to open in just under three weeks.

Jordan Spieth was the last of the top four to withdraw from the Olympics, citing health concerns and other matter he said were personal. Jason Day, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy said Zika was the main reason for skipping the first Olympic golf tournament in 112 years.

Their absence could be a setback for golf's future in the Olympics. IOC Pre-

sident Thomas Bach has said that golf's future may rest on its ability to get top players to show up.

Golf is guaranteed a spot in the Tokyo Olympics in four years, but could be vulnerable after that.

"Zika is much worse in Florida than in Brazil, and golfers are playing in Florida," Nuzman said.

Male golfers have also cited security worries, and some have complained that Olympic golf has been wedged into an already crowded tour sche-

dule.

Rio has myriad Olympic problems: Zika, security concerns, severe water pollution and sluggish ticket sales.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes warned in the wake of the attack Thursday in Nice, France, that fans in Rio could face more checks, more roadblocks and more delays.

"Probably the security forces are going to demand more blockades, more inconvenient things," Paes said.

Nuzman, speaking at a debate sponsored by a local magazine, seemed to be bracing for small crowds at some Olympic venues. Organizers says about 70 percent of tickets have been sold.

"I don't think we need too much public," he said, adding that smaller venues could save money.

"Television does an extraordinary job, with cameras everywhere," he added. "Nobody can walk a step without a camera filming it."

Nuzman also said he expected Rio's suspended drug-testing lab to be ready when the games open Aug. 5. He expected the World Anti-Doping Agency to give its approval in a few days.

The suspension has been an embarrassment for local organizers and a headache for the International Olympic Committee, which could be forced to send blood and urine samples abroad for testing if the lab remains closed. **AP**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



PANDORA'S BOX

We have to admit that as far as symbols go, Pandora's Box - a million problems caused by an unwise interference that is hard to forestall - is combative and unsuitable. But it is the best tool to hand while trying to pen commentary on the so-called revision of the Land Law.

The frontrunner promoting the revision of the 2014 law - rather an appendix interpretation to the bill that sailed smoothly, unopposed and unquestioned three years ago, and yes, it was then a hot August - is none other than Gabriel Tong. This is the stuff of paradoxes, not to say absurd theater, since Gabriel is a Chief Executive Chui Sai On-appointed lawmaker, the head of Law Department at UMAC and a partner at a law firm.

Gabriel is now kind of complaining that the Legislative Assembly rubber-stamped the Land Bill that the government put up to discussion and cast their final vote on, without any debate or anything remotely deserving that name, or even enough public consultation. That means he is complaining about himself.

Indirectly elected lawmaker, Leonel Alves, quoted by Portuguese daily Hoje Macau, who also makes the case for the proposal Gabriel puts forward, spoke about a deafening silence over any assessment of how the proposed amendment to the Land Law would impact the realm of the land concessions.

To simplify a very complex issue, allow us to say that the new bill will end the ability to renew a concession that has been in place for 25 years; when a project fails completion within the legal period, the government can reclaim the idle plot. Legislators and lawyers supporting the amendment of the new Land Law are unhappy with how the MSAR government has been conducting the repossession process and argue that the government is to blame for the non-development of some areas.

Regardless of how the different players are addressing the amendment to the 2014 Land Law - yes, some even spoke of public interest - this time they are hamstrung. Actually, the new bill came silently, like it was already blessed from above, but it was supposed to make a roar and frighten the groups of people operating under the old system. The new bill is a challenge to the practices that have made giants of Macau Real Estate builders and developers; the long-term set-aside system. They have a concession, they keep it undeveloped, and before the concession expires, they apply for renewal, making the system a non-rotational one. On the other hand, the new Land Law Bill, as lawmaker Pereira Coutinho wisely observed, albeit pointing to courts to clarify any issue arising from the repossession drive, is also a challenge at the litigation level... that is to say to the lawyers and the courts. Improving the administrative transparency of land management is the answer!

Pereira Coutinho is not alone, now. Besides the New Hope ticket fellow, Leong Veng Chai, and the New Macau democratic duo, Lam Heong Sang, AL vice-president placed there by the powerful and conservative Workers Federation, announced that FAOM supports the Land Law as it is today and the repossession of idle plots. Lam took the opportunity to warn about that Pandora's Box, perhaps unaware that lobbyist and former lawmaker Ung Choi Kun and others would open it when trying to raise any hypothetical contradiction between the existing Land Law and the Basic Law.

In this time of puns, we would say thou shall not mistake the spirit of the law with spirited law.

We offer a final illustration of our thesis of the non-court path or prevalence of administrative processes: the CCAC report on the Lec Long Firecracker Factory land imbroglio and the subsequent Executive Order. And that fabulous idea from Hong Kong Urban Exploration (Urbex) of shooting inside the vacant Estoril Casino and an old joke: old lawyers never die, they just lose their appeal!

THE BUZZ CHINA: EIGHT KILLED AFTER CONSTRUCTION ELEVATOR FALLS

Eight people in an eastern Chinese city were killed when the construction elevator they were in plummeted from an apartment building, the local government said yesterday.

The Longkou city government in Shandong province said on its official microblog page that the elevator fell from the 18th story of the building under construction.

Eight people who were in the elevator when it fell Friday were immediately taken to hospitals but none survived, the government said.

Despite improvements in recent years, work safety remains a problem in China, where regulations are routinely ignored and cost-cutting by management often lead to accidents.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

HK, Macau investors victims of property fraud in UK



BLOOMBERG

A Hong Kong lawmaker on Saturday urged the UK consulate to intervene in the property fraud scams that have allegedly victimized nearly 300 buyers, including investors from Hong Kong and Macau.

Democratic party lawmaker James To Kun-sun handed a letter to a representative at

the UK consulate on behalf of the over 150 buyers from Hong Kong and Macau.

Some 20 victims of the fraud held a demonstration in front of the consulate in the HKSAR.

South China Morning Post reported that most of the buyers acquired property through Hong Kong-based property agents and paid a

deposit of at least 50 percent of the unit price.

Most investors purchased property, mostly flats, in over 10 different projects in the UK over the past few years.

"Our main aim is to draw attention to the fact that there are serious fraud cases involving UK property, in which Hong Kong people have been victims over the past years," said To.

Although buyers have reported their cases to several responsible authorities, they have yet to find out how they can recover their investments.

"If these scams continue without proper investigation and rectification, the UK's reputation at large would be at stake also," added the lawmaker.

Another inmate dies of unknown causes at Coloane Prison

A 42-year-old inmate died on Friday evening at Macau's Public Hospital (CHCSJ) after being transported there by the Coloane Prison services on the previous day, the Correctional Service Bureau (DSC) announced in a statement on Saturday.

According to the statement, the detainee, a Macau resident who was serving a 15-month sentence starting from November 2015 for serious offences of physical assault, had a medical history of multiple health problems.

The same report states that the detainee had presented signs of cardiac arrhythmia on Thursday and was subsequently transported to the CHCSJ where he received cardiac treatment that was ultimately unsuccessful.

The cause of his death was still being investigated by the hospital.

This is the second death among inmates at the Coloane Prison, after on June 15 another detainee passed away, also due to unknown causes. RM

WORLD BRIEFS

**PAKISTAN** The brother of slain Pakistani model Qandeel Baloch confessed to strangling her to death for "family honor" because she posted "shameful" pictures on Facebook.

**INDIA** At least 19 people died and six others were blinded after drinking toxic bootleg liquor in northern India, police said yesterday. Another 50 people fell ill after consuming the home-brewed liquor on Friday and were being treated in hospitals in Etah district in Uttar Pradesh state.



AP PHOTO

**FRANCE** Colombian rider Jarlinson Pantano won the brutal 15th stage of the Tour de France through the Jura mountains after a long breakaway yesterday. Pantano outsprinted Polish rider Rafal Majka to the finish line in Culoz. On a day featuring hardly any flat stretches, there were plenty of attacks but only a few skirmishes between the main contenders.

**SOUTH SUDANESE** security forces are preventing people from leaving the East African nation after fighting that began July 7 between rival armed groups loyal to President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, Amnesty International said.

**ARMENIA** Armed supporters of a jailed opposition leader attacked a police station in Armenia's capital yesterday, killing one officer, wounding two and taking several others hostage, the National Security Service said. The attackers demanded the release of Jirair Sefilian, who was arrested last month, and called for the ouster of the government.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Du Huaju



The scenery of the wetland of Dajiu Lake in the Shennongjia Forestry District, central China's Hubei Province. The 40th session of the World Heritage Committee yesterday decided to put China's Hubei Shennongjia on the World Heritage List as a natural site, bringing to 50 the number of listed Chinese sites.