



### PORTUGUESE SUMMER COURSE MORE POPULAR

The Portuguese Language Summer Course of the UM kicked off with over 100 students more than in last year's edition.

P2



### GRAND PRIX BUDGET REMAINS UNCHANGED

P5



### BEIJING ANNOUNCES SOUTH CHINA SEA DRILL

The area where this week's Chinese naval exercises are being held is not considered a particular hotspot.

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## WORLD BRIEFS



**CHINA** is sending 416 athletes in total to the Rio de Janeiro Games, including 35 former Olympic champions. China's team includes 160 men and 256 women, who will compete in 210 events across 26 sports. Cai Zhenhua, deputy director of the General Administration of Sport, was quoted by state media as saying the delegation, including coaches and other staff, will be its largest ever at 711. Among them will be 29 coaches hired from overseas.



**THE PHILIPPINES'** crime-fighting president says he plans to ask Chinese officials why some Chinese citizens who visit his country are allegedly involved in illegal drugs. President Rodrigo Duterte also said that he would not hesitate to grant presidential pardons to law enforcers accused by human rights advocates of abusing their authority in cracking down on narcotics, as long as the soldiers and police involved tell the truth and do not fabricate evidence. *More on p12*

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# Latest investment scheme to go bust

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RENATO MARQUES



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Renato Marques

CRIME | 53 PEOPLE COMPLAIN

# Another local investment scheme goes bust

A group of 53 people have lodged a complaint to the Judiciary Police (PJ) after they failed to get back the money they deposited in an investment scheme. The case is similar to others that have been occurring recently in Macau.

The PJ stated in a press conference held yesterday that the group, composed by a large majority of local residents (48) and five citizens from mainland China, claims to have been part of a money investment scheme with a high return interest rate since 2014. Suddenly this month the scheme went bust as the regular bank cheque they used to receive every month bounced back.

The identity of the company that operated the scheme has

not been disclosed by the police. However, TDM reported that it is a local firm that operates two restaurants, a beauty salon and a gallery close to the St. Paul's Ruins.

The group of complainants informed the police they had been depositing large sums of money in this investment company in exchange for high interest rates for the past two years until suddenly and without any notice, the company closed earlier this

month. The group of 53 investors were left without any contact with the people in charge of the troubled company and with losses that, for the time being, reach HKD56.5 million.

The case is currently under investigation and the police force predicted that in the next few days more members of the group of investors might reveal themselves, increasing the list of deceived people as well as the sums involved.

Business scams are apparently gaining momentum as in a separate case also reported by PJ, a mainland China resident currently working in the territory also claimed to have been the victim of a scam.

The victim wanted to open an "online shop" and requested help from people she met on the Internet. According to the victim's report to PJ, she managed to open the shop with the help of these people to whom she eventually requested help once more, this time

to promote the shop in order to get more exposure and reach more potential costumers.

The suspects this time requested from the victim an initial payment of RMB7,000 and afterwards an additional payment of RMB19,900. After these sums had been paid no work or results were presented to the victim and she felt she had been tricked and so lodged a complaint to the PJ regarding the loss of RMB26,900 (approximately MOP32,000).

## Taxi driver accused of extortion by client

A taxi driver has been accused by a client of an extortion attempt over a dispute regarding a lost mobile phone, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) informed.

According to the report from the police force, the victim took a taxi on July 14 around 8.15 p.m. from a hotel in the ZAPE area to another hotel in Cotai.

Arriving at the destination and after the taxi left, the man noticed that his mobile phone was missing and promptly used his wife's phone to call his own phone.

From the other side of the line, the taxi driver

answered the phone call informing that he had found the phone but also saying that if the victim wanted to have his mobile phone back he had to give him the sum of HKD1,500 as compensation.

After some discussion the victim accepted, requesting the taxi driver to drive back to the hotel's drop-off zone. In the meanwhile, he searched for help telling the story to a PSP officer on duty at the hotel door.

When the taxi driver arrived, the police officer witnessed the conversation between the parties, which led to the tentative arrest of the driver based on the accusation of the victim.

### COUPLE PROMISED HOTEL ROOM AND GAMING CHIPS DEAL

A CASE of swindling has reportedly occurred at a hotel in the ZAPE area in the early hours of yesterday after a mainland couple met a man through a friend at the hotel's lobby. The suspect offered services; to get the couple a room to stay and to exchange their money into gaming chips with benefits to them. The couple then handed the suspect a

sum of HKD456,000 and in return were requested to wait for him in the lobby for about 30 minutes while he made the necessary arrangements on their behalf. After a long time, the couple tried to reach the suspect via phone calls but he stopped replying to their calls and they decided to lodge a formal complaint to the PJ.

## EDUCATION

# Portuguese summer course attracts nearly 400 participants

Lynzy Valles

THE 30th edition of the Portuguese Language Summer Course of the University of Macau commenced yesterday with 388 participants, over a hundred students more than in last year's edition.

This year, the program is divided into five language-teaching levels, from basic to advanced levels and has also launched a Portuguese-Chinese translation course.

According to one of the program coordinators, Ricardo Moutinho, two new activities will be included in the three-week event such as the study

of Macau's history and a "Fitness activity."

"Students have the opportunity to learn new [vocations] that they will have not learned inside the classroom," he told the Times.

"They will have opportunities to develop not only in the institution's space but [also in] other spaces, where they can develop [speaking and listening] capacities in Portuguese."

Aside from lectures, students would also be involved in extra-curricular activities and cultural visits to sites in Macau.

The 30th edition of the summer course attracted students from Macau, mainland China, Australia,



lia, the United Kingdom, the U.S., South Korea, Thailand and East Timor.

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Hong Gang Jin, said the

program also aims to develop skills and abilities such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

"Learning in different

formats, lectures, small group activities, hands on projects [...] are the best way to learn a foreign language, as well as to develop global skills," she added.

Meanwhile, Pasko Ho, a participant of the course told the Times that the program would offer him more knowledge about the university and Lusophone countries.

"I'm going to study at UM this coming August so that's why I want to come here," said Ho. "I think there are a lot of different students from other countries [...] and I could [also] learn from them."

Although several students attend the course to speak the language proficiently, some students are just keen on being immersed in Portuguese culture while learning the language at the institution.

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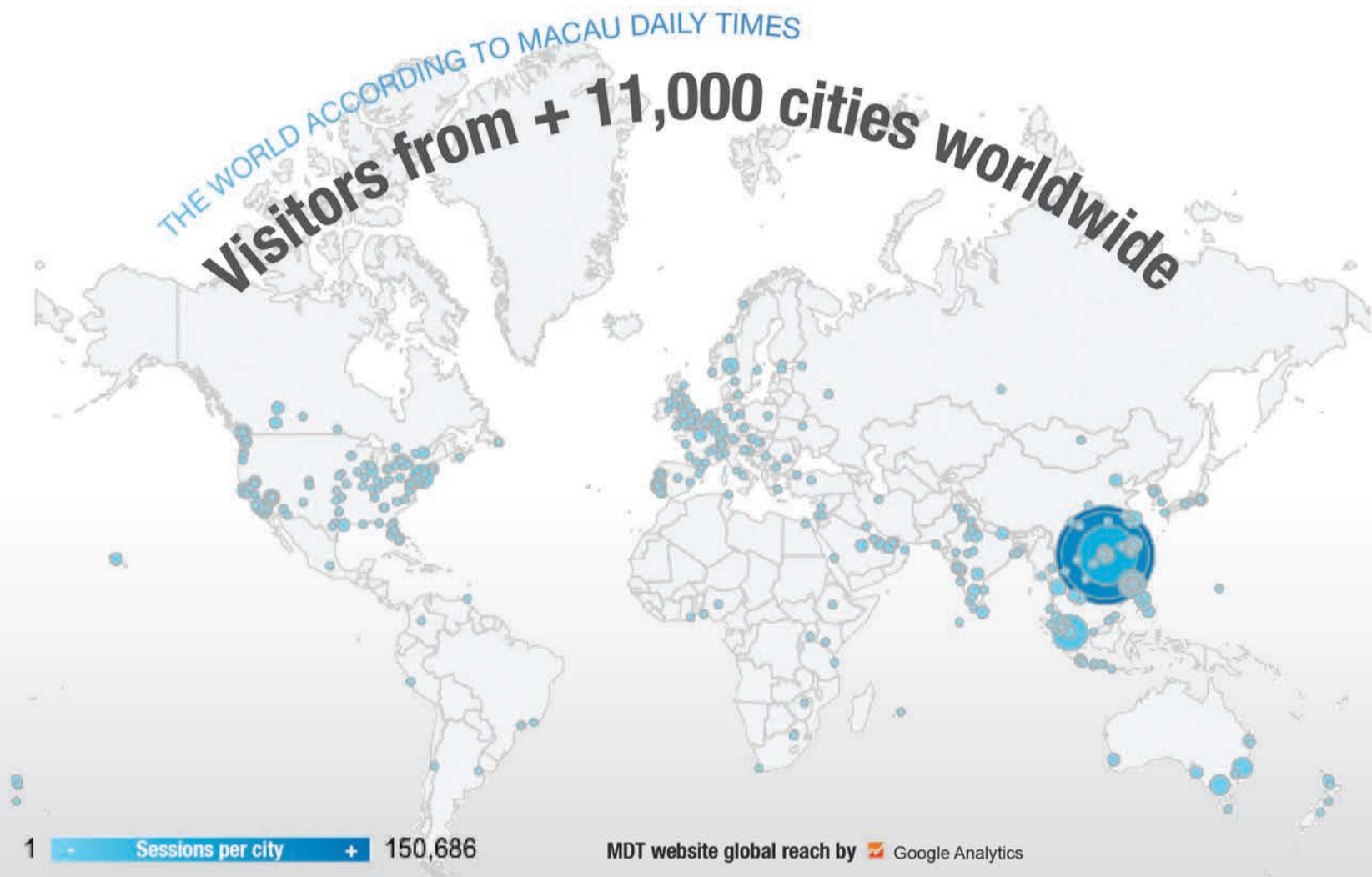
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TOURISM

# IFT survey shows improvement in tourist satisfaction

**T**HE Macau Tourist Satisfaction Index report for the first quarter of 2016 was released last week by the Tourism Research Center of the Institute of Tourism Studies (IFT), showing an improvement in tourist satisfaction.

The report showed that the overall tourism satisfaction score, which in the previous quarter fell to its second lowest point since the survey began in 2009, has made a recovery.

The overall score has recovered to 69.6 out of the maximum 100 points, up from 67.8 in the fourth quarter of 2015.

According to the report, the overall score is a composite rating of ten tourism-related sectors in the city, namely casinos, events, heritage attractions, non-heritage attractions, hotels, restaurants, retail, transportation, tour guide services and immigration services.

In the first quarter survey, events scored the most favorably in terms of satisfaction at 78.9 points, while heritage attractions brought down the average, scoring just 63.6 out of 100.



The survey also sheds some light on the purpose of tourists in visiting the MSAR. Among the popular reasons were shopping (25.9 percent), cuisine (25.3 percent) and World Heritage attractions (18.4 percent). Meanwhile, gaming only accounted for about 10 percent.

The total number of respondents in the first quarter survey was 1,067 with the vast majority coming from the greater China region. By area, those from mainland China, Hong

Kong and Taiwan amounted to 68.5 percent, 22.9 percent and 5.5 percent respectively.

Additionally, most visitors from Hong Kong and more than half from mainland China were not first-time visitors, while most of the tourists from overseas indicated that this was their first visit to Macau.

More than nine in every 10 tourists surveyed said that they visited Macau as individual travelers, while the remaining 9.3 percent said that they were part of a tour group.

# Front line civil servants are protected, SAFP claims

**T**HE Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP) has denied a report published in a local newspaper, claiming that the front line civil servants who were victims of assault while performing their duties had to pay the expenses related to their care.

According to the statement from SAFP, there are several measures to ensure front line workers' safety while carrying out their work. "When facing situations of non-cooperation or violence that could constitute a crime against civil servants, they may request an immediate support from the police," the statement explains. "If a frontline worker is implicated in a legal action while in the performance of his duties he may also solicit judiciary support."

The bureau also reaffirmed that "in the event of



an incident or accident in the performance of their duties which results in physical damages to the employee, he or she is granted access to health care under the law."

SAFP also recalled that in relation to civil or criminal proceedings initiated by frontline workers based on threats or injuries suffered while working, "the Macau SAR government has also proposed a new measure aiming to attribute legal aid to the civil servants. The proposal was later suspended as a result of unfavorable opinions arising from society."

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Renato Marques

# Grand Prix budget remains unchanged at MOP200 million

**T**HE 63rd edition of the Macau Grand Prix will receive more financial support from its title sponsor. In a ceremony held at Macau Tower, it was announced that the total budget of about MOP200 million (similar to the one of the previous edition) will see an increase of the sponsor's participation to MOP20million (six million more than in 2015).

For the third consecutive year, the Suncity Group will be the title sponsor of the region's biggest sporting event. The agreement was signed during the ceremony by Suncity group's CEO, Alvin Chau and the president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun. The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and president of the new Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee, Alexis Tam, was also part of the ceremony.

"We will once again combine our abundant local tourism and cultural resources with the event to bring a versatile sport-travel experience to local residents, visitors and fans all over the world," said the ID president Pun Weng Kun.

Suncity Group's Alvin Chau expressed hopes that this Grand



Alvin Chau (center left) and Pun Weng Kun (center right)

Prix edition will be the most remarkable one, adding that the junket operator "is committed to continue to sponsor local sports and cultural activities."

Questioned by the media on the sidelines of the agreement signing ceremony, regarding the possible influence of the current downturn of VIP gaming in terms of participation in and sponsorship of local racers and support for races, Pun said: "I think there is still a good environment. There are no major

changes. According to our experience and information from the participants I think [the number of participants] will not be affected."

The organizing committee is still working on the race program and according to Pun "there are no major differences; the program will be basically the same," adding that the organization hopes to "elevate the Formula 3 race to an even higher level."

Questioned by the Times regarding

any other activities that could bring more people to the event, Pun said the bigger priority of the new committee this year was regarding the promotion of the event during other sports events.

"The ID has been promoting the Grand Prix in several other sports activities. For example during the Volleyball Championship and in other sports events that we will have soon where we could disclose information about the Grand Prix," the ID president concluded.

According to last year's figures, the Grand Prix recorded a revenue record of MOP53million and was attended by over 80,000 spectators.

In order to break those records, many promotional events, with the collaboration of the Macau Government Tourism Office, in mainland China, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, France and the USA as well as in Shenyang, Zhaoqing, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Nanjing have been held from April and will run until October.

## Foreign reserves up in June



The Monetary Authority of Macao announced yesterday that the preliminary estimate of the MSAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP151.3 billion at the end of June 2016. The reserves were up by 0.6 percent from the revised figure of MOP150.4 billion for the previous month. The foreign exchange reserves at the end of last month represented 12 times the currency in circulation. Meanwhile the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the MOP rose by 0.15 points month-to-month and 1.52 points year-on-year to 105.51 in June 2016, implying that overall, the MOP appreciated against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.

## Nanny association aims to promote infant care

The Macao Nanny Association has recently been inaugurated, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The association expects to offer a communication platform for all nannies in the city, as well to provide professional training courses. It will hire nutritionists, Chinese medicine doctors and professional nannies with significant experience to be consultants within the organization. The association claims that as technology and the internet develops, the online dissemination of information about infant care cannot be trusted. According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), 7,055 babies were born in 2015, while in 2014 that number was 7,360.

## Thirty 24-hour mail collecting boxes to be available from August

Starting from August, local company Sposter will launch a service of 30 mail collection boxes in Macau. All boxes are expected to be in operation within the current year. Sposter will provide a 24-hour service, as opposed to the inconvenient mail pickup from mail collectors. Currently, a few people work as couriers in both Zhuhai and Macau, collecting packages for people who are living in Macau and have placed orders from mainland shopping websites. For the package owners, picking up their belongings from collectors causes troubles and requires some time to do it. The company claims that Sposter will make the pickup more convenient.



## Opposition mounts over proposed Macau-Taipa tunnels

Information says that each tunnel will be 1,200 meters long, comprising at least two lanes, one in the direction of Macau and the other to Taipa. Three proposals have been made regarding the project design, either featuring a tunnel on each side of the bridge or both tunnels on the same side.

Professor Sio In Way, visiting professor at the University of Macau, hopes the government can "think over and over again" about the connection of both sides of Macau via tunnels. In Sio's opinion, the geographical conditions around the old bridge are peculiar, whereby excavating the tunnels will be a highly difficult task, not only spawning a long construction period but also incurring tremendous costs.

According to a Macao Daily News report, Sio is familiar with the soil and the geography of the place since he was involved in construction plans of several local property projects, including ones concerning large casino entities. The scholar said that the river bed under the bridge is shallow and

only a few meters deep and that the first 20 meters of soil under the sea are made up of soft mud. Further below the soil, is a mixture of 30 meters of alluvium and original soil. Layers of rocks can only be found by going deeper, he said.

The facts stated above are considered by Sio to pose serious challenges when building the tunnels in the sense that in order to carry out the excavation it will be necessary to get through all the mud and soils until the layer of rocks is reached. Sio even mentioned that a past similar project in Hong Kong took the city more than ten years to finish. He also suggested that the city should consider building bridges instead of tunnels, because building a bridge, relatively speaking, is easier and takes less time and less money. He believes that building a bridge will take less than five years to construct.

The research period will last for 260 days, and a preliminary report is expected to come out by the middle of next year.

Staff reporter

ARTS

## Kay Zhang's exhibition depicts views on sex

**A**RT For All Society (AFA) is set to host an exhibition titled "Innocencepedia - Works by Kay Zhang" at its premises on August 1. The exhibition will feature 33 hand drawn and tile artworks.

Kay Zhang, currently a Masters student at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, will showcase her latest series in her first solo exhibition. In recent years, she has been a part

of several exhibitions in Macau, China and Sweden.

Zhang commenced her study at the School of Experimental Art at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2014. She has focused on the field of research and creation of contemporary art. According to a press release issued by AFA, she has learned how to use different types of media to create her

works. The result was the "Innocencepedia" series.

The press release added that there are several artworks that focus on nude bodies as the main theme, and that Zhang was particularly interested in whether or not those artworks have sexual undertones to a viewer. Zhang sought to recombine those nude images in her artworks to express the concept



of sexual desire.

The exhibition is partly sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the MSAR Government and will open to the public from August 1 to August 21.

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Daniel Beitler

**E**NVIRONMENTALISTS on the American west coast are cheering on a new “extensive” ban on polystyrene, approved unanimously last month by the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors. The ban will prohibit businesses in the area from using the material in the packaging of goods. The victory is prompting environmental activists worldwide, including those in Macau, to call for similar bans.

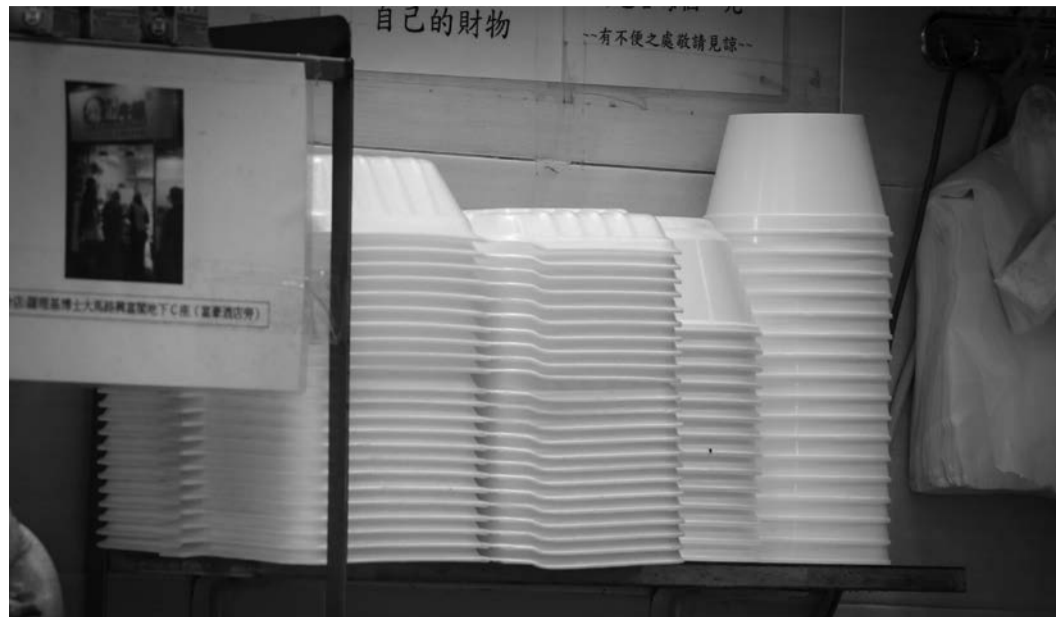
A common plastic, polystyrene is used in the production of such items as CD cases and plastic model assembly kits, as well as composing disposable items such as takeaway packages (the “tapau” that is used extensively in Macau), plastic cutlery and dinnerware. The material is also used in a variety of circumstances where a rigid but affordable plastic is required.

It is widely thought to contain toxic substances known as Styrene and Benzene, which are suspected of being carcinogens and neurotoxins that are hazardous to humans. It is also the subject of controversy among environmentalists due to the fact that it is very slow to biodegrade. This problem is compounded by the fact that it is an abundant form of refuse, particularly along shoreline areas.

Although the material’s ban in San Francisco was only announced last month, and will take effect from next year, other cities in the U.S. including New York City, Seattle, Washington DC, Los Angeles and Miami Beach have already resolved to implement their own prohibitions.

A scholar at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) told the Times that he would like to see a similar ban imposed in Macau both because of the material’s extensive use in the territory, and because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and International Agency for Research on Cancer have extensively written about the harmful properties of polystyrene.

Chan Shek Kiu of the Institute of Science and Environment



ENVIRONMENT

# Polystyrene ban welcomed, scholar advocates similar measure in Macau

**Chan says that a significant quantity of polystyrene is dumped into the sea only to find its way to Macau’s shores**

at USJ says that he is regularly involved as an organizer and participant in beach clean-up operations in the MSAR.

One recent clean-up operation collected 2,595 pieces of polystyrene in just one hour, making the material the second most frequent type of refuse found on Macau’s beaches after plastic bottles.

“Overall I believe that the situation is getting more se-

rious,” Ho Wai Tim, the president of the Macau Ecological Society, told the Times last week, speaking on the matter of plastic waste accumulation in the territory.

Chan says that a significant quantity of polystyrene is dumped into the sea only to find its way to Macau’s shores. As for the source of the dumping, Chan suspects that potential sources include refuse from shipping and illegal dumping in mainland China. However, he noted that there may also be a sizeable amount of direct disposal by residents, workers and tourists at the beach.

He told the Times that the government and the responsible agencies could do more to remedy the situation. “I suppose they are just treating the symptoms and not addressing the cause,” assessed Chan.

In response to a Times’ enquiry last week on the matter, a statement from Macau’s Environmental Protection Bureau

(DSPA) indicated that it is the responsibility of Macau’s cleaning concessionaire, Companhia De Sistemas De Resíduos (CSR), to clean the territory’s beaches, while the Marine and Water Bureau is accountable for the surrounding seas. The marine bureau says that it dispatches personnel to the sea around Macau on a daily basis to monitor the situation, increasing the number of staff and the frequency of cleaning as is deemed necessary. CSR have not been available for a comment on the issue.

Meanwhile, DSPA pledged in its statement to “strengthen the environmental awareness of society’s waste reduction at source, [of] recycling and other aspects through different channels.”

Indeed, a more effective recycling system may circumvent the need for a ban on polystyrene. Macau-based scholars such as Professor Hojae Shim told the Times that a more holistic recycling program for plastic

products is required in the city.

Plastic waste “should be separated first before [being incinerated]” he said, adding that, “if the respective technology is available, plastics should be recycled instead [of] incinerated.”

Environmental critics of San Francisco’s ban agree that the material should be recycled instead of simply prohibited, as the city is unable to prevent polystyrene items from being imported from other areas where it is permitted. Critics have also warned that if the ban is unable to reduce the supply of polystyrene then it will defeat its own stated purpose of reducing waste.

This month, activists and concerned citizens across the globe are abstaining from using plastic where possible as part of “Plastic Free July.” The undertaking aims to raise awareness of the prevalence of single-use disposable waste in our lives and its negative impact on the environment.

TRANSPORT

# Drivers fined MOP600 for improper use of exclusive bus lane



**P**PRIVATE drivers that use the exclusive bus lane that connects Barra and Doca Lam Mau on weekdays will be penalized with fines starting from this week.

According to a statement released by the Transport Bureau (DSAT), only emergency vehicles and buses are permitted to use the lane

during the periods from 7.30 a.m. until 9 a.m., and from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Those who fail to follow the regulations will be fined MOP600.

Every weekend from May 7, the bus lane has been under trial periods and with effect from July 1, the usage policy has been extended to every day of the week. During

these trials, the police did not issue tickets to the drivers.

Previously the police were issuing verbal warnings to drivers using this lane on weekdays, in addition to the issuing of tickets on weekends. Henceforth, fines will be issued to violators using the lane on any day.

On the exclusive bus la-

ne’s first day, 250 unauthorized vehicles drove on the lane mistakenly, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

DSAT considers the operation to have been smooth and stable up to this point, and that the bus lane has contributed to the diversion of larger vehicles during rush hours. In addition, they report

the lane has increased the efficiency of bus operations and also promoted safer driving practices.

DSAT reminds the public that, every day during bus-only hours, drivers can use Rua do Almirante Sérgio, Rua do Dr. Lourenço Pereira Marques and Avenida de Demetrio Cinatti as alternative routes.



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The Bayview Bloco 4, R/C,C-D, Macau



Enquiry: 2871 9838



## Copper drops on outlook for credit tightening in China

**COPPER** fell with most industrial metals amid speculation that credit conditions in China, the biggest user, will curb demand in the second half of the year. Nickel held last week's advance as the Philippines shuttered more mines as part of an environmental crackdown.

While new lending figures released last week topped estimates, the stimulative effects of the easing of credit conditions in real estate look to be moderating, Barclays Plc said. Copper also retreated after data yesterday showed China's home-price gains tapered off last month, as second-tier cities joined some of the nation's largest hubs in imposing housing curbs to cool surging prices.

"Our overall read for China's recent economic data, as it relates to copper, is one of caution," Dane Davis, an analyst at Barclays in London, said in a report. "We see few reasons to believe that this rally has staying power."

Copper for delivery in three months fell 0.8 percent to USD4,881 a metric ton by 11 a.m. on the London Metal Exchange. Prices reached \$5,032 on July 13, the highest since April 29. The bourse said on Sunday that ring trading will move outside London to Chelmsford for at least a few days after a structural fault closed its building.

Metals rallied last week as investors bought commodities and equities on speculation that policy makers around the world would take steps to shore up economic growth following the U.K.'s June 23 vote to leave the European Union. **MDT/Bloomberg**

## GAMING

# Tsogo waits on South Africa rebound while expanding casinos

Liezel Hill

**TSOGO** Sun Holdings Ltd. is positioning itself for an economic rebound in South Africa as the continent's largest gaming and hotels company upgrades casinos in its core market.

While there's enough gambling space to meet demand at present, Chief Executive Officer Marcel Von Aulock said he's confident the strategy of adding more square meters and betting machines to venues will pay off. The fortunes of the gaming business are reliant on consumer sentiment, and its fixed-cost nature means profit will jump if revenue increases, he said.

"We're at the tail end of the transformation of the portfolio," Von Aulock said in an interview. "We've done all the work, so we are kind of waiting for the uptick to come."

Tsogo, which gets about 65 percent of its profit from gaming and



30 percent from hotels, is investing even as the South African economy is forecast this year to grow at the slowest pace since a 2009 recession. The Johannesburg-based owner of the Montecasino and Gold Reef entertainment complexes has completed upgrades at its third- and fourth-largest casinos and will spend about 2 billion rand (USD139 million) to expand its Suncoast gaming and entertainment site in Durban. The company has also

invested in hotel refurbishments and acquiring properties that it previously leased.

Despite the economic challenges in South Africa, which accounts for more than 90 percent of profit, Tsogo was able to increase gaming wins by 6 percent in the year through March, while revenue at its South African hotels grew 9 percent, largely because of a stronger-than-expected fourth quarter.

While Tsogo Sun owns and operates hotels in other sub-Saharan African countries, it's unlikely to follow rival Sun International Ltd. in adding casinos outside South Africa, the CEO said. The company, which has a casino market share of 40 percent in its home market, is wary of unfamiliar rules, regulators and customers that come with international expansion, Von Aulock said.

"We just haven't seen any reason for it," he said. "Maybe one day when we completely run out

of things to do in South Africa."

As well as the Suncoast expansion, Tsogo hopes to add a new Cape Town casino by moving the license from a smaller facility. Local authorities first need to change regulations to allow for a relocation application process, a move Von Aulock said could come by the end of the year.

Tsogo Sun is also seeking South African regulatory approval for a deal to buy control of Johannesburg-listed Hospitality Property Fund in exchange for a number of Tsogo's own hotel properties.

The company is seeking opportunities to expand its hotel portfolio in the rest of Africa, and is considering the construction of an "economy hotel" in Maputo, the capital of neighboring Mozambique, Von Aulock said.

Tsogo needs to "make sure we're in the right place, make sure the product is good," Von Aulock said. "At some point the economy will turn." **Bloomberg**

## AUTO INDUSTRY

# Audi's positive prospects regarding Macau's car market

**AUDI**, a German car brand, is hoping for Macau's automobile market to stabilize later this year as its sales in Hong Kong are recuperating due to an improvement in the region's property and stock markets.

"The automobile market, as well as the overall retail sector, in Hong Kong is a little bit under pressure at the moment," said managing director of Audi Hong Kong and Macau Rene Koneberg to EJ Insight.

He said Macau is also going through a rough patch and he hoped that it would improve by the beginning of next year.

Koneberg noted that Audi saw a 14 percent sales decline in Hong Kong in the



first six months of this year compared to the same period last year, while the entire market in the region had a 25 to 30 percent downturn.

EJ Insight reported that Audi's sales in China, including Hong Kong, grew 5.9 percent to 290,126 units for the first half of the

year compared to the previous homologous period, representing 30.4 percent of its global sales of 953,200 units.

The managing director of the automobile brand also revealed that the company is set to launch its pure electric vehicles globally in 2018 and noted that the infrastructure of charging stations by then should be well implemented.

Moreover, in a bid to boost sales in Hong Kong, Audi has set up a new department to integrate digital technology into the sales process. Thus consumers can look forward to attending car shows wearing 3D glasses and experience driving Audi models online.

## corporate bits

### AIRPORT STAFF AWARDED CERTIFICATES BY U.S. CONSUL GENERAL

Terminal management services staff members Carbel Choi and Michael Lun of the Macau International Airport were awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" by the U.S. Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau, according to a statement from the airport administration company.

The certificates are being awarded to Choi and Lun because of the care they extended to an American citizen who was stranded in the Passenger Terminal Building for two weeks on account of having an expired passport.

They reportedly provided food and drinks to the stranded passenger, contacted his friends abroad to notify them of his delays as well as the



U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong and Macau, which was eventually able to assist the passenger in return to the U.S.

They were invited to a "Heroes Reception" hosted by the U.S. Consul General where, according to the statement, the U.S. Consul General recognized the two staff members for embodying traits including "compassion, generosity and humility."

### CEM, UGAMM ORGANIZE SEMINAR ON ENERGY SAVING AND SAFETY

After partnering with the Macau Federation of Trade Unions and the Women's General Association of Macau, CEM and General Residents Association of Macau (UGAMM) jointly organized a seminar on energy saving and safety at the UGAMM Building last week, attracting over 80 residents to attend.

Apart from introducing CEM's customer service to members of UGAMM, the seminar also promoted knowledge of household energy safety, as well as the management and maintenance of public electrical installations in buildings, said the company in a statement.

The seminar also introduced CEM's various services



including "e-Service" and "Mobile App," and explained the power supply application procedures and payment methods, and answered some common questions on the government's electricity subsidy.

According to the company, CEM regularly holds seminars in communities to strengthen mutual communication with the public and encourage energy saving at home and the selection of proper and safe electrical appliances.

### SPRINT OWNER SOFTBANK TO BUY ARM

Japanese technology company SoftBank Group Corp. is buying Britain's ARM Holdings for 24.3 billion pounds (USD32 billion), in a deal the British government hailed as a vote of confidence in the country following last month's vote to leave the European Union.

The recommended cash deal underlines the desire of SoftBank, which also owns struggling U.S. telecommunications company Sprint, to expand in the so-called "Internet of Things" — how home devices from smart thermostats to security cameras and domestic appliances can connect online and work in sync.

ARM is renowned as an innovator in the "Internet of Things" — its technology is



SoftBank founder and CEO Masayoshi Son

used in the vast majority of smartphones, for example.

"ARM will be an excellent strategic fit within the SoftBank group as we invest to capture the very significant opportunities provided by the 'Internet of Things'," said Masayoshi Son, Chairman and CEO of SoftBank.

## Three officials fired after typhoon in east killed 83



**T**HE Chinese government has fired three officials in an eastern province after a strong tropical storm killed 83 people and left 19 others missing, an official news agency reported yesterday.

Typhoon Nepartak, which had weakened to a tropical storm when it hit China, toppled nearly 10,000 houses in eastern Fujian province's capital of Fuzhou over the past week, Xinhua News Agency said.

The county of Minqing was the worst hit, reporting 73 deaths and 17 missing, and widespread cuts to power and telecommunications services, the report said.

The county's deputy party chief and acting head, Huang Shiyang, and two other officials have been suspended from their duties, Xinhua said.

Nepartak made landfall in China on July 9. Authorities said then that about half a million people had been evacuated.

China is already contending with some of the worst flooding the country has experienced in recent years, with nonstop rain since June along the Yangtze River killing more than 230 people and leaving dozens missing. **AP**

## Visa rules for Guangdong free trade zone relaxed

**T**HE Ministry of Public Security has promised a series of favorable policies for skilled foreign workers in the pilot free trade zone in south China's Guangdong Province.

According a ministry statement released yesterday, among the 16 measures are simplified permanent residence application procedures and fast-track approvals for skilled foreign workers in the zone, support for foreign students' start-ups, accelerated visas and residency application channels for overseas Chinese and lower thresholds for investors in the zone to apply for permanent residency.

"These new exit-entry policies and measures are based on the free trade zone's urgent demand for high-caliber foreign talent, overseas Chinese returning to start businesses, young foreign students and investors to realize innovation-driven development of the zone," the ministry said.

Other measures include allowing foreigners who meet salary and taxation standards to apply for permanent residency, a fast track from work permits to permanent residency for high-caliber talent, and visa exemptions for personnel from certain countries within specified times at Guangdong customs.

The measures will take effect on Aug. 1, the ministry said. **Xinhua**



### REAL ESTATE

## Home price gains cool as smaller cities impose curbs

**C**HINA'S home-price gains tapered off last month, as second-tier cities joined some of the nation's largest hubs in imposing housing curbs to cool surging prices.

New-home prices excluding government-subsidized housing climbed in 55 cities in June, down from 60 in May, among the 70 tracked, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. Prices dropped in 10 cities, compared with four a month earlier. They were unchanged in five cities in June.

A surge in home prices showed signs of slowing after more regional hubs followed top cities Shanghai and Shenzhen in imposing curbs designed to stem

a surge in property prices. Local authorities raised mortgage downpayment requirements for some homes in Xiamen, a southern port city in the Fujian province, and Hefei, the provincial capital of Anhui, where housing prices led gains in May.

"We probably won't see any abrupt decline in prices or sales this year, but the outlook for next year is pretty blurry," Alan Jin, a Hong Kong based analyst at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd., said by phone. "In those cities where prices jumped, pent-up demand has almost been fully released. The demand, from either end users or speculative investors, is not unlimited."

Home sales moderated for a second straight month in June, with a slower increase in property-development investment, raising questions on the sustainability of a rally fueled by credit stimulus from the government. The value of homes sold rose 22 percent last month from a year earlier, according to Bloomberg calculations based on data the National Bureau of Statistics released Friday. The increase compares with a 32.9 percent increase the previous month and is down from a year-on-year gain of 71 percent recorded in March.

Property transactions "peaked" in the second quarter, as pent-up demand released under intensive

stimulus last year ran its course, said Harrison Hu, chief economist for Greater China at Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc in Singapore.

A rally in the housing market has supported China's overall economic growth this year, even as it shows some signs of flagging.

Out of 55 cities with price gains last month, 33 had slower increases than in May, leading overall growth to "contract," according to the statistics bureau. The average new-home price rose 0.71 percent in June from May, down from the 0.84 percent in the previous month, according to Bloomberg calculations based on government data.

**Bloomberg**

## HK said to survey brokerages on dark pool compliance

**Eduard Gismatullin**

**H**ONG Kong's financial market regulator is querying brokerages and banks about their compliance with dark pool rules, according to people who have seen the questionnaire.

The Securities and Futures Commission sent about 70 questions that aim to ensure the required procedures for trading, order facilitation and monitoring in dark pools are being followed, said the people, who declined to be identified because the survey isn't public. The regulator called the survey a "check point" and gave two weeks to bankers and brokers to

respond, the people said. The deadline is today.

The survey comes seven months after Hong Kong banned individual investors from using dark pools and forced them to place all the trades at Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd., the city's only stock exchange. While dark pool trading may help investors who wish to hide their strategy as offers are kept secret until the trades have taken place, the lack of transparency has fueled criticism that it's more difficult to tell if all users are being treated fairly.

SFC spokesman Ernest Kong declined to comment when reached by phone yesterday. Dark pools ac-



counted for about 1.6 percent of the Hong Kong securities market turnover in June, according to HKEx data. **Bloomberg**

# Beijing announces South China Sea military exercises

**C**HINA is closing off a part of the South China Sea for military exercises this week, the government said yesterday, days after an international tribunal ruled against Beijing's claim to ownership of virtually the entire strategic waterway.

Hainan's maritime administration said an area southeast of the island province would be closed from yesterday to Thursday, but gave no details about the nature of the exercises. The navy and Defense Ministry had no immediate comment.

Six governments claim territory in the South China Sea, although the area where the Chinese naval exercises are being held is not considered a particular hotspot. China's navy and coast guard operate extensively throughout the South China Sea and regularly stage live firing exercises in the area.

The announcement of the drills came in the middle of a three-day visit to China by the U.S. Navy's top admiral, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, to discuss the South China Sea dispute and ways to boost interactions between the two militaries.

Although the tribunal's ruling was likely to be raised in Richardson's discussions, the head of the Chinese navy, Adm. Wu Shengli, did not mention it directly in opening remarks before reporters at a meeting yesterday between the two men at navy headquarters in Beijing.

Wu noted the importance both sides place on military-to-military relations and maritime security, and said the timing of Richardson's visit further elevated such concerns.

"It is very helpful for us to strengthen communication between us and build confidence," Wu said. "Of course it can help to improve our working and personal relationship."

Richardson made no comments before reporters were ushered from the room.

China rejected last week's ruling by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in a case initiated by the Philippines, and refused to take part in the arbitration. It has



Chinese missile frigate Yuncheng launches an anti-ship missile during a military exercise in the waters near south China's Hainan Island and Parcel Islands

## In a further show of defiance, Beijing followed the ruling by landing two civilian aircraft on new airstrips on disputed Mischief and Subi reefs

responded by asserting that islands in the South China Sea are "China's inherent territory," and says it could declare an air defense identification zone over the waters if it felt threatened.

In a further show of defiance, Beijing followed the ruling by landing two civilian aircraft on

new airstrips on disputed Mischief and Subi reefs and dispatched its coast guard to block a Philippine fishing boat from reaching a contested shoal.

Beijing has increasingly criticized Washington for encouraging the Philippines to pursue the arbitration case, saying that it, along with the strong presence of the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea, was heightening tensions in the volatile region.

"Last month, the United States deployed two aircraft carriers in seas east of the Philippines and started monitoring the South China Sea with guided-missile destroyers," China's official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday, noting that the actions came "a few days before a law-abusing ad hoc tribunal issued an ill-founded award on the South China Sea arbitration case."

The official China News Service reported that Chinese air force fighters and bombers had recently conducted patrols over

the South China Sea, something that is not new in itself, although the timing of the report seemed notable.

Last week, Dennis Blair, a former commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, told a congressional hearing that the United States should be willing to use military force to oppose Chinese aggression at a disputed reef off the coast of the Philippines. Blair said the objective of such an action was not to pick a fight with China at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, but to set a limit on its military coercion.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who said before the ruling that he wanted to start talks with China on the issue, has not commented on the tribunal's decision, but described the territorial disputes as a complicated issue that may affect his country's economy as well as ties with the U.S., a key treaty ally.

Duterte has been more conciliatory with China than his pre-

decessor, Benigno Aquino III, who filed the arbitration complaint against Beijing.

The tribunal ruled that China violated international maritime law by building up artificial islands in the South China Sea that destroyed coral reefs, and by disrupting fishing and oil exploration.

China's island development has inflamed regional tensions, with many fearing that Beijing will use the construction of new islands complete with airfields and military facilities 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 threatening its national security. AP

# Nine people killed in avalanche in Tibet's far west

**A**N avalanche in Tibet's far west has left nine people dead, along with scores of yaks and sheep, authorities and state media said yesterday.

Those killed were all residents of the village of Dungru in Ngari prefecture, more than 1,000 kilometers from the Himalayan region's capital of Lhasa.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Sunday's tragedy sent snow 8 meters deep crashing down onto nine herders, while also burying 110 yaks and more than 350 sheep. Xinhua said fissures have been seen in glaciers surrounding the region, sparking fears of further avalanches.

The prefectural government confirmed the

deaths in a brief online statement, but gave no other details.

The area where the avalanche hit, in Tibet's remote northwest, is filled with farms and pastures at an average elevation of 4,500 meters.

Rising global temperatures are blamed for speeding the melting of glaciers in Tibet, the source of numerous ma-

major Asian rivers, including China's Yellow and Yangtze, Myanmar's Irrawaddy and the Mekong, which ends in Vietnam.

China is already dealing with some of its most extreme summer weather in years, with at least 164 people killed and 26 left missing as a result of torrential rain, floods, landslides and hailstorms since June 30. AP



The avalanche site in Rutog county, Ngari prefecture

## AUSTRALIA

# Prime minister makes few changes to new Cabinet

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister yesterday announced only minor changes to his new cabinet after two ministers lost their seats in elections early this month.

Malcolm Turnbull also resisted pressure from the hard-right elements of his conservative Liberal Party to make former Prime Minister Tony Abbott a minister in the cabinet that will be sworn in today.

The government's junior coalition partner, The Nationals, were rewarded for a relatively strong performance in the July 2 elections, with additional cabinet minister Matt Canavan plus two new assistant ministers, David Gilles-



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

pie and Luke Hartsuyker.

Turnbull declined to say whether the political leaning

of his new leadership team had changed. He defended his attempt to minimize changes

to the cabinet he appointed less than a year ago.

"I'm not going to put 'con-

servative' or 'moderate' or 'liberal' tags on my colleagues," Turnbull said. "I have made big changes to the ministry only a few months ago."

Two ministers who supported Turnbull's overthrow of Abbott in an internal party showdown in September — Peter Hendy and Wyatt Roy — were among the more than a dozen Liberal lawmakers who lost their seats. The Nationals — a more conservative, rural-based party — increased their seats in the House of Representatives by one to 16.

The government as a majority of just one seat in the 150-seat House, where parties with a majority form the government, but might win a 77th seat once counting of all mail-in ballots is finalized. The Liberal Party trails the center-left opposition Labor Party by eight votes with 88,360 votes counted yesterday in the only seat yet to be resolved.

Turnbull's moderate leadership has been diminished by his party's surprisingly poor performance after Abbott won 90 seats at the 2013 election. AP

## Philippine leader laments alleged drug links of some Chinese

Bullit Marquez, Tanauan

THE Philippines' crime-fighting president says he plans to ask Chinese officials why some Chinese citizens who visit his country are allegedly involved in illegal drugs.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who has vowed to end crime within six months of taking office on June 30, also said late Sunday that he would not hesitate to grant presidential pardons to law enforcers accused by human rights advocates of abusing their authority in cracking down on narcotics, as long as the soldiers and police involved tell the truth and do not fabricate evidence.

Duterte made the comments amid an outcry from rights advocates about the deaths of at least 212 suspected drug traffickers in confrontations with law enforcers since he won the May 9 presidential election.

In the town of Tanauan, south of Manila, around 1,100 drug dealers and users voluntarily surrendered to authorities Monday at a packed gymnasium, where they pledged to reform and report regularly to their village leaders after filling out forms and having their



More than 1,000 residents queue up in a gymnasium after heeding a call from Tanauan city government to undergo processing allegedly for being drug-users

mugshots and fingerprints taken. They were also given counseling in groups by social welfare officers.

KC Saniano, Mayor Antonio Halili's chief aide, said 1,279 people were invited after their names were on a list of drug dealers and users gathered by intelligence agents and village officials. Only around 1,000 of those invited showed up, but another 100 not on the list voluntarily surrendered.

Halili warned those who were invited but did not show up, "I cannot assure your safety anymore."

Duterte said 72,000 people have already sur-

rendered since his administration launched the crackdown. He said many of the unclaimed bodies of suspected drug criminals were Chinese nationals.

"That's my lamentation," he said in a video released by his office yesterday. "One day I will ask China, Why is the situation like this? I won't say why are you sending them, but why is it that most of the guys who come here do drugs, even inside jail?"

Duterte said he will prepare pre-signed presidential pardons, adding, "I will not hesitate to pardon 10, 15 military and policemen every day." AP

## South Korean prosecutor arrested for alleged corruption

Hyung-Jin Kim, AP

A senior South Korean prosecutor has been arrested for allegedly pocketing millions of dollars following shady stock transaction deals with a leading online game maker, officials said yesterday.

Jin Kyung-joon, a vice ministerial-level official, was taken to a detention facility on Sunday after a court approved an arrest warrant, according to the Seoul Central District Court. He is the most senior-level incumbent prosecutor to be arrested in South Korea.

South Korea, which achieved a liberal democracy in the late 1980s after decades of military-backed dictatorships, is one of the leading economies in Asia. But corruption scandals involving high-profile officials, politicians and businessmen routinely take place.

Many South Korean presidents or their family members and key aides have been embroiled in corruption scandals at the close of their terms or after leaving office. Some high-level prosecutors were forced to resign before they were arrested and put behind bars for bribery, abuse of power and other charges.

Last year, then-Prime Minister Lee Wan Koo pledged to root out corruption, only to resign a month later after he was implicated in a widening bribery scandal involving a late businessman.

Jin faces allegations that he borrowed 400 million won (USD352,000) from Kim Jungju, the founder of Nexon, to buy unlisted company shares in 2005 before selling them back to the company for 1 billion won (\$881,000) the following year.



A senior South Korean prosecutor Jin Kyung-joon, center, is surrounded by media upon his arrival for questioning at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office

He allegedly used the profits to purchase shares of Nexon Japan in later 2006 and earned 12.6 billion won (\$11 million) by selling them last year. The company went public on the Japanese stock market in 2011.

A date on Jin's trial will be set if and after prosecutors indict him. Prosecutors previously summoned and questioned Kim but haven't requested his arrest yet, according to court officials.

Nexon, known for hit games like "MapleStory" and "Dungeon & Fighter," has about 300 million users in about 150 countries, according to Nexon officials. Its founder Kim is one of South Korea's richest men with an estimated 4 trillion won (\$3.5 billion) of wealth.

Jin and Kim had reportedly maintained good relations after attending university together. Local media reported that Kim was believed to have expected to get future favors from Jin.

Justice Minister Kim Hyun-Woong, who oversees prosecutors, offered a public apology yesterday for a second straight day. "As a justice minister, I feel deeply shameful and devastated," Kim said in televised comments. AP

Amy Taxin

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN THE US

# Police tackle rise in gambling 'slaphouses' in California

ON a quiet suburban California cul-de-sac where neighbors hang wind chimes and grow rose bushes, one three-bedroom house stood out. At night, dozens of cars swarmed outside. Groups of young women headed inside the fenced-off home dotted with security cameras. The next morning, the street was littered with syringes.

What looked like a typical single-family home in a suburban neighborhood on the edge of Orange County's Little Saigon had been turned into an illegal gambling house where betters plunked down thousands in cash and stolen credit cards during all-night binges fueled by drinking and drugs.

Over the past three years, police in the largely Vietnamese area said they've found more than a dozen of these homes run by gangs. In some cases, police were tipped off by neighbors tired of the noise and traffic; in others, they were led there after a fight landed one of the gamblers in the hospital.

Inside the homes, players try their hand at video poker or blackjack. But one of the biggest draws is a six-seater table featuring a video game that gamblers play for money. The game earned the homes the name "slaphouses" as the sound of players pounding their hands on the game controls can be heard outside.

"They don't just go there for an hour, they'll be there for hours on end," said Westminster police Sgt. Darin Upstill, adding that the objective of the game is to shoot out fire and kill a dragon. "Now, who is financing it is another story. That's what we're trying to figure out."

Gambling has long been popular in the Vietnamese community that settled in Orange County after the fall of Saigon



A six-seater arcade game seized by the Westminster Police during a raid of an illegal gambling house known as "slaphouses"

in 1975 and has since grown to 200,000.

For years, authorities said, Vietnamese coffeehouses featured machines rigged for poker, blackjack and other games where owners could flip a switch and turn the screens back to run-of-the-mill video games when police walked in the door.

Authorities said the coffeehouses were drawing drug dealing, fraud and gang activity along with the gamblers. In 2011, police in the Orange County city of Garden Grove raided more than a dozen coffeehouses, seizing 186 machines and USD150,000 in cash.

Weeks later, the city passed a law banning arcade games from coffee houses. Since then, Gar-

den Grove police have detected at least 15 illegal gambling houses in residential areas, said police Lt. Tom DaRé.

Moving gambling into residential neighborhoods makes it tougher for police to detect, since they need a warrant to get in. Neighbors are often afraid to report the homes to police even when they draw drug use and other crime.

Bac Duong, an Orange County inmate who escaped from jail earlier this year and led California authorities on a weeklong manhunt, was charged with shooting a man outside one such house in nearby Santa Ana, authorities said.

"It's a hub for organized crime," DaRé said. "Off a slaphou-

**■ Gambling has long been popular in the Vietnamese community that settled in Orange County after the fall of Saigon in 1975**

se, you're probably making \$100,000 a month — easy."

Gambling is lucrative for gangs because the profits are high and the risk is low compared with drug dealing and fraud, which carry higher penalties.

Police in largely suburban Orange County are trying to dig deeper into the slaphouses, which are usually set up in rental homes. At least one person lives in the house and provides security. Cash is regularly moved out to reduce the risk of theft, and gamblers need a trusted contact to get in.

Underground gambling has roots in diverse communities and is hardly unique to the Vietnamese. But gambling is popular in Little Saigon, where large billboards beckon players to legitimate casinos in Southern California.

Dr. Timothy Fong, co-director of the Gambling Studies Program at University of Califor-

nia, Los Angeles, said gambling is accessible and culturally acceptable in many immigrant communities, especially among Asians where risk-taking is encouraged and betting seen as a way of testing fate.

"It is very steeped in tradition," Fong said. "You are supposed to take huge risks and you are supposed to 'go big.'"

Most gamblers frequent legitimate casinos, but a few are drawn underground, he said. Gambling aside, Dan Nguyen, manager of Cafe Di Vang 2, said customers often played arcade games for fun at his Garden Grove coffeehouse until police banned them during the gambling crackdown. He said he's since lost customers and revenue to venues in neighboring cities that don't face the same restrictions.

"I wish I could have five or six games for my customers, so they could come here, and play a little bit," Nguyen said as scantily-clad waitresses served coffee to patrons watching soccer matches on flat-screen TVs.

Just a few miles away, half a dozen men sipped iced drinks at a similar coffeehouse in Westminster while playing on game machines.

Upstill said he expects his city will also eventually move to strip arcade games from coffeehouses to prevent gambling there, but for now they're focused on dealing with slaphouses.

"You shut them down enough times, they'll be out," he said. **AP**

# Bangladesh indicts 41 on murder charges in 2013 factory fall

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

A Bangladesh court yesterday indicted 41 people for murder in the deaths of more than 1,100 people in the collapse of a building that housed five garment factories and became known as the country's worst industrial disaster.

Investigators initially said those accused of wrongdoing in the 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza building would be charged with culpable homicide, which carries a ma-

ximum punishment of seven years in jail. But they later changed the charges to murder due to the gravity of the disaster.

Masud Rana, who owned the building outside Dhaka, and 33 other people pleaded not guilty when the charges against them were read out in court.

Another seven who absconded will be tried in absentia, said Mizanur Rahman, a public prosecutor.

District Judge S.M. Kuddus Zaman announced

their trial will begin Sept. 18.

Those found guilty of murder could face the death penalty as a police report submitted to the court called the deaths a "mass killing." About 2,500 people were injured in the April 2013 disaster.

The defendants include Rana's parents and the owners of the five factories housed in the building.

Investigators from Bangladesh's Criminal Investigation Department said

the change from culpable homicide charges came after the investigation found that Rana, his staff and the management of the five factories had forced the workers to enter the building the day of the collapse despite their unwillingness to work after the building had developed major cracks a day before.

The collapse highlighted the grim conditions in Bangladesh's garment industry.

Low wages in the South Asian country have led



In this April 2013 photo, Bangladeshi people gather as rescuers look for survivors and victims at the site of a building that collapsed in Savar, near Dhaka

global brands and retailers to prefer Bangladesh over China, the leading apparel exporter in the world. Bangladesh has the world's second-largest garment industry with nearly 4,000 factories employing about 4 million workers, mostly

women.

The building collapse triggered uproar at home and abroad, with a call for reforms in a sector that helps Bangladesh earn more than USD20 billion a year from exports, mainly to the United States and Europe. **AP**

Maria Cheng, Helena Alves

**T**HE Bastille Day truck attack in Nice may have shaken France's collective psyche, further unnerving a country already traumatized by extremist attacks that have become alarmingly more frequent. Yet there is hope that the French, while shaken, will not be defeated.

Despite being under a heightened state of emergency, French security forces failed to stop Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel from barging past police vehicles at the entrance to Nice's famed Riviera beachfront, where the zig-zagging truck he was driving instantly transformed a crowd of families and fun-seekers into utter tragedy.

"The fact that this attack occurred when security measures were supposedly in place makes this very different from previous attacks," said Neil Greenberg, a professor of military mental health at King's College London. "That undermines the trust people have in the government to stop these events and it is extraordinarily hard to rebuild that trust once it's lost."

Greenberg said he expected to see a dip in the numbers of French people willing to venture into public places that might now be considered risky. He noted that past attacks on Paris — including the January 2015 shootings at the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, and the coordinated November strikes that killed 130 people — seemed more targeted, and thus avoidable, compared with the random group of Nice residents and tourists engulfed in chaos late Thursday night.

"Nice is known as the place where people go to the beach," Greenberg said. "The attack there may have more of an impact than the Paris attacks because people

# Truck rampage in Nice rattles an already unsettled France



A couple watch flowers placed in tribute to one of the victims at the scene of a deadly attack while joggers pass by, on the famed Boulevard des Anglais in Nice on Sunday

may now be thinking, 'where can I go to relax and be safe?'" He said that the pattern of repeated attacks could eventually prompt people to change their behavior, if they fear the government is unable to protect them.

Still, Greenberg said the only people likely to develop significant mental health problems after such events are those already suffering from psychiatric illnesses, and that while some people might experience some short-term anxiety or stress, it was unlikely there would be a significant spike in mental health disorders among the general population. Past studies show that most people who witness traumatic events recover on their own and that attempts by mental health professionals to offer counseling in

the immediate aftermath of the events could actually worsen their prognosis, he said.

Other experts warned it's critical that the French government's reaction to the latest attack doesn't further fragment the country.

"There are concerns about whether the Muslim community will be used as a scapegoat, which could increase alienation and ultimately drive more recruitment into the radicals' cause," said Andrew Silke, director of terrorism studies at the University of East London. He said that countries with a history of repeated terror attacks — like Northern Ireland and Israel — have reacted to such violence with surprising resilience.

"What you see is that people pull together and communities

become more bonded against the attacks," he said, predicting that the same phenomenon could happen in France. Silke said the sporadic nature of these attacks means that they can still unsettle France's national psyche, but that the more often they happen,

the less impact they will have.

"The most disruptive attacks are those that come out of the blue, like Sept. 11," Silke said, adding that France is unfortunately becoming more accustomed to extremist attacks on its soil.

Given its long and fractious history marked by bloody rebellions, revolutions and religious divides, some experts said the latest string of attacks will pose little threat to France's ability to heal.

"France has been at the heart of two world wars and they've kept on ticking just fine," said Frank Farley, a past president of the American Psychological Association. "The French people don't get knocked down that easily."

For Italian retiree Piera Badino, canceling a planned trip to Nice because of the truck rampage was out of the question.

"I did not think of not coming," Badino said. "We cannot stay closed at home. Otherwise what are we, half dead? So we can never stop." **AP**

## POLICE FIND COCAINE, CASH AT NICE SUSPECT'S HOME

**FRENCH OFFICIALS** say police found 11 telephones, cocaine and 2,600 euros (USD2,900) in cash at the home of a suspect held in the investigation into the deadly Bastille Day attack in Nice. The suspect is among seven people in custody in the probe into last week's attack, which killed 84 people. Three of the suspects were brought to French intelligence headquarters in Paris yesterday to

face eventual terrorism charges, according to a security official. At the home of one of the suspects, an Albanian national, investigators found the phones and cocaine, according to that official and the Paris prosecutor's office. They wouldn't elaborate on the relationship between the suspect and attacker Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, who was killed by police after ramming a truck through a crowd watching fireworks.

## BRITAIN

# New foreign secretary arrives for first EU meeting

John-Thor Dahlburg, Brussels

**N**EW British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who recently likened the European Union to Adolf Hitler's vision for Europe, came to Brussels yesterday to meet for the first time with his EU colleagues, and said he hopes to cooperate closely.

Johnson led a winning campaign to persuade British voters to leave the European Union, but said the referendum's outcome last month "in no sense means we are leaving Europe."

"We are not going to be



Newly appointed British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson (right) arrives for the EU foreign ministers meeting at the EU Council building in Brussels yesterday

in any way abandoning our leading role in European cooperation and participation of all kinds," Johnson said before the start of an EU foreign mi-

nisters' meeting. He said last week's attack in Nice, France showed the need for European countries to coordinate their response to terrorism, and

that he would support an EU call for "restraint and moderation" in Turkey following the failed military putsch there.

Despite Johnson's anti-EU stance, Federica Mogherini, the bloc's foreign policy chief, told reporters that "our common work on foreign and security policy continues and today we will welcome him as a new member of the family."

Johnson and Mogherini met privately in Brussels on Sunday evening and "had a good exchange on the main issues on the agenda today," the EU official said.

French Foreign Minister

Jean-Marc Ayrault, who has said Johnson "lied a lot" to turn British public opinion against the EU, said yesterday he would speak him "with the greatest sincerity and frankness." Ayrault also called for a quick start to formal talks on Britain's exit from the 28-nation bloc to end what he called the current situation of uncertainty as to the country's intentions and relationship with its European partners.

Johnson, a former London mayor and Brussels-based journalist, was appointed foreign secretary by new Prime Minister Theresa May last week.

"It is very good to be here for my first overseas trip," he told reporters yesterday morning as he arrived at EU headquarters, also referring to his colleagues from other member states as "our friends."

In an interview with the Daily Telegraph in May, during the referendum campaign, Johnson said the EU was trying to build a super-state, recreating the Roman Empire.

"Napoleon, Hitler, various people tried this out, and it ends tragically. The EU is an attempt to do this by different methods," he was quoted as saying. **AP**

John Follain, Eleni Chrepa and Patrick Donahue

BREXIT

EU said to eye 'nuclear option' to force May's hand on exit

SOME in Europe want Theresa May to know their patience has its limits.

As the new British prime minister pushes back talks on leaving the European Union, officials on the continent have begun to float what they call "the nuclear option" to bring her to table: suspending Britain's voting rights in EU institutions.

Several member states have started looking at whether that would be feasible by invoking Article 7 of the Lisbon Treaty, according to two European officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. That would mean arguing that the U.K. is no longer cooperating in good faith with the bloc in order to pressure May into ending the post-referendum limbo. The EU's harshest sanctioning procedure has never been deployed before and three other officials in Brussels said it was too heavy-handed to even be considered.

While May took office last week promising that "Brexit means Brexit," her government is already sending out mixed signals on how long that might take. Trade Secretary Liam Fox is working on the basis that the two-year negotiating period could begin around the end of the year, but



May on Friday said she won't start the process of leaving the EU until she's got Scotland's backing. With Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon adamant that her country won't be leaving at all, that pledge opens up the prospect of extensive delays.

European leaders including German Chancellor Angela Merkel have acknowledged that

the government in London will need time to envisage its future relationship with the EU. But with May installed sooner-than-expected at 10 Downing Street, European officials have called for her to accelerate the exit process.

EU governments are determined to prevent the U.K.'s self-inflicted political convulsions

from overwhelming their other objectives, with lackluster growth, a surge in immigration and populist movements of their own to contend with.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault yesterday urged the U.K. to start formal talks as soon as possible to reduce uncertainty about Britain's status. "The sooner the negotiations start, the better," Ayrault told reporters in Brussels.

In an interview with the Sunday Times, Fox said he is lining up free-trade deals with about a dozen countries to be ready for an exit from the EU by Jan. 1, 2019. That would mean triggering Article 50 of the EU treaty by the end of the year.

The decision on when to start the EU's exit mechanism is one of the few cards that British negotiators have to play as they try to secure access to the EU single market without surrendering on the immigration controls voters are demanding. If the clock runs down before they secure concessions from the other 27 nations,

the U.K. will lose its EU trading privileges, with potentially serious consequences for manufacturers and the City of London as a financial center.

Chief Brexit negotiator David Davis said in an interview with the Mail on Sunday that he's convinced the U.K. will be able to retain single-market access and tighten restrictions on migration, a combination of privileges that European leaders have explicitly ruled out.

Scotland's future represents another obstacle for British negotiators. In an interview with Andrew Marr on the BBC, Sturgeon, the Scottish leader, said her government is "in a very strong position" when asked whether it would have a veto over the timing of exit talks. While May has vowed to keep the U.K. together, Sturgeon said she could call a second referendum on Scottish independence if she's unable to protect her country's relationship with the EU within the U.K.

EU governments would be happy to let the process drag on if talks were delayed because the mood among U.K. voters was shifting away from Brexit, said one of the officials who raised the prospect of Article 7. If it was seen as a negotiating tactic, that might provoke a response.

Bloomberg

AD



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## what's ON



**CAFFEINE – WORK BY JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES**  
**TIME:** 11am-9pm  
**UNTIL:** September 30, 2016  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**VENUE:** TOM N TOMS' COFFEE, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida 20 – B, Regent Court Res-do-chao A)  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2856 0160

**PAINTINGS AND CALLIGRAPHY DONATED BY JAO TSUNG-I**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30 pm; Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**VENUE:** Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95 C-D, Macau  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2852 2523

**ARTS IN THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30 pm, closed on Wednesdays, opens on public holidays)  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**VENUE:** Travessa de António da Silva, No. 10 (near Lilau Square)  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2896 8820

**ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS – EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30; Closed on Mondays; Free admission on Sundays)  
**VENUE:** Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa  
**ADMISSION:** MOP5  
**ORGANIZER:** Cultural Affairs Bureau  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

**THE ENCHANTING RED BOAT**  
**TIME:** 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays; free to public on 15th of every month)  
**UNTIL:** October 9, 2016  
**ADMISSION:** MOP15  
**VENUE:** Praceta do Museu de Macau 112  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 7911

## Offbeat

## ASPIRING NUN CROWDFUNDS TO PAY OFF USD12K STUDENT LOAN DEBT

An aspiring nun who was told she couldn't enter a convent until her student loan debt was paid off has used an online appeal to get the money.

Alida Taylor, 28, was accepted to join the Sisters of Life in New York City in September.

The Clifton, New Jersey, woman started a GoFundMe page late last month, hoping to get USD12,000 to pay down her student loans. She surpassed her goal Thursday, raising more than \$22,000.

In an update on the crowdfunding page, Taylor said the extra money will be used for a vocation fund for Casa Guadalupe, a house of prayer and discernment for Catholic women, where Taylor is currently staying.

Multiple attempts to reach Taylor were unsuccessful. But she told WCBS in New York that "The Lord when it's his will, he always provides, and I just trust him."

Officials say most Catholic religious orders ask people to delay applications until they have repaid debt.

"Religious life is a full-time job so to speak, so she wouldn't be able to work and enter into religious life," Sr. Mariae Agnus Dei said, noting that nuns with the Sisters of Life have no salary or stipend.

After graduating from college in 2010 with a degree in fashion, Taylor moved to New York and got a job making costumes for Broadway shows. She said she enjoyed her life, but felt something was missing.

"When I moved to the city I had all these desires. I wanted to have a career, a family, and marriage, but your heart begins to shift," she said.

The Sisters of Life invited Taylor to attend a "Come and See" retreat with them so she could learn more about the order, and she eventually decided to move to New Jersey and at Casa Guadalupe. It was there that she decided her calling was to join the convent. AP

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
19:00	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Documentary Serie
21:45	Once Upon A Time S1 - Premiere
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	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

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

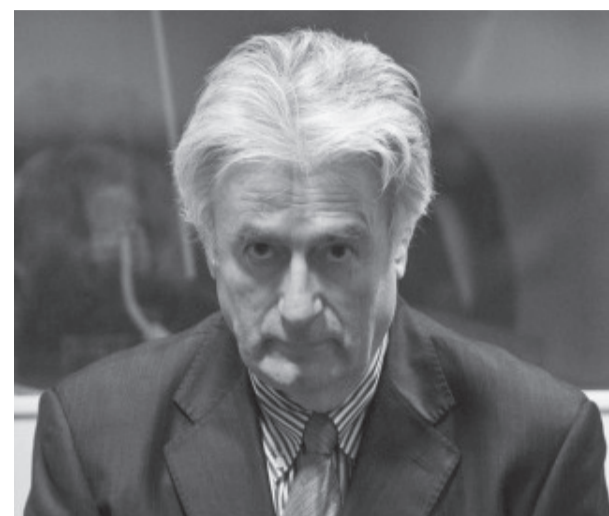
Director: Longman Leung, Sunny Luk

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

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 90min

## this day in history



## 1996 'WAR CRIMINAL' KARADZIC RESIGNS

The Bosnian Serb President, Radovan Karadzic, has agreed to resign and withdraw from political and public life.

He was ordered to step down by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, after marathon talks with the United States special envoy, Richard Holbrooke.

Mr Karadzic is currently a fugitive after an arrest warrant was issued for him last week by the International War Crimes Tribunal. He was indicted last year, along with his army chief, Ratko Mladic, for crimes of genocide and other atrocities.

His continued refusal to resign was jeopardising the first post-war elections in Bosnia, due to be held on 14 September. Under the Dayton peace accords, which brought an end to the war in the former Yugoslavia last year, indicted war criminals cannot stand for public office.

Mr Holbrooke announced the agreement in Belgrade, saying, "He [Karadzic] will not appear in public, or on radio or television or other media or participate in any way in the elections."

But he admitted he had failed in his aim to secure the extradition of Mr Karadzic. "I want to make clear that we are not satisfied," he went on. "It falls short of our goals. Indicted war criminals should be at The Hague to face trial under due process of law, and that includes Mr Karadzic."

Mr Karadzic will be replaced by his deputy president, Biljana Plavsic, a Serb nationalist who is known to be opposed to the Dayton agreement. The news was greeted cautiously by other international mediators, who have been struggling for six months to oust Mr Karadzic.

"We must await events since there have been so many agreements not properly implemented in this country," said Michael Steiner, deputy to the International High Representative in Bosnia.

Reaction from other political leaders in Bosnia was also lukewarm. "I don't doubt that Karadzic will continue in his own way, creating a parallel system and obstructing the Dayton agreement and peace in the region, until he is completely removed," said the vice-president of the Muslim-Croat Federation, Ejup Ganic.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

**Radovan** Karadzic and Ratko Mladic continued to evade arrest. Nato troops carried out several raids on places he and Mladic were thought to have been hiding, but always without success.

The United States and European Union put pressure on the Bosnian Serb authorities to find them, and a £3.5m reward offered, again without result.

Mr Karadzic was finally arrested in Belgrade in July 2008 and is expected to face trial at The Hague, but General Mladic is still at large.

Slobodan Milosevic was forced to resign by his own people after he refused to recognise the victory of opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica in the 2000 general election.

He was jailed by the Serb authorities in April 2001, accused of corruption and abuse of power.

Two months later the Serbian government handed him over to the international community to stand trial on more than 60 charges of genocide and crimes against humanity at the International War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

His trial began in February 2002. Milosevic was found dead in his cell in March 2006. By the time of his death, the prosecution had completed its case but the defence was continuing, interrupted by Milosevic's frequent ill-health.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Being too frank would just be hurtful. Unless fortunes are to be made or lost depending on your wording, then being vague is what the situation calls for. You can clear up any misunderstandings later.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Your subconscious is sending up more signals than you can read. Don't pretend that you can pick a winner in this state of mind. You can't tell the real thing from a fake and everything that glitters is enticing. Resist.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
How an important financial drama plays itself out is up to you. You're both author and director, and you can play a starring role if you so wish. Letting someone else do the job would be a fatal mistake for your finances.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Social situations can get in the way of work and that is expected. Your bank account won't suffer because of it, so don't get too anxious. It's not just your private problems. All of your coworkers are dealing with the same issue.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You are all fired up and ready for some travel. Unfortunately, you aren't going anywhere anytime soon. You can use your excitement to change the scenery right in front of you, though, as long as you stick to your budget.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You need a yes-man, because you feel like saying no to everything. You want to throw in the towel and forget about it almost as soon as you begin. Force yourself to follow through instead. You'll be happy you did.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
You need to balance your account and fast. Your current projects aren't going to do the trick. It's the wrong time of year to drum up anything new, but desperate situations call for desperate measures.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You're being hit up by the modern day equivalent of the traveling salesman. You know what you're dealing with right away but remember the old adage: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You're not at the point of sitting back and observing your domain just yet. You're still building the very basics of your kingdom. But even they can be put aside when friendship and goodwill make an appearance.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
The more discipline you can muster, the more money you'll make. Even the most unlikely of goals can be met with it as your only tool. Stay on course and all things are possible.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your network is growing. You get new members each and every day. That isn't translating into money yet, but it will soon. Until then, keep nurturing new connections.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
A blabber mouth might give you some shocking news. You can stand there stunned or you can make good use of it. What starts out on a sour note brings with it the chance to redeem both the event and yourself.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

5				1	8	9		
7		3						
		4		8	1			
	1	2		9	8			
8								5
	5	7		4	3			
		6	1	2				
				4				9
4	9	7						2

**Easy+**

3			8	5				
9	4							1
		1	7				4	
3				7	2	4		
5		6		4			1	
		4	8	1				3
	2				3	6		
4							3	5
		3		9				7

**Medium**

6	3	8						
			9		2	5	6	
4		7						
8	1						6	
4		1	6	7				3
	3				4		5	
				5		8		
6	9	2		7				
				1	6	7		

**Hard**

		7					5	
9	4							1
3	6					4		
1			8	5				
							9	
		8	3			2		
5								4

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	23	26	thundershower
Harbin	20	32	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	25	28	drizzle to moderate rain
Urumqi	22	30	cloudy/shower
Xi'an	23	28	moderate rain/drizzle
Lhasa	12	23	moderate rain/shower
Chengdu	23	34	shower/cloudy
Chongqing	25	30	torrential rain/heavy rain
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	26	32	overcast/thundershower
Shanghai	27	35	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	26	32	drizzle/moderate rain
Hangzhou	26	34	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	25	31	overcast/drizzle
Guangzhou	27	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy/shower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	18	24	drizzle/moderate rain
Frankfurt	15	28	clear
Paris	16	30	clear
London	15	24	clear
New York	27	35	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Low life?; 6- River in central Switzerland; 10- Cave dwellers; 14- Baseball commissioner Bud; 15- Some VCRs; 16- More than one female sheep; 17- Actress Graff; 18- Legal wrong; 19- Phooey!; 20- Soldier of fortune; 22- Caustic substances; 23- "Jurassic Park" actress; 24- "Rope-a-dope" boxer; 26- Violent whirlwind; 30- Unity; 34- Cream-filled cookies; 35- Wise one; 36- Three sheets to the wind; 37- Math subject; 38- Band together; 40- Turn tail and run; 41- Ich bin \_\_\_ Berliner; 42- \_\_\_ instant; 43- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 44- Spasmodic; 46- Wide strait; 48- Neptune's realm; 49- At the drop of \_\_\_; 50- Sea eagle; 53- Reiteration; 59- Hide; 60- Trifling; 61- John \_\_\_ Garner; 62- Hearing organs; 63- "\_\_\_ Tu": 1974 hit; 64- Delight; 65- Hamburg's river; 66- Medicinal amount; 67- Really bother;

**DOWN:** 1- Bhutan's continent; 2- Pinochle declaration; 3- Mtn. stat; 4- Twining plant stem; 5- To-do lists; 6- Maestro Toscanini; 7- Nut of an oak; 8- Hard to find; 9- Keep at a distance; 10- Capital of Germany; 11- Apart; 12- Head of France?; 13- Flat sound; 21- A Kennedy; 25- Golfer Trevino; 26- Carryalls; 27- Hatch on the Hill; 28- Queen of Spain; 29- Holiday quaff; 30- Granola bit; 31- Actress Burstyn; 32- Sift; 33- Pittsburgh product; 35- Transgression; 38- Unscathed; 39- Negative vote; 40- Devoted follower; 42- Swelling reducer; 43- Afternoon performance; 45- African fly; 46- Curd stuff; 47- Covering for the head; 49- \_\_\_ski; 50- Foil alternative; 51- Not imaginary; 52- Workers' rights org.; 54- Eiel Saarinens's son; 55- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 56- \_\_\_ the finish; 57- Twice tetra-; 58- Nair rival

**Yesterday's solution**

D	E	A	F	E	N	I	D	O	I	T	A	T
A	L	T	I	M	A	B	R	R	B	O	L	O
H	O	O	F	E	R	I	A	N	E	W	O	K
T	R	A	N	S	M	O	G	R	I	F	Y	
M	O	N	E	Y	Y	E	A	D	I	T	T	O
A	D	E	E	X	E	L	S	B	A	A		
T	O	R	N	A	D	O	S	E	N	C	A	M
S	R	O	T	E	N	M	G	S	H	R	E	
U	S	S	O	N	S	O	A	K	L	A	N	D
S	P	A	N	S	O	N	T	I	K	E	A	
W	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	H	O	L	E	
A	R	E	S	T	O	A	P	U	R	D	A	H
S	K	A	T	C	T	R	U	R	T	E	X	T
H	A	R	E	H	E	Y	S	T	Y	L	E	S

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
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- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
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- IACM 28 387 333
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# World badminton federation clears Ratchanok in dop

**F**ORMER badminton world champion Ratchanok Intanon has been cleared of a doping breach and will be allowed to compete at the Olympics next month.

The Badminton World Federation issued a statement yesterday saying it had lifted a provisional suspension on the No. 4-ranked Ratchanok, allowing Thailand's Olympic medal hopeful to return to competition immediately.

In the Thai capital Bangkok, Ratchanok broke down in tears as she spoke at a news conference held to announce the good news locally.

"It is my dream to compete at the Olympics. I thank all the team that helped me to go," she was quoted saying on the website of the Bangkok Post newspaper. "I was always confident of my innocence. I didn't



Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon

do anything wrong."

Ratchanok, who in April who became a national heroine when she became the first Thai to be ranked No.1 in women's singles, said she will resume training today, after the badminton federation had forced her to stop during the investigation.

The BWF's doping hearing panel held an expedited hearing via video conference on Saturday for Ratchanok, who returned a positive sample during the Thomas and

Uber Cup finals in China on May 15 for triamcinolone acetonide, a class of steroid hormones known as glucocorticoids.

Use of the substance is prohibited during competition if administered orally, intravenously, intramuscularly or rectally, but the panel found that because administration of the substance was intra-tendinous - directly into the tendon - it did not require a therapeutic use exemption and was part of an ongoing me-

dical treatment, so there was no violation committed.

The BWF said the 21-year-old Ratchanok's medical background and records of treatment were submitted as part of the hearing.

"This evidence together with the testimony from the expert witness established to the satisfaction of the panel that the substance was administered on May 13, before the competition as part of on-going medical treatment of the athlete and that the route of administration of the substance was intra-tendinous," the statement said.

The Olympic badminton tournament runs Aug. 11-20. The Post reported that the seven-member Thai badminton team along with staff will depart Bangkok for Rio de Janeiro on Aug 1. AP



## FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo, Messi on UEFA award shortlist

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo and Lionel Messi are on the 10-player shortlist to be named UEFA Best Player in Europe for last season. Fan favorite Will Grigg missed out but got as many points as Paul Pogba.

Ronaldo is joined by Pepe, his teammate on European champion teams Portugal and Real Madrid, on the shortlist voted by media from each of UEFA's 55 member federation countries.

The 10 candidates had the biggest points totals in a first-round poll of voters who each picked five players.

Grigg, the Northern

Ireland forward who became a cult hero at the European Championship without even playing, finished in joint 25th position. He tallied the same points as Pogba and Giorgio Chiellini.

The 10 candidates also include Madrid's Gareth Bale and Toni Kroos, who both reached the Euro 2016 semifinals with Wales and Germany, respectively.

A second round of voting will decide the three finalists named on Aug. 5.

The winner will be chosen in a final vote to be announced on Aug. 25 during the Champions League group-stage draw in Monaco. AP

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Henrik Stenson of Sweden plays a shot during the third round of the British Open Golf Championship

GOLF

# Stenson wins duel with Mickelson to claim British Open

Doug Ferguson

**H**ENRIK Stenson is the champion golfer of the year, thanks to a final round for the ages. He kept hitting the best shots of his life, one after another, and he needed each one to stay ahead of Phil Mickelson in a British Open duel that ranked among the best in major championship history.

Stenson made 10 birdies, including a 50-foot putt across the 15th green that had him pumping his fist in a rare show of emotion Sunday.

The final stroke in this masterpiece was a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole that curled into the cup on the final turn. It gave him an 8-under 63, tying Johnny Miller at Oakmont for the greatest closing round by a major champion, and Stenson didn't even realize it until he sat down to sign his card.

Records didn't matter. This was about winning his first major.

"Right now I'm running on adrenaline. But there will be some point when I'll struggle to make it up the stairs when I get back to the house," Stenson said after four hours of an epic battle between two 40-somethings at Royal Troon.

Mickelson was a runner-up for the 11th time in a major,

but never like this. He can't look back at a mistake because he really didn't make any. He opened with a 63, closed with a career-best 65, shot the second-best score in Open history and was 11 shots better than everyone in the field. Except one.

## Stenson and Mickelson were never separated by more than two shots over 40 straight holes until the Swede's final birdie

"It's probably the best I've played and not won," Mickelson said. "I think that's probably why it's disappointing in that I don't have a point where I can look back and say, 'I should have done that or had I only done this.' I played a bogey-free round of 65 on the final round of a major. Usually, that's good enough to do it, and I got beat. I got beat by 10 birdies."

He got beat by arguably the best final round in 156 years of major championships. Miller also made 10 birdies in his final round of the 1973 U.S. Open, and then waited to see if anyone could catch him. Stenson started the final round with a one-shot lead over Mickelson, and knew it would be a two-man race from the opening hole when Mickelson nearly holed out from the fairway.

He answered great shot with one of his own, finally pulling away with birdies on the 14th and 15th holes, and then a third in a row after Mickelson drilled a 3-wood onto the green at the par-5 16th and came within a fraction of an inch of making an eagle.

The last birdie was for the record book. Stenson finished at 264, breaking by one shot the 72-hole scoring record in the majors that David Toms set in the 2001 PGA Championship at Atlanta Athletic Club. His 20-under par matched Jason Day's record for lowest under par at last year's PGA Championship.

His biggest challenge was 46-year-old Mickelson, who has won five majors.

"I knew he wasn't going to back down at any point, and in a way that makes it easier for myself," Stenson said. "I knew I had to keep on pushing, keep on giving myself birdie chan-

ces. He wasn't going to give it to me, so I had to pull away. I'm just delighted I managed to do that with a couple of birdies at the right time."

This was heavyweight material, reminiscent of the "Duel in the Sun" just down the Ayrshire coastline at Turnberry in 1977, when Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus battled to the final hole, and no one else was closer than 10 shots.

Stenson and Mickelson were never separated by more than two shots over 40 straight holes until the Swede's final birdie. In the final round, they combined to make 14 birdies and an eagle. If this was a better-ball match, they would have shot 59.

"I've always thought that he is one of the best ball-strikers in the game and that major championships are perfectly suited for him," Mickelson said. "I knew that he would ultimately come through and win. I'm happy that he did. I'm disappointed that it was at my expense."

J.B. Holmes won the B-Flight. He finished third, 14 shots behind. The Swede won his first major in his 42nd attempt, becoming only the ninth player to capture his first major after turning 40. Beyond the score, the measure of his performance was that he putted for a birdie on every hole Sunday in a mild wind off the Irish Sea.

Stenson three-putted for bogey from just off the first green, and he three-putted on No. 11 to fall back into a tie for the lead.

They matched pars on only six of the 18 holes. Stenson became only the fourth player to win the British Open with all four rounds in the 60s, joining Tiger Woods, Nick Price and Greg Norman. He also ended a streak of six American winners at Royal Troon that dated to 1950.

He gave Sweden a long-awaited major in men's golf, 19 years after Jesper Parnevik lost a 54-hole lead at Royal Troon. Stenson said Parnevik send him a message that said, "Go out and finish what I didn't manage to finish."

"I'm really proud to have done that, and it's going to be massive for golf in Sweden with this win," Stenson said.

Maybe he can take that silver jug down to Rio in his search of Olympic gold.

Golf's top four players have withdrawn from the Olympics, but the Rio Games will have at least two of this year's major champions — Stenson and Masters winner Danny Willett of England.

There's one more major to play before Rio. Take a breath, Henrik. The PGA Championship starts a week from Thursday. **AP**

opinion

**Our Desk**

Daniel Beitler



**WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS?**

The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has a knack for assessing situations on the strength of a technicality.

In its most recent report, the CCAC conveniently found that the government owes no compensation to the Baía da Nossa Senhora da Esperança Company that was illegally granted land by the former director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau.

Despite the fact that the alleged illegal decision seems to have been approved by a senior government official, the CCAC has declared any responsibilities of the government are now void. Nevertheless the question of who owns the land is still, somehow, under discussion.

The anti-corruption bureau is prone to defending the government and the upper echelons of its senior leadership, as reported by the New Macau Association on multiple occasions. Like its Hong Kong counterpart on which the CCAC was modeled, Macau's corruption watchdog is directly accountable to the Chief Executive (CE).

It is therefore no surprise that a speedy investigation into the CE's role in expediting the Jinan University Donation last month revealed that there was categorically no contravention of the law and that everything had been done by the books. We can be sure that the CE was pleased with the "independent" findings of the bureau.

What struck me about the latest CCAC report – and indeed earlier ones – is that every paragraph or section seems to follow the same argument structure, usually predicated on a technicality: since it was not...; due to the unusual circumstances...; according to the law...; thus there was no violation.

It almost seems like an instant report generator, where CCAC staff members are only required to fill in a few blanks to produce a report absolving a suspect's wrongdoing.

In every country that has existing free press and independent government investigation entities, senior public officials of all levels are found to act unlawfully or illegitimately. In Macau, it tends to be the junior leaders and subordinates that are honorably thrown under the bus – or, in some cases, the big names, but only once they have fallen from favor.

The three other most notable CCAC reports of late also fit the bill, including the proceedings against the former Public Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng, the Firecracker factory case and the investigation of two Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau chiefs for turning a blind eye to the tardiness of two subordinates in the bureau, which has reportedly led to "a direct loss" of around MOP550,000 to the government.

Of course this is almost certainly a gross overestimation of cost to the government for the "600 unjustified absences" namely tardiness and leaving work before workers' finishing hours.

If this were true then on average each infraction would amount to a loss of about MOP915. And if the average duration of each infraction amounted to as much as an hour, then the "subordinate" workers would have to be jointly paid more than MOP170,000 per month.

But assuming that the figure is not inflated, what a truly insignificant finding it is when compared to the hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars laundered through the city and paid out in contracts, concessions and other agreements that never reach public tender!

It is good to see the CCAC tackling the big issues in Macau, right?

In addition to concerns about the bureau's integrity, there are also suspicions of misconduct of leaders within the CCAC. Last year a staff member at the bureau committed suicide by jumping off the Dynasty Plaza building. His wife later revealed that he had been under investigation by the CCAC at the time of his death and she accused the body's senior leadership of "hiding facts and giving false statements."

It has been said before, but the CCAC needs to be truly independent in order to effectively tackle corruption at all levels within the government. Failing this, the second best option is to establish a watchdog for the anti-corruption watchdog itself. A "Commission Against Corruption in the Commission Against Corruption," or CACCAC to fuse the English and Portuguese acronyms.

After all, who watches the watchers?

**THE SUSPECTED MH370 WING FLAP REACHES AUSTRALIAN INVESTIGATORS**

Officials say investigators in Australia are examining a wing flap found last month on an east African island that is suspected to be from the missing Malaysian airliner.

A joint statement by Australian and Malaysian government authorities said yesterday that the "large piece of aircraft debris" had arrived at the Australian Transport Safety Bureau headquarters in Australia's capital,

Canberra, for examination as part of the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

The piece was found by locals on Pemba Island, off the coast of Tanzania, on June 23.

Australian technical specialists are working with Malaysian investigators to determine if the debris is from the Boeing 777 that vanished with 239 people on board in March 2014.

**Myanmar rebels satisfied with preparatory peace talks**

AP PHOTO



Myanmar's Foreign Minister and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi

**REPRESENTATIVES** of ethnic minorities who have been battling Myanmar's government for decades said yesterday their meeting with the country's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was a good beginning but that the peace process remains an uphill task.

Neither side made any promises in the talks to prepare for substantive peace negotiations in August, said Khu Oo Reh of the United Nationalities Federal Council, a coalition of ethnic rebel groups. The ethnic groups are particularly interested in securing a political agreement – the subject of the planned August talks – that would meet their long standing demands for greater autonomy.

"It was just like a family meeting," he told reporters.

"It was a meeting that led to constructive intentions for the future meeting."

Khu Oo Reh said the Sunday talks did not resolve whether ethnic armed groups who didn't sign a 2015 nationwide cease-fire agreement would participate in the August meeting, considered by both sides to be crucial to restoring peace after more than five decades of mutual mistrust and warfare. Fighting continues in some areas.

"We have said many times that the government needs to work on the negotiations to stop the offensive attacks by the military on the ground," Khu Oo Reh said. "We generally understand that the government and the military are aware of that and working on that process."

Suu Kyi, whose National

League for Democracy party in March succeeded a military-backed government, has dubbed the August meeting the 21st-Century Panglong Conference, a reference to the 1947 Panglong Agreement that was signed by her father, Gen. Aung San, and ethnic minority groups. Aung San was assassinated before the country became formally independent from Britain, and ethnic groups generally hold his successors responsible for not honoring the 1947 pact, which would have guaranteed them more autonomy.

"All stakeholders, which means all armed groups, must be included," in the August talks, said Khu Oo Reh. "If any group is excluded, the problem will come back again one day to the country, and the hope that we have on for secure lives, peace and rule of law will fade away."

He expressed some frustration that Suu Kyi, who holds the official post of State Counselor, had asked what the ethnic rebel groups could give to the government.

He said he replied with his own question noting the suffering that many minority groups had undergone in decades of fighting.

"We no longer have any resources left. Mountains are flattened. The land has become desert-like. Rivers and streams are dried up. Villages are abandoned. People fled from their homes to the jungle, and others are now staying in other countries as refugees. What I want to ask is, what are you looking to get from us? What else do we have to give?" AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Xinhua/Attila Volgyi



Jennifer Gutierrez (front left) of Spain shoots during the IHF Women's Beach Handball World Championships final against Brazil. Team Spain claimed the title in Budapest, Hungary, by defeating Brazil by 2-1.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

AP PHOTO



**USA** The man who killed two police officers and a sheriff's deputy in Baton Rouge was a former Marine sergeant who served in Iraq and had no known ties to any extremist groups. Gavin Eugene Long, a black man whose last known address was in Kansas City, Missouri, carried out the attack Sunday on his 29th birthday. Police say he was seeking out law enforcement and ambushed them, wounding three other officers before he was killed

**INDONESIA** automobile sales in June rose over 11 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the industry association yesterday. Car sales were recorded at 91,471 units last month, or 11.4 percent up from a year earlier. The association targets automotive sales to grow 5 percent this year from 1.01 million units in 2015.

**KAZAKHSTAN** Three police officers and a civilian were gunned down yesterday in an attack on a police station in Kazakhstan's largest city, echoing similar scenes of carnage in another Kazakh city just a month earlier.

AP PHOTO



**BANGLADESH** A special tribunal has sentenced three members of a militia group to death for their role in killings and other serious crimes committed during the country's independence war against Pakistan 35 years ago.

**BRITAIN-EU** New British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who recently likened the European Union to Adolf Hitler's vision for Europe, came to Brussels yesterday to meet for the first time with his EU colleagues, and said he hopes to cooperate closely. More on P15