Macau, HK strengthen trade cooperation

Turkish government cracks down after coup try; 6,000 detained
Bastille Day celebrations in Macau marred by shockwaves of Nice attack

The 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.

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 countries 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 these French citizens residing here.”

The director of the Alliance Française de Macao (AF), Xavier Garnier, told the TDM 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 day; 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 tragic 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, it is international. 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 solidarity today, as Nice is one of the safest cities in the world. I think the location was chosen to get international impact.”

In 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 76 of them were light cars.

Forty six vehicles were towed to a temporary governmental storage space by the police, DSAT or the parking lot’s management company. Twenty two saw their registration canceled or were re-registered to the government. The remaining eight cars are currently under treatment processes.

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.

Handover exhibition hall to be shown in Guangxi

Shi Wan Shan Q 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 Xio. The whole project sits between 329 to 375 meters above sea level, and it occupies an area of 340,000 square meters at Fung Chong 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 through a window, and filmed by the suspects. The victim was taken by the suspects in the NAPE area, and then offered encouragement the victim to gamble. The victim, however, called her lawyer and was taken to the police station. The PJ have arrested two men for the illegal detention.

In Guangxi, to be shown in exhibition hall are ready to welcome visitors. In 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 76 of them were light cars.

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Launched 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 business and local enterprises’ 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.

Experts 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 drop to the construction of the bridge.

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Loss of white dolphins due to bridge, according to experts

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Lee also mentioned that the impending construction of the airport’s third runway will see more sea vessel traffic and underwater 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.
ARTS
Swan Lake coming to Macau

THE 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.

In reviewing the performance, Paris’s Danse Magazine wrote, “The St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre is bringing the ballet sensation to Macau. In performing the company of the St. Petersburg 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.”

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 MOP$40,000 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 (MoU) 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 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.
New Macau urges MP to investigate Iec Long case

Renato Marques

SULU 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 president 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 DSSGPT.” 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].”

Basic Law is being used to limit lawmakers’ powers

Ng 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

THE 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 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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The Manhattan, Taipa  
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1,790sq ft. HK$ 17,000  

Tou Un – Taipa  
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500sq ft. HK$ 8,300  
Furnished one bedroom apartment in quiet location in Taipa. Recently renovated, lovely decor and furnishings. Open plan kitchen inclusive of electrical appliances. Lovely green views.

Coloane Village  
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This beautiful furnished 2 bedroom apartment in quiet Coloane Village, renovated and refurbished couple of years ago. The project was designed and managed by our in-house Design Team, and has been finished with amazing attention to detail and high quality materials. A lovely bright apartment with green views from all rooms. Close to cafes, restaurants, post office, and public transport.

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One Central, Tower 7, Unit E  
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TRADE

HK and Macau sign CEPA to strengthen cooperation

THE ninth Hong Kong-Macao 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-Macao CEPA) during the meeting, according to a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, reflected the HK-Macao CEPA as beneficial to the liberalization 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 regional cooperation.

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

AGNES LAM

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-Macao CEPA by the end of this year.

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-Macao 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-Macao 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.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY ROUNDTABLE

‘Right now we don’t really have an energy policy’

Daniel Beitler

A new energy 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 panellist, 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 is 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 president of Macau Green Student Union. "The government’s strategy 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 utilise 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 two other speakers aside from Chen and Lam, also planned to discuss the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant.

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

AGNES LAM

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 reason 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 so 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 argue that's the purpose," she said. "Not to con-fiscate their land but [...] ensure that it is used for the public in-terest and not anything else."
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Discount
jumps most since 2012 on Adama
stake sale to ChemChina

Justin Bachman

**Discount** 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 590 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**

**During** 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 overcapacity means 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 USD9.4 billion.

Similar moves may come from rivals American Airlines Group Inc. and United Continental Holdings Inc., which are also striving to reverse sliding 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 airlines stocks this year, with the Bloomberg U.S. Airlines Index down 14 percent in 2016. Analysts have adopted a we’ll-believe-it-when-we-see-it stance on when passenger revenue 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 businesses 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 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 an impact on revenue typically takes nine months.

Another factor is the re-emergence of the oil sector. 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 code to rival carriers.

“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 $3.7 billion before tax in 2015, with billions of dollars more expected across the industry this year.

“I realize the [revenue] number has 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’**

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 cultural and historical heritage, MGM Macau has prepared several activities for the “Changzhou Student Study Tour to Macau” participants.

Organized by Changzhou Municipal Tourism Bureau and China Diaoysu Travel (Macau) Co Ltd, MGM has prepared various arts, 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.
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 calculated her pay at about USD 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

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.

This photo provided by the Washington County Jail shows Lili Huang. The Dec. 20 landslide destroyed 53 buildings and resulted in “dire economic losses” of USD 32 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 bea-}

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 people said in late May when it became clear that Viacom’s controlling shareholder, the Redstone family, is looking for a buyer, the search engine giant was considering a bid for a stake in Paramount.

Rights groups say the activists are being targeted for organizing protests and social media campaigns 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. AP

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. AP

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 sovereign debt rose. Banks’ nonperforming loans climbed to 4.41 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 leaders to raise capital to enhance their loan-absorbing and risk-management ability.

Chin a’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 53 buildings and resulted in “dire economic losses” of

Cities’ expansion plans could house 3.46b people

New areas planned by China’s small cities could accommodate 3.46 billion people by 2020 - beyond 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.

This photo provided by the Washington County Jail shows Lili Huang.

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This photo provided by the Washington County Jail shows Lili Huang.
CHINA'S economic growth held steady in the most recent quarter, suggesting policies meant to counter the slowdown in the world's second-largest 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.

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

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."

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.

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The 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 China Sea are "China's inherent territory."

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Top US Navy admiral to visit Beijing, discuss South China Sea
Bangladesh stops open defecation in just over a decade

Julhas Alam

ANSWERING nature’s call was once a nightmare for Rashida Begum, who had to creep around the jungle for a suitable 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 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 $1,334 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 diarrhoea, 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 nighttime 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 Sarkar, 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 businesspeople cropping up in 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.

“You will now not find a house 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.
India
Family of man killed by mob accused of cow slaughter

Biswajeet Banerjee

Nearly 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 Mohammad 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.

India make up more than 80 percent of India's population of 1.25 billion, and many have hailed 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

Dzens 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
France calls up reservist forces after deadly Nice rampage

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 ploughed through a terrified seaside crowd on Bastille Day, leaving 84 people dead and more than 200 wounded.

Witnesses described how Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, 31, who lived in Msaken, Tunisia, took his delivery truck and turned a celebration into a dash for survival.

The truck bore down toward the seafront as the crowd scattered, people leaping to the beach below to escape. It killed 84 people and left 200 injured.

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 had been depressed and taking antidepressant medication to calm fits of anger. He was not religious, neither praying nor fasting during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month, and was "always alone."

Mohamed Monther Lahouaiej Bouhlel said his son had not been home for four years.

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 intelligence services. France has known for almost a decade of various threats and the role that it is a top Islamic State target.

Two Scots were among 17 foreigners killed and food stalls or strolls to their hotels beside the Mediterranean. One 18-month-old daughter. 12-year-old Noemi, to safety.

"I threw him in the direction of the sea," said Erbs, who broke seven ribs as he tried 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," Coates added.

Colleen Barry, Lori Hinnant
Turks rally to defend democracy, govt seeks coup suspects

Dominiqwe Soguel, Suzan Fraser

CHARTING, dancing and waving flags, tens of thousands of Turks marched through the streets into the wee hours of yesterday in a dozen cities to defend democracy and support the country’s long-time leader after a failed military coup shook 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 52 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 Washington 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 retreating.

The unrest claimed at least 265 lives, according to a tally compiled from official statements. Yildirim said 161 people were killed and 1,440 wounded in the process of putting down the coup attempt, while Gen. Umit Dundar 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 Ankara 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 draped 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 Atatürk 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 government. 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 Saylorburg, 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 states 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 1997.
Haitians trek to sacred waterfalls in Voodoo 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 French 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 three-day festival.

There were no shortage of younger Haitians who came to put their sickness in the water and gain fresh luck, said Dieudeaue Beauvil, who says she’s been struggling with a mysterious malady.

Some shook spastically when the spirits overtook them.

“The voice called me to bathe and I heard it,” said a woman who wasΚαθιστικό άνευ ραντεβού με την γυναίκα της στην οικία της. Το κοίτη ήταν στο προσκόπτη της, και στη συνέχεια, η γυναίκα της καθιστικά επέβαλε στον αντίκτυπο της εναντίον της νεολαίας. Έτσι, το κοίτη αποτελούσε ένα σημαντικό μέρος της συνέχειας της νεολαίας.

Translation:

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: free
Enquiries: (853) 2871 8063

Offbeat

Haitians trek to sacred waterfalls in Voodoo festival

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YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If only projects could be all about pleasure. But unfortunately, those pesky legal details need to be taken into consideration. Spend the day going over the official documents, if only to ease your mind.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Loose ends have needed tying up for too long. Nothing kills a mood like something hanging over your head. If you want to feel good, you’ll have to finish a few projects.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Working hard and enjoying your days are a great combination. Others will agree with you, but not if your home life is going beyond your control. Use your hobbies to good use and avoid the call.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Ah, you can finally breathe some life into your romance. The office can only benefit from that kind of balance, so let yourself enjoy.

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, though, not doing any prep work for the office.

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. Figure them out and kill two birds with one stone.

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. Better yet, lock in the time with a colleague during the week. That might make it less dull and dreary.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
With too much to do you’ll be tempted to go into the office. But that would really ruin your domestic boat. Take it into consideration when deciding whether or not to take on any new projects.

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. That way you can focus lots of energy on work of a different sort.

Scorpio
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
It’s surprisingly hard to enjoy the day today. Your private life requires more patience than work does, for some reason. Don’t let this passing phase make you wish you were in the office.

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

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom

I NEED SOMEONE I CAN TRUST TO KEEP THINGS ON TRACK AROUND HERE. WHEN I FLY TO THE COAST

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

Beijing 22 32 cloudy
Harbin 16 28 cloudy
Tianjin 24 32 cloudy
Urumqi 22 32 clear
X’an 23 30 overcast/drizzle
Lhasa 12 24 shower/cloudy
Chengdu 22 29 drizzle/heavy rain
Kunming 18 25 shower
Nanjing 24 31 thunderstorm/cloudy
Shanghai 26 32 cloudy/thunderstorm
Wuhan 25 31 drizzle/moderate rain
Hangzhou 25 31 overcast/shower
Taipei 26 31 drizzle
Guangzhou 27 35 clear
Hong Kong 29 33 cloudy

WORLD

Moscow 18 27 cloudy/moderate rain
Frankfurt 17 27 cloudy
Paris 15 29 clear
London 14 22 clear
New York 22 33 clear

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

Custodians
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against
Corruption (CCAC) 2830 600
IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS:
1. Destroy hearing; 7. Wedding words; 10. Let’s just leave ___ that;
27. As before; 28. 1980s movie starring Bae Doo-na and Kim Hee-ae; 35. Lemur’s lament;
42. Chandler’s main man; 46. Lithium’s lighter; 47. Subject of no one’s interest;
48. Seaport on San Francisco Bay; 49. Guess, response; 49. Part of the Holy Trinity;
47. Hoop’s former team; 50. Drugging out of ___; 51. Drawing ___ 52-54. Past
where animals drink; 56. Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 57. Get there; 58. ___;
59. Muslim ref. 60. Three-player card game; 63. Great point; 64. Writing’s original
form; 65. Tortoise’s rival; 66. ___; 67. Fashions;

DOWN:
1. Morse symbol; 2. “Eat Women” band; 2. From ___ 2. ___; 2. Ten plus two;
29. Not rough; 34. Singer Khan; 35. Synthas; 36. Pappy’s Restaurant; 36. ___;
38. Flavor; 39. Swell; 40. Swagger; 41. Airport; 42. ___; 43. ___;
44. Utero; 45. ___; 46. ___; 47. ___; 48. ___;
50. ___; 51. ___; 52. Humble word; 53. ___; 54. ___; 55. ___;
56. ___; 57. ___; 58. ___; 59. ___; 60. ___; 61. ___.
AROUND VIEW MONITOR
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ESPERTE fighting mostly one-armed for half the fight, 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 in 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 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 bicep. 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 Furys, 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-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.

Head of Rio Games: Golfers skip because no money involved

Stephen Wade, Rio de Janeiro

THE head of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics says the world’s top male golfers have withdrawn from the games because there’s no money to be won — not because of the Zika virus.

“They tried to blame Zika, but no more money to be won — not because of the Zika virus,” said Nuzman, speaking at a debate sponsored by a local magazine, seemed to be bracing for small crowds at some Olympic venues. Organizers say about 70 percent of tickets have been sold.

“I don’t think we need television 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
**HK, Macau investors victims of property fraud in UK**

Hong Kong lawmaker Alex Lam 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 Kin-san 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 HSBA.

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.

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 hammering. Actually, the new bill came silently, like it was already blessed from above, but it was supposed to make a roar and frighten the government operating under the old system.

The new bill is a challenge to the professionals who have made giants of Macau Real Estate builders and developers; the leg- long-term set-aside system. They have a concession, they keep it undeveloped, and before the concession expires, they apply for renewal, making the sys- tem a non-rotation 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 legislative 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 former lawmaker Ung Choi Kun and others, there are serious fraud cases invol-

**CHINA: EIGHT KILLED AFTER CONSTRUCTION ELEVATOR FALLS**

Eight people were 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 hos- pitals but none survived, the government said.

Despite improvements in recent years, work regulations remain a problem in China, where reg- ulations are routinely ignored and cost-cut- ting by management often lead to accidents.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

The scenery of the wetland of Daju Lake in the Shennongjia Forest 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 Chinese sites.