



83,000 VISIT REGIONAL FAIR
The three-day Guangdong and Macao Branded Products Fair 2016 concluded yesterday with a total of 83,000 visitors

P2



DIDI TO BUY UBER CHINA

P8



HONG KONG HOUSING REBOUND MAY BE SHORT-LIVED
Secondary property prices rose in Q2, marking a pause in a correction that analysts said may resume amid higher supply and weaker demand

P11

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA released a prominent human rights lawyer on bail amid protests yesterday outside a northern city court, where supporters of other jailed lawyers and activists condemned the secrecy surrounding the government's yearlong campaign against legal activism. *More on p10*



TAIWAN's president yesterday apologized on behalf of the government to the island's aboriginal peoples for 400 years of conquest and colonization, saying the facing of difficult historical facts was necessary for society to move forward. Tsai Ing-wen said her government wished to "take a further step" and offer its "fullest apology." *More on p20*

BANGLADESH More than 100,000 students in Bangladesh linked their hands yesterday to form human chains to protest two attacks last month by suspected Islamist militants. The students from hundreds of colleges and universities in Dhaka and other cities took part in the protest as part of a campaign to create awareness about the rise of Islamic extremism in the country. *More on p12*



INDIA-SAUDI ARABIA The Indian government said yesterday it plans to evacuate thousands of Indian workers who have lost their jobs in Saudi Arabia and cannot afford to pay for a flight home. The workers were mostly employed by Saudi construction companies and were laid off amid a slowdown in the industry caused by low global oil prices. About 10,000 Indian workers in Saudi Arabia have lost their jobs.

More on backpage

July GGR beats estimates aided by summer tourists

P3



Artisan shopping center set to open by the end of the year

P5 MDT REPORT

Escalator system at Rua da Surpresa enter into operation



The escalator system that aims to complete the passageway connecting Rua do Campo to the ZAPE area through Conde S Januário Hospital (CHCSJ) entered into operation yesterday. According to a Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau statement, public can use the complete system composed by the pedestrian overpass at Rua do Campo, the escalator system of Rua da Surpresa connecting Horta e Mitra Market to Rua Nova à Guia that leads to the lifts of Calçada da Surpresa and gives access to the CHCSJ Complex and to the lifts and the underpass for pedestrians located at Pátio do Túnel or the lifts of the garden next to pergola Cheok Kun that gives access to ZAPE area.

CE renews contracts for two Portuguese judges and one prosecutor

Two judges serving in the Court of First Instance (TJB) and Court of Second Instance (TSI) and one public prosecutor, saw their contracts renewed for two more years. The information was published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette (BO). By order of the Chief Executive (CE) the contracts of judges Carlos Carvalho, Gil Oliveira and the Public Prosecutor Joaquim Teixeira de Sousa were renewed by a period of two years commencing September 1.

Photo exhibition promotes inclusion in the community

A photo exhibition titled "Field Hockey for All" opened last week, with the aim of promoting interaction between hockey players and the underprivileged, and to spread awareness of the importance of sporting activities. Over 20 photos featuring the training sessions of the players, competitions with teammates in Macau and friendly competitions with the hockey team in Hong Kong are displayed in the Rua Cunha Foundation until Friday, according to Rotaract Club of Macau's statement. The photo exhibition is organized by Rotaract Club of Macau and co-organized by Fuhong Society of Macau and Macau Hockey Association.

CRIME

Phone scams targeting more residents

Renato Marques

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) have reported two similar cases of what seems to be a new type of phone scam.

Police force spokesperson,

Tam Weng Keong, stated during a press conference yesterday that a local resident, aged 26, was contacted over the phone by a woman claiming to be from a Shanghai Telecom company.

During the phone call, the woman claimed that someone had used the victims ID card to open a mobile phone account within the company.

The scammer continued to explain that this number had

been uploading large quantities of photographs with pornographic content to the web, and was caught by the police who were now searching for information on the case. The scammer allegedly passed the call on to a supposed police officer from the Shanghai Police who requested personal information such as ID number, full name, and date of birth amongst other information that the victim provided over the phone thinking that she was speaking to a real officer.

Following the interaction and realizing that she may have been victim to scam she decided to report the case to the PJ.

Another complaint was received by the police, involving a man who experienced a similar call from the same Shanghai Telecom Company and stating a similar case of "abuse" of personal information, after the call was passed to a supposed police officer that informed the victim that they had been implicated in a case of a swindle that totaled RMB 2.6 million.

In this instance, the alleged police officer offered to help to hire an attorney to assist in the case in mainland China, asking that a fee of RMB20,000 be transferred to a bank account in mainland China.

The victim attempted to transfer the requested sum but after the transaction failed to be completed at the bank, she decided to call her husband who suspected that she has been targeted in a scam and reported it to the PJ.

Smuggled firecrackers left in public spaces

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) reportedly discovered on July 28 a suspect in a case involving the detection of a large quantity of pyrotechnic materials in a public space, the PSP spokesperson Lam Keong informed in a jointed press conference held yesterday afternoon.

According to the report on July 21, a package with 53 boxes of firecrackers containing a total of 20.68 million firecracker pieces was found near the Bus stop of the Hac Sa Reservoir Park.

The police investigation led to the uncovering of a suspect, a 28-year old Macau resident that has confessed to the police to have bought more than 60 boxes of the explosives in Gongbei market for RMB10,000 between mid-December last year and mid-January this year.

The suspect affirmed also that the sales person at the shop where he acquired the firecrackers, helped to smuggle the

explosives into Macau in six different deliveries all carried by an unknown Chinese man.

The explosives were then stored in a flat located at Rua do Tesouro in the Inner Harbor area.

The man was said to have the intention of selling the firecrackers to passers-by during the Chinese New Year, but in fact only sold about 10 of those over 60 boxes and, because they had been smuggled into the territory, he had no option to dispose of them in a legal way so he dumped them on the evening of July 20.

The case was already referred to the Public Prosecutions Office under the charge of prohibited weapon and explosives.

This was not the only case regarding the discovery of explosives in public areas as in an allegedly unrelated case another 41 boxes of similar pyrotechnic materials were found on the street in Rampa da Penha last Sunday.

Guangdong and Macau branded products fair closed with 83,000 visitors



JOINTLY organized by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and by the Department of Commerce of Guangdong Province, the three-day Guangdong & Macao Branded Products Fair 2016 (GMBPF) concluded yesterday. The three-day event recorded an overall total of 83,000 visitors.

Over the same period, 67 business-matching sessions were conducted by enterprises, including those from Guangdong (Jieyang, Huizhou and Maoming), Hong Kong, Macau and Indonesia. Products discussed in the course of the sessions included food and beverages, daily necessities, clothing and accessories, and creative handicrafts.

An IPIM statement cites a local resident

identified as Mr. Kou, who has been to the event every year, who revealed that he had spent over MOP10,000 last year and that he had set no limit on his spending for this year, as he would consider buying any product if he deems it suitable.

Jils Toys is an Indonesian company specializing in handmade "rocking" horses. The representative of Jils Toys, Linfan Pantow, disclosed that 90 percent of their products were sold on the second day, in line with their expectations.

A representative of Branco Carvalho Neto, Raquel Carvalho Neto, noted that her company wanted to attain an understanding of the consumers' needs via this platform in order to adjust their marketing strategies and to improve their product packaging.

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Daniela Wei

July gaming beats estimates as resorts draw tourists

MACAU'S gaming revenue in July fell less than analysts estimated as the holiday season brought tourists and leisure gamblers to the local units of Las Vegas Sands Corp., Wynn Resorts Ltd. and other casinos.

Gross gaming revenue fell 4.5 percent to 17.8 billion patacas (USD2.2 billion), marking 26 consecutive months of declines, according to data from Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That followed a 8.5 percent decrease in June and compares with the median estimate of a 5.5 percent drop by nine analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Macau's casinos have been shifting focus to attract more tourists and recreational gamblers as revenue from high-stakes VIP gamblers was stymied by the Chinese government's crackdown on corruption. The opening of Wynn Macau's Wynn Palace and Sands China's Parisian casino resorts in August and September respectively are being closely watched for their impact on the industry. "We think the industry is



stabilizing" with the new openings by mid-September to attract mass market tourists, Macau lawmaker Pereira Coutinho said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. Macau still has potential to attract Chinese visitors as it's the closest place to mainland China where gambling is legal, he said.

Macau stocks were mixed in Hong Kong trading, with Sands China up 2.3 percent while Wynn Macau fell 2.2 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 1.4 percent, and the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau gaming stocks index was little changed.

Visitor numbers to Macau is beginning to show signs of rebounding and "we're starting to see gaming revenue declines easing," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. Monthly casino revenue has also been stabilizing at around the \$2 billion a month level and will likely increase in the third quarter with new resorts opening, she said.

Casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson said last week he's optimistic recreational gamblers and tourists are spurring a recovery in Macau's hard-hit casinos industry, after Sands China reported

mass-market gaming revenue rose in June for the first time in two years. The government is reviewing Sands's application for gaming tables at the \$2.7 billion Parisian that's scheduled to open Sept. 13.

Macau's economy is expected to reverse three years of contractions and return to growth in 2017, the city's Chief Executive Chui Sai On said on July 27. The government wants the casino industry to grow the revenue contribution of their non-gaming facilities such as retail and entertainment, and has set a limit the growth of new gaming tables.

Gaming revenue growth will "finally turn positive by September," as the new resorts attract players and tourists, said Grant Goversen, an analyst at Union Gaming Group LLC. "We expect the growth rate to generally remain positive from that point forward after September." **Bloomberg**

Coutinho: Gaming to develop in 'more normal way'

ASKED if he thinks that the better-than-expected figures for July indicate a lasting recovery, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho stated that the future of Macau's gaming industry looks positive as both the mass market and the VIP segment continue to develop "in a more normal way."

"As long as we are still making [a] profit, as long as we are still three times [bigger in gaming revenue] than Las Vegas, and we remain number one in terms of revenue from gaming, we will continue to be safe in Macau," he told Bloomberg Television in an interview.

"For the past few years, the Macau people have been crying out for a more stable economy, and not [such fast-paced] development that leads to social problems," said Coutinho. "That's why the government is taking into consideration the Macau people overall."

He also said that the government are "doing their best," however could not be fully responsible for any downturn or recovery as "the control in the end belongs to the Central Government."

Macau's gaming future is overall positive as the MSAR is uniquely placed for the Chinese market, being close to mainland China, but also having the ability to make mainland tourists feel "comfortable" in the city, he added.

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Nightclub operators optimistic over market growth

THE region's growing nightlife and entertainment scene has attracted renowned artists to perform in the city's high-end clubs, a talent-booker agency claimed.

According to a report by South China Morning Post, local operators and entrepreneurs are increasingly marketing the MSAR as Asia's entertainment capital, even though most mainland tourists visit Macau to gamble.

Paco Chan, director of Pomo & Stone – a Hong Kong-based entertainment and talent booking agency that works for Cubic – revealed that there are efforts to make Macau known as the “party capital of Asia.”

Chan said Macau can offer more space to club than Hong Kong, remarking that their region cannot book renowned DJs like Ma-



cau.

Chan has booked numerous international artists to perform in Macau, such as American artists Chris Brown and Jason Derulo, as well as DJs Tiësto and Steve Aoki. However, he claims that it was not easy to convince them.

“A long time ago when I reached out to different artists and their managers they would say ‘Macau? Where’s Macau?’ They’d never heard of it before,” Chan said to SCMP. “The first artist I

booked for Macau took six months of convincing before they eventually came.”

When Studio City nightclub Pacha Macau opened in October, its owners hoped the franchise would forge a new path for the city's nightclub industry.

Eddi Dean, managing director of Pacha Macau, remains confident of the club's future in the region, stressing that they have already witnessed “some really amazing high-energy nights here in

Macau.”

“Hopefully, more international clubs will come to Macau. That will help build the identity of Macau as much more than just a place to come and gamble,” he said.

Macau has attracted a number of famous stars including Flo Rida, PSY, DJ Fatboy Slim, Ne-Yo, deadmau5 and Paris Hilton, among others.

In a recent Times interview with Allan Zeman, known as the “Father of Lan Kwai Fong”, Zeman remarked that the MSAR needs to change its bar and clubbing culture lest it attract the “wrong element.”

“Clubbing today is much more sophisticated. It's not just a DJ and loud music. Today the millennials want a much more relaxed atmosphere, a place where they can talk and enjoy themselves,” he said.

Airport staff and police complete joint bomb threat exercise

GOVERNMENT entities and aviation operators together conducted the “Bomb Threat Exercise 2016” in Macau International Airport on Friday morning, a statement from the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) said.

The joint exercise was carried out to simulate the “Airport Emergency Plan” and other security contingency procedures in the event of a bomb threat.

The drill took place early in the morning with a scenario involving an anonymous phone call to an airline that threatened to detonate explosives in the airport.

Airport staff activated the emergency plan, alerting the operations center of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), who commenced further security procedures including an inspection of the airport.

During the inspection, the PSP discovered two sus-

picious bags, one of which contained an explosive device. The site was cordoned off, the people in the area were evacuated and the bomb was safely detonated under controlled conditions.

According to AACM, the exercise was “smooth” and met its intended objectives. Around 150 participants from various organizations were involved.

Similar emergency simulations will be held in the second half of 2016, including a “full-scale emergency exercise” and a heliport security exercise.



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Daniel Beitler

Artisan shopping center set to open by end of 2016

A shopping center that aims to become a hub for local cultural and creative products and services is due to have several shop openings this month and is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year.

"Village Mall," located on Rua do Campo in downtown Macau, is spread across three floors of the street's Broadway Center building. The total area amounts to around 50,000 square meters, with the space organized into about 100 units and a larger exhibition space on the third floor for various events, such as fashion shows and concerts.

Yesterday, an arts and crafts shop named "Binshu Studio," held a formal opening ceremony at the center, attended by a few dozen people including Window Lei, the director of the mall project.

Lei said that the center will not only be a space for retail but a medium through which Macau artists may showcase their work. He also hopes to provide business services to artists and small companies that may not have the expertise or experience themselves.

Other facilities offering similar services already exist in Macau, such as the Macau Design Centre, which seeks to support local design enterprises and individuals by providing them with resources and below-market rental rates.

However, the new center on Rua do Campo aims to prima-



Musicians perform on Binshu Studio's opening night, yesterday

rily serve creative artisans who are fashioning their own products on a small, non-industrial scale.

The Village Mall has also been in operation, in another form, for some time previously, and was located in an industrial building for around five years. Lei believes that the center's new site will make it more popular and well-known to residents and tourists alike, given its central location in downtown Macau that makes it more accessible to interested parties.

"This village is in a better location [than before], which makes it easier for people to visit," he told the Times at yesterday's opening.

Differing accounts report that somewhere between one-third and one-half of the 100 or so units are open or have been reserved. Although the center is not due for its formal opening until the end of the year, visitors are welcome to look around and visit some shops, which

are already showcasing their products.

When the Times visited on three separate occasions, about one-third of the stores appeared to be operational or occupied with equipment. The center appeared empty, but hardly desolate or abandoned, since its recent construction that means the floors are still unblemished. Lei estimated that tenants occupy around 50 percent of the shops, three or four of which are due to have individual opening events this month.

Fortes Pakeong Sequeira, a local musician and artist, said that he is going to have a shop in the center to exhibit his works, as well as a studio on the third floor that his band will use for recording purposes. Also present at yesterday's opening, he said that his unit is not yet open as he is waiting for the recording area on the third floor to be completed.

Pakeong also said that he welcomed the opportunity to set up

shop in the center, as it would help his art to reach more people. He added that he has been looking for such an area for a long time.

"We have to show local art to Macau people so that they know about us," he told the Times. "This is very important. I don't think they [currently] know very much about art."

Some of Pakeong's work is already being exhibited in the center, including a tricolor horse sculpture adorned with intricate designs that look as though they have been created with a black marker pen. Additionally there are two large semicircular wood cut-outs illustrated in the same manner, on either side of the horse sculpture.

Among the other products offered in the units already open are small handicrafts, greeting cards, phone cases, jewelry and artisan masks, as well as various artworks, structures and sculptures.

There are also plans for a co-

ffee shop in the center, which some are jokingly calling the most vital ingredient for any cultural and creative hub. Lei said that he expects preparation work for the coffee shop to take off next week.

Anson Ng, the owner of a bookshop and CD store near Senado Square, is one example of the types of merchants that Village Mall organizers are seeking to recruit, though he is not known as an artisan in the same sense as many of the other tenants.

Ng is now looking for a new location from which to sell his records since the landlord of his previous unit announced earlier this month that the lease would not be renewed. Ng told the Times that he has been offered a unit in Village Mall on several occasions but that he doesn't think it will be "appropriate" for his needs.

He said that the atmosphere there "is not really right," complaining that only one-third of the units have been taken and that the place feels empty.

Ng said that he would prefer a stand-alone store over a shopping center environment. He explained that his reasoning is not really about the flexibility required to host small gigs, as Pin-to Musica often did, but because he wants somewhere that he can construct an "atmosphere to suit the store's image."

The book and music store owner said that he doesn't want to agree to a discounted rental fee for a year, only to have the rents increase the following year. He says that he often needs to do renovation works, and the cost and inconvenience of these necessitates somewhere "more permanent."

Rental costs for the units at the Village Mall range from between MOP15 and MOP23 per square foot. It is not clear whether these are first-year only rates.

The project is receiving government subsidies for its establishment and operation. It received MOP2.64 million in such subsidies and a further MOP5 million interest-free loan from the Cultural Industries Fund.

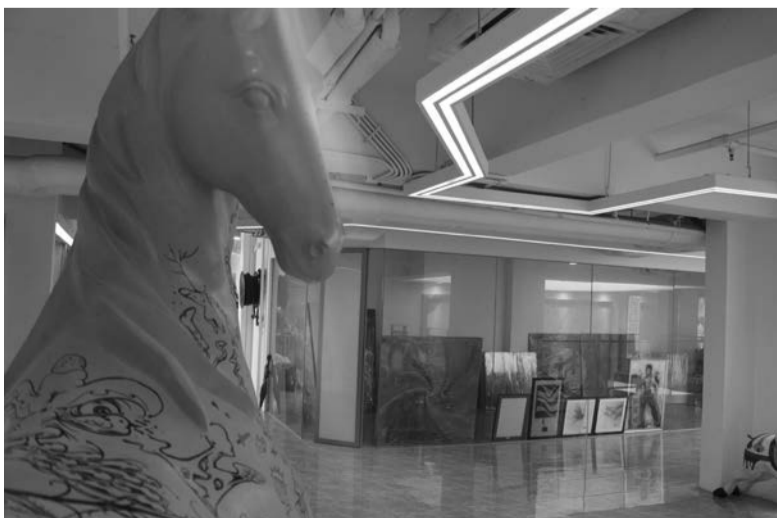
The project has been warmly encouraged by the MSAR government, which is trying to crystallize existing cultural and creative skills in the territory into a self-sufficient industry. The plan ties in with the government's strategy to diversify the economy of the territory, and reduce Macau's financial dependence on the gaming sector.

We have to show local art to Macau people so that they know about our cultural and creative industries.

PAKEONG SEQUEIRA



A sign at the entrance to Village Mall



Pakeong's horse sculpture seen in the foreground



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2016 GGR difficult to predict, says Leong



Lionel Leong

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, stated that it was difficult for the government to predict – at this stage – the city's gaming revenue for the second half of 2016, given the uncertainty and volatility in international markets.

The secretary told reporters on Friday that the government has been paying close attention to the "L-shaped" growth of the international economy and the possible continuation of such a pattern in the near future.

However, the MSAR's economic outlook for the second half of the year was positive. After years of expansion, the city's efforts in promoting non-gaming offerings have proven effective in attracting a greater number of family visitors, Leong added.

Despite the increase in non-gaming offerings, the government is still evaluating applications from Macau resorts that will soon begin operations, for new-to-market live dealer gaming tables. Leong stressed that the principles applied when dealing with applications for new-to-market gaming tables have not changed.

Such tables must account for no more than 3 percent growth annually – which is measured on a compound basis – from the total number of those gaming products in the market. The cap policy will apply up to the beginning of 2023.

SEVERE WEATHER

Signal 3 raised ahead of Typhoon Nida

Daniel Beitler

THE Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) raised the alert for Typhoon Nida at 7 p.m. last night to a Signal 3 storm as the typhoon began its approach in the direction of the Pearl River estuary, reportedly packing winds of up to 135km per hour.

According to the latest predictions of the storm's trajectory, it is expected to make landfall near the Pearl River estuary today, directly striking mainland China, possibly in Shenzhen.

In the early hours of yesterday morning, SMG issued a Signal 1 warning for the incoming storm, which was then less than 800km from the city.

By 7 p.m. yesterday afternoon, with Typhoon Nida estimated to be about 330km east-southeast of Macau and forecasted to



A boat is hoisted ashore to take shelter from the upcoming Typhoon Nida in Shenzhen

move north-west at around 25km per hour, SMG had raised the warning to a Signal 3. SMG earlier wrote in an emailed statement to the Times that it has "not ruled out the possibility of hoisting a higher signal."

An additional yellow "storm surge" alert had been issued last night, as was a general thunders-torm warning. Yesterday, TurboJet suspended the

ferry routes linking Hong Kong and Shenzhen airports to Macau.

As of yesterday afternoon, 32 flights arriving or departing at the Macau International Airport for the remainder of yesterday and today were either delayed or suspended, a representative of the entity told the Times. The main destinations and points of origin included locations across China,

the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Flights to Taiwan appear to be unaffected.

The storm arrived in the South China Sea following a trajectory that saw it lash out at parts of the Philippines and unleash almost 300mm of rainfall on the archipelago country as it passed.

In the neighboring SAR, the Hong Kong Observatory stated early yesterday that it was considering increasing the Signal 3 warning to a much stronger Signal 8. By 9 p.m. the higher warning was in place for the city.

In response, more than 120 flights scheduled for Monday and Tuesday in Hong Kong were cancelled, with airlines such as Cathay Pacific and Dragonair suspending all flights between late Monday night and Tuesday afternoon.

Nearby Guangzhou and Shenzhen have both raised the typhoon yellow alert as well.

Other parts of China have issued an orange alert warning for gales and torrential rain, the second-highest level on the country's four-tier system.

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Uber's Chinese rival acquiring company's China operations

Joe McDonald, Beijing

UBER Technology Ltd. and its main Chinese competitor are combining their ride-hailing operations in China, ending a costly battle to attract riders.

Yesterday's announcement marks the latest foreign technology brand to tie up with a local partner in the face of intense competition in China. Yahoo, eBay and others have turned over Internet operations to Chinese partners or withdrawn.

Didi Chuxing said it would acquire Uber China and operate it as a separate brand. In exchange, Uber said it will receive a 20 percent stake in Didi Chuxing that will make the American company its biggest shareholder. Uber founder Travis Kalanick will join the Chinese company's board while Didi Chuxing founder Cheng Wei joins the Uber board.

Yesterday's announcement came after the Chinese government announced its first rules for the ride-hailing industry

No financial details were released. The Chinese business magazine *Cai-xin*, citing unidentified sources, said the deal valued the combined company at USD35 billion. That would make Uber's share worth \$7 billion.

"This agreement with Uber will set the mobile transportation industry on a healthier, more sustainable path of growth at a higher level," Cheng said



Women holding their smartphones show the ride-hailing apps Uber Technology (left), and Didi Chuxing at a residential compound in Beijing

in a statement.

Ride-hailing services in China have grown rapidly but suffered heavy losses. Kalanick told the Canadian technology platform BetaKit in February the company was losing \$1 billion a year in China.

"Didi has been a fierce competitor and I respect all that Didi and their team have accomplished," Kalanick said on his Facebook page. He said the merger "frees up substantial resources" for other Uber initiatives including food delivery and self-driving cars.

Foreign technology brands have struggled in China's populous but intensely competitive market. In June, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. sold its Chinese online operation to JD.com Inc., the country's No. 2 e-commerce service.

Didi was formed by the February 2015 merger of competing ride-hailing services launched by Chinese Internet giants Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Alibaba Group following a similar battle for customers.

Yesterday's announcement came after the Chinese government on Thursday announced its first rules for the ride-hailing industry, confirming its legal status after repeated run-ins with regulators.

Uber, headquartered in San Francisco, operates in more than 60 Chinese cities and plans to increase to more than 100 by the end of 2016.

Didi Chuxing, previously Didi Kuaidi, operates in some 400 Chinese cities. It said the company completed 1.4 billion rides in 2015.

The company said in June it raised \$7.3 billion from investors in what it described as one of the world's largest private equity funding rounds.

That included \$1 billion from Apple Inc., which became a strategic investor alongside Tencent and Alibaba.

Last September, Didi Chuxing and Lyft of the United States agreed to link their services to allow travelers to use them in each other's markets. In December, their alliance added India's Ola and Southeast Asia's GrabTaxi. **AP**

Chinese interest fires up Portuguese bank's share price

Barry Hayton, Lisbon

SHARES in Portugal's Banco Comercial Portugues were volatile yesterday after China's Fosun made a surprise offer to take an almost 17 percent stake in the country's largest listed bank by assets.

BCP S.A.'s share price jumped 7 percent in early trading before falling back to trade 2 percent higher at 0.02 euros (USD0.02) a share.

The bank's board announced the proposal from Fosun Industrial Holdings Limited on Saturday, saying it had "many positive aspects" and would be analyzed in coming days. It added that Fosun is considering ultimately buying up to 30 percent of BCP. No cash value was put on the stake.

Like much of the Portuguese banking sector, BCP has struggled to make a profit in recent years amid low interest rates and soured loans. The international financial crisis and Portugal's economic woes after needing a 78 billion-euro bailout in 2011 have also taken their toll, with BCP's share price falling from more than 3 euros a share in 2008.

Analysts expect the Portuguese financial sector to consolidate, either through mergers or alliances with banks in neighboring Spain, and Fosun's interest was a surprise. The Shanghai-based conglomerate owns Club Med and other businesses in Europe, including Portugal's biggest insurance company, Caixa Seguros.

BCP has assets of more than 75 billion euros, according to European banking authorities. It has had mixed success in its battle to restore profitability, recording losses of 197 million euros in the first half of this year, down from a profit of 241 million in the same period of 2015. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS TEAM MEMBERS TAKE PART IN CULTURAL TOURS



Sands China team members recently participated in two cultural tours of Macau, organized by Sands China Ltd, to broaden team members' understanding of the region's Sino-Lusophone culture and history.

According to Sands China's

press release, around 25 team members gathered at the A-Ma Temple on July 23, and then moved through Lilau Square, St Lawrence's Church and other significant sites before concluding their tour at Senado Square, with the Oral History

Association of Macau as their tour guide.

On Sunday, another group of team members spent the morning learning about the region's history, starting at Senado Square and making their way to St. Dominic's Church, Kuan Tai Temple - brimming with the charm of Chinese traditional culture, the Chinese architectural-style Rua de Felicidade, and other historical sites, finally finishing at the Chiang Peng Theatre.

The team members made their way through Rua dos Mercadores, one of the city's oldest streets, as their guides from the Oral History Association pointed out its many features that reflect the life of old Macau.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES KICKS OFF



The 2016 summer concert extravaganza presented by Studio City kicked off on Saturday with Taiwanese indie queen Cheer Chen.

Chen performed an extensive list of classic songs such as "Travel with Sound," "Fly for you," "The Long Goodbye" and other great hits, offering fans a unique experience into her music.

The second summer concert will feature renowned Chinese singer-songwriter Han Hong who will take the stage on August 13.

GRAND LAPA PRESENTS HANDMADE MOONCAKES

To celebrate the yearly Mid-Autumn Festival, Grand Lapa Macau is offering classic "Mooncakes with Lotus Seed Paste and Double Egg Yolk" and innovative "Mooncakes with Coffee Paste and Double Egg Yolk."

Grand Lapa mooncakes are handmade using the finest lotus seeds, freshest egg yolks and a wide selection of other ingredients, according to the resort's press release.

To reward guests for their loyal support, a box of four mooncakes is available with discounts for bulk purchases.

Grand Lapa is also extending all children's benefits to children up to the age of 18.

Children aged 5 can dine for free at any buffet at the hotel,



while children aged 6 to 18 can dine at half-price when accompanied by a paying adult. Also, when reserving room packages with breakfast included or if an in-house adult pays for breakfast, up to two children will dine for free, and an extra bed for children up to 18 years old will be provided.

CHINA is enhancing its participation in efforts to increase power production capacity in Africa, specifically in Angola and Mozambique, a factor that the International Energy Agency (IEA) considers vital for the continent's development.

In the recent study on "Boosting the Power Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa – China's Involvement", the IEA estimates that Chinese companies were responsible for nearly 30 percent of newly added electricity production capacity between 2010 and 2015 in that region of the African continent, which includes Angola and Mozambique.

In the 2010-2020 period additional production capacity attributed to projects involving Chinese companies is equivalent to 10 percent of total installed capacity in the region – a total of 200 projects and 17 gigawatts.

In Angola the participation of Chinese companies in electrical grid projects in urban and rural areas stands out, likewise in Equatorial Guinea, whereas in Ethiopia and Kenya cross-border transmission lines have been built. In other countries they are involved in integrated generation and distribution projects.

In the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale the installation of

China responsible for a third of electrification projects in Africa



power-lines and substations by Sinohydro has brought electricity to 5,000 people.

"Chinese energy companies are now increasingly active overseas, exporting China's domestic experience to other developing economies," indicates the study accessed by Macauhub, the most complete survey to date on China's participation in the African power sector.

During a recent visit to Mozambique, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi highlighted cooperation in the energy field and industry as a priority for relations between the two countries.

Power production capacity in Africa is still lower than in the rest of the world and does not meet internal needs, namely due to the lack of access to financing. An estimated 635 million people on the continent live without electricity.

In recent years China has become an important source of financing and technology for energy projects on the conti-

ment. According to the study, in the 2010-2020 period electric power networks will reach nearly 120 million more people, with Chinese companies accounting for almost 30 percent of additional production capacity.

"Expanded access to electricity can in turn facilitate industrialization and economic development," the study adds.

Renewable energies (hydropower, wind, solar and biomass) account for 56 percent

of Chinese electricity projects in the 2010-2020 period, with hydropower accounting for the largest share (49 percent).

In the 2010-2015 period, nearly USD13 billion were applied by China to energy sector development in Sub-Saharan Africa by means of loans, purchase/sale credits and foreign direct investment.

"Generally with Chinese government support, Chinese stakeholders provide integrated solutions in power generation capacity and in transmission and distribution through a combination of development assistance [loans], government-driven investment and equity investment," the IEA indicates.

The Export-Import (Exim) Bank of China has been taking on the role of reference financier for these projects. However, the trend is for more banks and commercial funds to enter the business, and some Chinese companies are already operating as power distributors, e.g. in Ghana. **MDT/Macauhub**

China has become an important source of financing and technology for energy projects on the continent

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Gerry Shih, Tianjin

CHINA released a prominent human rights lawyer on bail amid protests yesterday outside a northern city court, where supporters of other jailed lawyers and activists condemned the secrecy surrounding the government's yearlong campaign against legal activism.

The release of Wang Yu, who was detained last July, coincided with videos of an alleged confession by Wang posted on the websites of two Hong Kong media outlets in which she renounced her legal work and said "foreign forces" were using her law firm to undermine and discredit the Chinese government.

Wang's Beijing-based firm, Fengrui, has been at the center of a vast case in which dozens of lawyers and activists have been detained, questioned or charged with subversion since July last year.

Wen Donghai, a lawyer for Wang, told The Associated Press yesterday that he had learned from media reports that Wang had been released but had not seen her. Li Yuhuan, another lawyer representing Wang, said Wang's mother did not know of her release.

The AP could not independently verify the authenticity of the videos, and Phoenix TV, one of the outlets that interviewed Wang, declined to disclose where and when the interview took place.

Wang's reported release and confession were an unexpected bombshell for China's small but burgeoning human rights community on a day when many believed the head of the Fengrui firm, Zhou Shifeng, and three activists were standing trial behind closed doors in northern China.

Flanked by Western diplomats, around two dozen supporters gathered outside the Tianjin No. 2 Intermediate People's Court calling for information to be disclosed about the four, who were indicted in mid-July.

Supporters included the wife of Gou Hongguo, one of the activists who was charged with subversion and thought to be standing trial yesterday, even though there were no visible signs of a trial in progress aside from a heavy presence of plainclothes security officers outside the courthouse. Court officials reached by phone said they had no information about the cases.

Several hundred people nationwide have been questioned, with some detained and arrested, in the crackdown that has sent a chill through China's legal system. Nearly two dozen people remain in detention and face charges, the most serious of which

China releases prominent human rights lawyer on bail



Li Wenzu, center, wife of imprisoned lawyer Wang Quanzhang, holds a paper that reads "Release Liu Ermin"

include subversion of state power, which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

In her video interview, Wang denounced Zhou, the law firm's head, as an unqualified lawyer and said all of the firm's lawyers had received training in how to use Western universal values, human rights and democracy to "attack and smear" the Chinese government.

She accused unidentified foreign powers of hatching a plot to smuggle her 16-year-old son to the United States and denounced the American Bar Association for awarding her its newly created "ABA International Human Rights Award."

"Regarding this award, my attitude is to not recognize it, identify with it or accept it. This award is just another way for them to use me to attack and smear the Chinese government," said Wang, who was seated in a garden at what appeared to be a western-style villa.

"I am a Chinese. I can only accept awards from the Chinese government," Wang said.

Wang's statement is the latest in a series of alleged confessions that have appeared in Chinese state media — and, more recently, in Hong Kong

outlets — with the apparent goal of settling high-profile political cases before they go to trial.

Zhao Wei, a 24-year old legal assistant who was seized last July, was released in early July and similarly told the South China Morning Post newspaper that she regretted her activism.

■ **The release of Wang Yu, who was detained last July, coincided with videos of an alleged confession by Wang posted on the websites of two Hong Kong media**

After their release by Chinese authorities earlier this year, Peter Dahlin, a Swedish non-profit worker, and Lam Wing Kee, a Hong Kong book-seller, recanted confessions they made while in detention

to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

An overseas Chinese news site and activist groups that track the prosecutions of Chinese rights activists had reported rumors that Zhou, the law firm's head, Gou and the two others might be put on trial yesterday. Wives of lawyers and activists who were detained in the crackdown staged a small demonstration outside the courthouse next to diplomats from the United States, Britain and six other Western countries that have publicly denounced Beijing's crackdown.

Fan Lili, the wife of Gou, fell to the ground in tears following a confrontation with a plainclothes police officer while dozens of security agents who blanketed the street watched, filming with smartphones and video cameras.

"My son is 16 months old now and he has never even met his father. How can you be like this? Let him come home," Fan said. "All I'm here for today is to ask whether they are holding his hearing and why did they beat me?"

Local officials later persuaded the family members, supporters and diplomats to move from the courthouse gate.

Family members say they have not been permitted to

visit the jailed lawyers and activists since they were taken away more than a year ago. Chinese authorities, they say, have also refused to identify the legal counsel they have appointed to represent the defendants instead of the lawyers appointed by their families.

Chinese state media have previously accused the Fengrui firm's lawyers and associated activists of disrupting social order by organizing protests and stirring up trouble for personal gain. Rights groups say the activists are being targeted for organizing protests and social media campaigns to raise awareness of legal rights and hot-button social issues.

Jiang Tianyong, a Beijing-based human rights lawyer, said the level of secrecy was unusual. In the past, high-profile dissidents such as writer Liu Xiaobo had family-appointed lawyers and relatives present at their trials. Jiang said the disappearances, presumably into police custody, of at least two of the presumed defendants' wives as they were headed to Tianjin on Sunday were strong indications that a trial was under way.

"This is unprecedented [...] a completely secret operation," said Jiang. "From beginning to end, it's a black box." AP

Ting Shi, Benny Kung

HONG KONG

Move to bar pro-independence candidates jolts election

THE Hong Kong government's decision to bar pro-independence candidates from next month's legislative election risks giving the fringe issue more prominence in the campaign.

The Hong Kong Electoral Affairs Commission on Sunday said it disqualified Yeung Ke-cheong, of the Democratic Progressive Party of Hong Kong, from competing in the Kowloon West district. Yeung was the second candidate barred after refusing to sign a new pledge to uphold Hong Kong's Basic Law, which says the former British colony is an "inalienable" part of China.

Calls for Hong Kong's independence have gained traction since the 2014 Occupy Central protests failed to win concessions for what was supposed to be the city's first direct election for chief executive next year. The move to exclude candidates comes after several so-called localists, who advocate a more confrontational approach to securing greater autonomy from Beijing, announced plans to run in the Sept. 4 Legislative Council vote.

"It will highlight the demand for radical groups," said Joseph Cheng, a former political science professor at the City Univer-



Demonstrators wear red bandanas across their mouths as they sit in protest during a rally in Hong Kong

sity of Hong Kong and a convener of the pro-Occupy Alliance for True Democracy. "This suppression would probably generate even more publicity for the local consciousness, or local identity, cause."

Last Wednesday, Hong Kong's High Court declined to im-

mediately review legal challenges to the new electoral rule. Justice Thomas Au Hing-cheung said there was no urgency to consider the applications before the candidate nomination window closed two days later, the South China Morning Post reported.

The election commission said Friday it received 154 nomination forms for candidates vying for 70 seats on the legislature. The elections are Hong Kong's most high profile since the Occupy demonstrations paralyzed three business districts and drew international attention to the city's democracy movement.

Chan Ho-tin, convener of the Hong Kong National Party, was disqualified Saturday - he signed the pledge but refused to answer further queries on whether he'd continue to support independence. Other localist candidates who signed the pledge, such as Hong Kong Indigenous's Edward Leung, are still awaiting confirmation.

A Chinese University of Hong Kong poll released July 24 found that more than 17 percent supported Hong Kong's independence after 2047, when the "one country, two systems" framework is due to expire. More than 57 percent opposed the

idea. At the same time, 81 percent polled said independence was "not possible," while fewer than 4 percent considered it possible.

"I was disqualified as I deliberately stated that I would not uphold the Basic Law and thus did not sign the relevant statement," Yeung, from the Democratic Progressive Party, wrote on Facebook on Sunday.

The Hong Kong government didn't immediately respond to a request for comment yesterday on the decision to disqualify Yeung. In a statement posted after Chan's disqualification, the government said a person who advocates or promotes independence "cannot possibly uphold the Basic Law or fulfill his duties as a legislator."

The Hong Kong National Party said it was "honored" to be the "first party to be barred from a democratic election by the Communist colonial government of Hong Kong." **Bloomberg**

HK housing rebound may be short-lived, analysts say

Frederik Balfour

HONG Kong's secondary property prices rose in the second quarter, marking a pause in a correction that analysts said may resume amid higher supply and weaker demand.

Secondary property prices advanced 1.6 percent in the three months ended June 30, compared with a drop of 4.8 percent in the prior three months, according to figures released Friday by the Rating and Valuation Department. Analysts from Nomura Holdings Inc., CIMB Securities Ltd. and CLSA Ltd. are among those predicting that the rebound would be short-lived.

Home prices in Hong Kong have fallen 11 percent from a peak in September and sales have tumbled, amid slower growth and economic uncertainty. While diminished concerns about a rate hike by the U.S. Federal Reserve and a stock market rebound improved buyer sentiment in



the second quarter, there are many headwinds including looming supply, analysts said. The government forecasts that 18,203 new units will be completed this year, part of a pipeline of 93,000 expected in the next three to four years.

"This correction is multi-year, not several quarters," said Jeffrey Gao, a property analyst at Nomura, who expects prices will need to drop 25 percent to 35 percent from last year's peak before the market stabilizes. "In the upcoming months sentiment will be better and volume and price could edge up, but it's not really bottoming out."

Raymond Cheng, a property analyst at CIMB Securities, said that the

overall downward trend remains in place in light of the large expected increase in supply as part of government drive to make housing more affordable.

"In the past two months sentiment has improved because of the equity market and the U.S. didn't raise rates, but on the fundamental side, especially the supply side, there haven't been any changes," Cheng said.

Sellers of existing homes will also have limited pricing power in a market where they have to compete for buyers. Developers including Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd. and Henderson Land Development Co. are

engaging in aggressive marketing techniques offering discounts of as much as 20 percent and mortgage financing of 120 percent.

Ronnie Chan, chairman of Hang Lung Properties Ltd., said the market is entering a phase of "relative stability," despite nervousness about conditions outside Hong Kong including the rise of terrorism, the pending U.S. election, a slowdown in China and Brexit.

"Looking ahead, I don't see prices rising sharply, nor do I see prices precipitously dropping," he said.

Nicole Wong, head of property research at CLSA in Hong Kong, said the second-quarter rebound was driven by people who jumped into the market when prices didn't plunge as much as they'd expected.

"People expected prices to keep falling and they were wrong, and then they panicked and came back," said Wong, who projects prices will fall another 3 percent this year, and 7 percent in 2017. "By the third quarter they will think they have been wrong by rushing in, I guarantee you." **Bloomberg**

Surveys show Chinese manufacturing weak in July

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINESE manufacturing activity in July was weak but better than some forecasters expected, two surveys showed yesterday.

A business magazine, Caixin, said yesterday its purchasing managers index rose to 50.6 from June's 48.6 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding. The China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing, an industry group, said its separate PMI edged down to 49.9 from June's 50.

China's economic growth held steady at 6.7 percent in the quarter ending in June but indicators lately have been mixed. Trade is weak but retail spending is growing and bank lending is relatively strong.

"Admittedly, unresolved structural issues mean this pick-up is on borrowed time and we still expect growth to slow again next year," said Ju-

lian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

Analysts said Chinese manufacturing was hampered by summer flooding along the Yangtze River and weak global demand.

The Caixin reading was well above the consensus forecast of 48.8.

"This indicates that the Chinese economy has begun to show signs of stabilizing," economist Zhengsheng Zhong said in a statement issued by Caixin. "But the pressure on economic growth remains, and supportive fiscal and monetary policies must be continued." **AP**



Seoul blames North Korean gov't organization for email scams

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

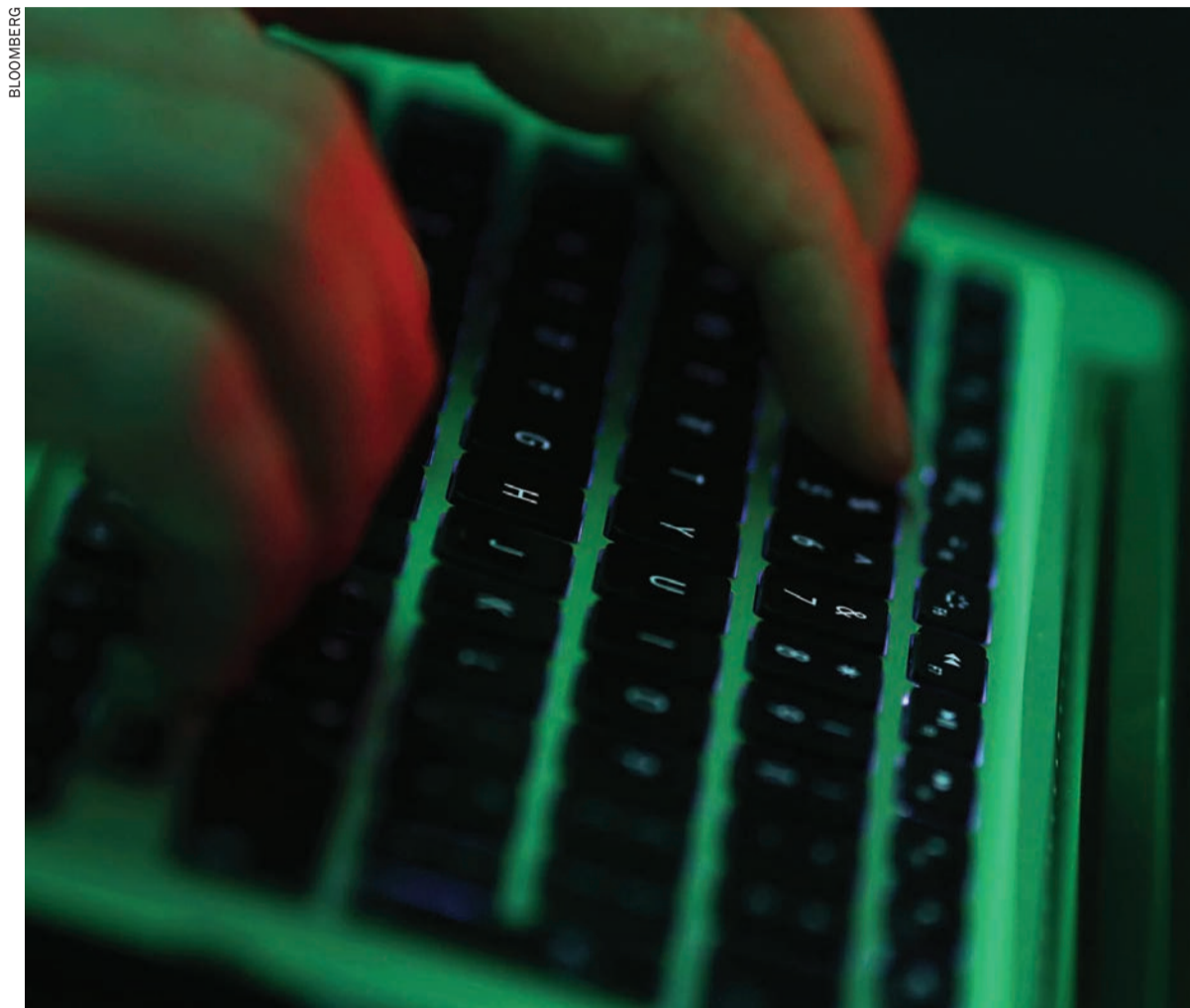
AN organization likely run by North Korea's government hacked into the email accounts of dozens of officials, journalists and others in South Korea this year, Seoul officials said yesterday, the latest cyberattack that the South blames on its rival.

The organization sent phishing emails to government officials, journalists and professors who specialize in North Korean affairs to try to trick them into giving away their passwords, Seoul's Supreme Prosecutors' Office said in a statement.

The passwords for at least 56 of the email accounts were eventually leaked, according to the statement. Seoul authorities were investigating whether any confidential government information was stolen, but the prosecutors' office said there had been no reports of leakage of sensitive information.

The statement said the contents of the phishing emails, a China-based IP address and a web-hosting service provider were the same ones used in a previous North Korean cyberattack. It didn't identify the suspected organization.

South Korea accuses North Korea of launching a series of



BLOOMBERG

cyberattacks in recent years, but the North has dismissed the allegations. Last week, South Korean police said they believe North Korea was behind the recent leakage of personal data

for more than 10 million users of an online shopping site.

South Korea said last year that North Korea has a 6,000-member cyber army dedicated to disrupting the South's govern-

ment and military. The figure was a sharp increase from a 2013 South Korean estimate of 3,000 such specialists.

North Korea's hacking technology has been improving

every year, according to Simon Choi at Seoul-based anti-virus company Hauri Inc. He said the North has carried out many more cyberattacks than is publicly known, making it difficult for South Korea to fend off all of them.

Many previous alleged North Korean cyberattacks failed to

Seoul authorities were investigating whether any confidential government information was stolen

infiltrate the targeted computer systems at businesses and government agencies. But in several cases, hackers destroyed hard drives, paralyzed banking systems or disrupted access to websites. One attack was so crippling that a South Korean bank was unable to restore its online services for more than two weeks.

The Koreas have been divided by the world's most heavily fortified border since the Korean War ended in 1953 with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. Earlier this year, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test explosion and conducted a prohibited long-range rocket launch, prompting worldwide condemnation and tougher U.N. sanctions. **AP**

Students in Bangladesh protest rise of Islamic extremism

MORE than 100,000 students in Bangladesh linked their hands yesterday to form human chains to protest two attacks last month by suspected Islamist militants.

The students from hundreds of colleges and universities in Dhaka and other cities took part in the protest as part of a campaign to create awareness about the rise of Islamic extremism in the country.

Protesters carried banners that read "Bangladesh stands against terrorism" and "We want peace; no place for terrorism."

The organizers said they particularly wanted students to lead yesterday's protests because the suspects in last month's attacks were mostly students and young men.

"We stand against any sort of extreme form of ideology. We denounce terrorism," said Tanvir Shakil Joy, one of the organizers. "I feel encouraged to see that so many students, both male and female, have joined the protest today."



AP PHOTO

Joy, a former ruling party lawmaker, said the students gathered at about 50 locations in Dhaka, and similar protests were held in all district headquarters and major cities.

A signature campaign against extremism was also launched at all educational institutions, he said

by telephone.

Suspected Islamist militants killed 20 people, including 17 foreigners, in an attack on a popular restaurant in Dhaka a month ago. That was followed by an attack on an Eid congregation in central Bangladesh that left three people dead.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Bangladesh authorities blamed the banned group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh.

In a police raid last week, nine other suspected militants, mostly young men, were killed in Dhaka.

The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has vowed to fight extremism and urged citizens to build awareness about its dangers.

Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority nation of 160 million people, is a parliamentary democracy based on British common law. Many local Islamist groups want to introduce Islamic Shariah law. **AP**

Indonesia to sink dozens of foreign illegal fishing vessels

INDONESIA will mark its Independence Day later this month by sinking as many as 71 foreign vessels that were seized for fishing illegally in the country's waters.

Maritime and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti said yesterday that boats from the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and China will be sunk simultaneously at several locations on the Aug. 17 national holiday.

Many of the boats were captured off Indonesia's Natuna Islands in the southern reaches of the South China Sea.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, has taken a hard-line stance against illegal fishing since President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo took office in 2014. Pudjiastuti has overseen the destruction of more than 170 illegal fishing boats from several countries.

Indonesia blew up more than 20 foreign vessels in April but Pudjiastuti said that method won't be used for the upcoming sinkings. The ships will be kept intact and will form artificial reefs, she said.

In March, Indonesia destroyed the Nigeria-flagged Viking with explosives. The ship was wanted around the world for illegally taking toothfish from southern waters. **AP**

THE Bank of Japan shares part of the blame for the volatility in markets and investors can expect another seven weeks of this after Governor Haruhiko Kuroda ordered a "comprehensive assessment" of BOJ policy, said former board member Sayuri Shirai.

The central bank should wait until December before any increase to its record stimulus program, according to Shirai, 53, who said she couldn't rule out a move by the BOJ as soon as the next board meeting on Sept. 20-21. Speaking in an interview by telephone on Monday, she said that by waiting until December, there was a greater chance of an interest-rate hike by the U.S. Federal Reserve, which would help Japan maximize the impact of any boost to its own monetary policy.

Having pushed back his forecast for reaching 2 percent inflation four times, and with no likelihood of hitting it anytime soon, Kuroda caught observers off guard last week when he limited policy changes to just an increase in purchases of exchange-traded funds. Many economists had also forecast the central bank would make a

JAPAN

BOJ review means more market volatility, says ex-board member



A visitor looks at an electronic board displaying market indices at the Tokyo Stock Exchange last week

deeper cut to its negative interest rate, along with stepped up buying of Japanese government bonds. Instead, the big news

was the comprehensive review. "The BOJ has been a source of market volatility. They've got to improve their commu-

nications," said Shirai, whose five-year term on the board ended in March. "The announcement of the review came out of nowhere. This will be another source of volatility. Markets are being left wondering whether the BOJ will add to easing or not."

Shirai, who voted with Kuroda during most of her term, was one of four dissenters on the January decision to adopt the negative rate. In an interview in April, she said the central bank needed to do a better job of communicating its policy and also warned that it was likely to run up against limits on its bond purchases within two years.

She said yesterday that one thing is for sure right now: it's hard to imagine that the BOJ

review will deliver a conclusion that its policy isn't working.

In her view, the BOJ should make its 2 percent inflation target a longer term goal, while aiming for 1 percent in the short term, which would curb market expectations for stimulus at each policy meeting.

The current time frame has the central bank hitting the goal sometime during the fiscal year that ends in March 2018.

"Kuroda didn't have enough confidence to justify more bond purchases and a cut in negative rates but he had to do something to respond to heightened market pressure," Shirai said of the July 28-29 policy meeting. "The BOJ must make the current policy more sustainable because it won't be able to hit its price target in a few years." **Bloomberg**

False alert of massive earthquake triggers panic

An erroneous alert yesterday that a massive earthquake had hit the Tokyo area sent many in Japan into a brief panic and disrupted some train services.

The Japanese Meteorological Agency sent the alert just after 5 p.m., saying a magnitude-9.1 quake had struck.

Some people who have smartphone apps that alert them to quakes got warnings popping up on their screens. The agency's alert, which was canceled within seconds, set off alarmed chatter on Twitter.

The meteorological agency said it was investi-

gating why the alert got sent. An agency official, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, said the reason may have been lightning hitting a seismograph, an instrument that monitors quakes.

Following the alert, some Tokyo train services shut down temporarily.

Japan is among the most quake-prone nations in the world. A magnitude-9 quake off the country's northeast coast in March 2011 set off a giant tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people and sent three nuclear reactors into meltdowns. **AP**

CAMBODIA

Leader sues opposition chief, claiming defamation

CAMBODIA'S prime minister filed a defamation lawsuit yesterday against the country's opposition leader and an opposition lawmaker for suggesting the authorities were involved in the killing of a popular political analyst who spoke critically of the government.

Legal papers filed with the Phnom Penh Municipal Court show that a lawyer for Prime Minister Hun Sen is suing Cambodia National Rescue Party leader Sam Rainsy for remarks he posted on Facebook linking the authorities to the July 10 killing of Kem Ley. His party



The body of Cambodian government critic Kem Ley is covered by the Cambodian National flag as flowers are placed during a funeral ceremony in Phnom Penh

colleague Thak Lany was sued for making similar allegations in a speech.

The fatal shooting of Kem Ley, 45, raised

suspicion of a political conspiracy, though police said the accused man confessed to shooting him because of an unpaid

debt. Tens of thousands of Cambodians marched July 24 in the funeral procession for bury at his southern Takeo province.

In what is widely believed to be an effort to cripple the opposition ahead of local elections in 2017, the government last year began cracking down on its political rivals and critics through the courts, which are considered tools of the ruling party.

Sam Rainsy has been abroad since mid-November, when an order for his arrest was issued on an old conviction for defaming former foreign minister Hor Namhong.

He had assumed his sentence had been lifted by a 2013 pardon.

Just last week he was fined by the same Phnom Penh court after being found guilty of defaming Heng Samrin, a legislator and senior member of the Cambodian People's Party.

Yesterday's complaint filed on Hun Sen's behalf by lawyer Ky Tech alleged that "This slander and stupid publication in public by Sam Rainsy accusing the government of orchestrating the killing of Kem Ley not only seriously affected the honor and reputation of the

government under the leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, but it is also intentionally incites the public to anger which could result in unrest in society and affect to the court process."

It said Hun Sen has asked Sam Rainsy to pay 100 riel (USD0.025) as compensation to him and urged the court punish the opposition leader in according to the law. The complaint's allegation of inciting the public suggests that Sam Rainsy could face a charge of inciting social unrest in addition to defamation if the court accepts the lawsuit. **AP**

FOR eight summer nights, there were two starkly different visions of America.

At Donald Trump's Republican convention, America was a nation spiraling into chaos and economic ruin. Immigrants were cast as criminals, or in some cases, potential terrorists. The government is rigged for the wealthy and powerful, almost past the point of repair.

"I alone can fix it," Trump said as he accepted the GOP nomination in Cleveland.

The Democratic convention in Philadelphia was a four-day rebuttal.

"America needs every one of us to lend our energy, our talents, our ambition to making our nation better and stronger," Hillary Clinton said as she became the first woman to lead a major U.S. political party toward the White House.

Clinton acknowledged Americans' economic and security anxieties, but she defended the country's greatness. Immigrants were celebrated at the Democratic gathering, including those brought to the country illegally as children. Government may be gridlocked, but it was also framed as a tool for protecting and providing opportunity for the marginalized.

Amid a turbulent summer at home and abroad, Clinton is accusing Trump of trying to scare voters into taking a chance on a political novice. Trump says his Democratic rival was either ignoring or underestimating the scope of the problems.

Politics has become more polarized in recent years, with Democrats growing more liberal and Republicans growing more conservative

In just over three months, voters will decide whose vision they believe is right.

The race is tight. That's a surprise to some Democrats who see Trump as glaringly unprepared for the presidency. And it's a relief to Republicans who believe Clinton is unacceptably corrupt and who feared Trump's unorthodox candidacy might deprive them of an excellent chance to regain White House and cost them seats in the House and Senate.

Vincent Fort, a Georgia state senator who attended the Democratic convention, hoped Clinton gave voters reasons to

ANALYSIS

Two different visions of America emerge from conventions



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump smiles as he addresses delegates during the final day session of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland

be optimistic about her ability to tackle the nation's pressing problems.

"Just because you are optimistic doesn't mean you are burying your head in the sand," Fort said. "Being optimistic is saying we can solve these problems."

But to Sam LeDoux, a 24-year-old Republican delegate from New Mexico, Trump's dour assessment of America more accurately reflects that "we're in a very dark time right now." That the nation is divided is hardly a revelation. Politics has become more polarized in recent years, with Democrats growing more liberal and Republicans growing more conservative. When President Barack Obama carried about 53 percent of the popular vote in 2008, his victory was seen as sweeping and decisive.

But the gulf between Clinton and Trump, and those who support them, feels deeper than in most elections. It's reflected in the tone and temperament of their campaigns, the backgrounds of the voters they're courting and the policies they're promising to enact.

Clinton has pledged to introduce a comprehensive immigration overhaul during her first 100 days in office. Trump has said he would design a border wall with Mexico within that same stretch. She wants to expand restrictions for gun purchases. He has said he would prevent efforts to do just that.

Clinton has spent decades in the political arena, including

as secretary of state and a senator from New York. Trump, a real estate mogul, never served in government. He needs white, working-class voters — particularly men — to rally around his candidacy in historic numbers. She needs to recreate Obama's coalition of blacks, Hispanics and women.

The parade of speakers at each convention, as well as the delegates in the arenas, hammered home those differences.

Clinton was backed by every corner of the Democratic establishment she's long been a part of, with rousing endor-

sements from the president and first lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, her primary rival. But some of Sanders' most fervent backers refused to accept his endorsement of Clinton, and they said even after her acceptance speech that they would not to vote for her.

Neither of the living Republican presidents — George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush — attended the GOP gathering or endorsed Trump. Several Republican senators and governors skipped the Cleveland

gathering, using an array of excuses to do so. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Trump's toughest primary opponent, did speak at the convention, but stubbornly refused to endorse the businessman in a stunning display of party disunity.

The crowd in Cleveland was a sea of white voters, and the overwhelming number of speakers were white.

The Democratic delegates were more diverse, reflecting in particular the party's strength with African-Americans. Several immigrants took the stage, including a Medal of Honor recipient, and Khizr Khan, an American Muslim who spoke movingly about his son, who died while serving in the military in Iraq.

It's too soon to know whether — or how — the events of the past two weeks will shape the results of the election. Clinton's convention was widely praised as the more polished and professional operation. After Khan's address and speeches by military leaders, some Republicans fretted that Democrats had more successfully embraced the patriotic themes that have been hallmarks of Republican campaigns and conventions.

But Trump has hardly suffered during this campaign for struggling with political traditions. And if Clinton doesn't get a boost after four days of validations from Democrats' most popular stars, it could be a troubling sign for her presidential hopes. AP



Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton reacts after speaking during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia

Russian helicopter shot down in Syria, killing all 5 onboard

Lynn Berry, Bassem Mroue

A Russian transport helicopter was shot down in Syria yesterday and all five people onboard were killed, the Kremlin said, in the deadliest single incident for the Russian military since its involvement in Syria's civil war.

The Mi-8 helicopter was shot down in Idlib province while returning to the Russian air base on Syria's coast after delivering humanitarian goods to the city of Aleppo, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. The helicopter had three crew members and two officers deployed with the Russian center at the Hemeimeem air base on the Syrian coast.

"From what we know from information provided by the Defense Ministry, all those who were on the helicopter died," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman told journalists. The ministry statement released earlier said their fate was still unknown.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the Russians "died heroically because they tried to move the aircraft away so to minimize losses on the ground."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Idlib province has a strong presence of fighters both for the al-Qaida branch in Syria known as the Nusra Front and rebels. The group announced last week that it was changing its name and relinquishing ties with al-Qaida in an attempt to

AP PHOTO



undermine a potential U.S. and Russian air campaign against its fighters.

The group is part of a coalition of insurgent groups called Jaish al-Fateh, or Army of Conquest, which has captured most of Idlib.

Videos uploaded online by Syrian opposition activists show the burning wreckage of a Russian helicopter. The footage was seemingly taken in the first few moments after the helicopter crashed.

In one video, a rocket pod can be seen next to the wreckage. People standing nearby are seen taking cellphone photos and shouting "Allahu Akbar," or God is great in Arabic.

The helicopter appears to have broken up as it crashed. In another video, its tail can be seen lying separately from the aircraft's body in flames.

Yesterday's helicopter

downing was the deadliest for the Russians since Moscow began carrying out airstrikes in Syria in support of Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces last September.

In July, two Russian airmen were killed in the central Homs province when their Mi-25 helicopter was shot down by what the Defense Ministry said were Islamic State fighters.

An Mi-28N helicopter gunship crashed near Homs in April, killing both crew members, but the Russian military said there was no evidence it came under fire.

A Russian warplane was shot down by a Turkey along the Syrian border in November, and one of the two pilots was shot and killed from the ground after ejecting.

Earlier yesterday, a Syrian military official said that go-

vernment forces repelled an attack by insurgents that was an attempt to break the siege imposed on rebel-held parts of the northern city of Aleppo.

The development came a day after Syrian rebels launched the offensive to break up the government's siege of eastern, rebel-held part of the city.

The U.N. estimates some 300,000 people are still trapped in the rebel section of Aleppo, with dwindling food and medical supplies. The U.N.'s special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura warned on Friday that basic supplies in eastern Aleppo could run out in three weeks.

Opposition activists said intense fighting was still ongoing in Aleppo yesterday. The Syrian military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, did not elaborate. **AP**

South African ruling party faces challenge in elections



South Africa's ruling party faces a robust challenge in municipal elections tomorrow from opposition groups seeking to capitalize on scandals linked to President Jacob Zuma. Early voting began yesterday for the elderly, disabled and others unable to vote at their polling stations on election day.

Romania: 4 to stand trial for 1985 death of dissident

Romanian military prosecutors say four former communist officials will stand trial for the death of a dissident in prison under the regime of former leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Dissident Gheorghe Ursu died two months after being arrested in 1985, after allegedly being beaten repeatedly by interrogators and inmates on the orders of the Securitate secret police. They claimed he had kept a diary in which he criticized the Ceausescu regime.

Poles observe 72nd anniversary of Warsaw Uprising

Polish officials, war veterans and regular citizens are marking the 72nd anniversary of the start of the Warsaw Uprising, a struggle against Nazi Germany in 1944 that lasted 63 days and ended tragically for the Poles. Commemorations took place yesterday, exactly 72 years after the revolt began on August 1, 1944.

Uganda police chief summoned to court over alleged torture

Uganda's police chief has been summoned to court over torture charges related to alleged police brutality against supporters of an opposition leader who faces treason charges. The charges against Gen. Kale Kayihura were brought by rights lawyers acting independently of the public prosecutor, who has powers to take over the case at some point if he becomes interested, said Solomon Muyita, a spokesman for the judiciary.

Interpol arrests Nigerian accused in USD60 million cybercrime

Michelle Faul

A Nigerian accused of scamming USD60 million from companies around the world through fraudulent emails has been arrested after months of investigation, Interpol and Nigeria's anti-fraud agency said yesterday. One target paid out USD15.4 million, according to a statement.

The statement said the ringleader of a global scamming network, identified only as a 40-year-old called Mike, was arrested along with a 38-year-old accomplice in Nigeria's oil capital, Port Harcourt, in June. He is on administrative bail, which implies that officers do not yet have enough evidence to charge

him in court.

The man is accused of leading a criminal network that compromised email accounts of small and medium-sized businesses around the world including in the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, Romania, South Africa and Thailand. The statement didn't name any of the targets.

The network involved about 40 people in Nigeria, Malaysia and South Africa who provided malware and carried out the frauds, with money-laundering contacts in China, Europe and the United States providing bank account details.

A supplier's email would be compromised and fake messages sent to a buyer with instructions for payment to a bank

account under the network's control, the statement said. Or the email account of a high-level executive would be taken over and a request for a wire transfer sent to an employee responsible for handling such requests.

Such crime "poses a significant and growing threat, with tens of thousands of companies victimized in recent years," Noboru Nakatani, executive director of the Interpol Global Complex for Innovation, said in a statement. "The public, and especially businesses, need to be alert to this type of cyber-enabled fraud."

Nigeria is notorious for internet fraud. The U.S. Embassy says it receives inquiries every day from Americans who have been defrauded. **AP**

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

ROAMING VISION + DIGITAL: EXHIBITION OF INK PAINTINGS BY LEUNG KUI TING
TIME: 9am-9pm
UNTIL: August 14, 2016
VENUE: Temporary Exhibitions Gallery of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau
ORGANIZER: Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Affairs Bureau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4100 / 2882 7103

Offbeat

THAI GOV'T TO SUE EX-PM FOR LOSSES FROM RICE SUBSIDY SCHEME



Yingluck Shinawatra

Thailand's military government says it intends to sue a former prime minister for billions of dollars in losses it alleges were incurred by her administration's rice subsidy program.

The Cabinet official in charge of the prime minister's office, Panadda Diskul, said Monday that a committee has determined that 286.64 billion baht (USD8.2 billion) in revenues were lost under the scheme, and that former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is liable for about 200 billion baht (\$5.8 billion) of the total.

Yingluck was forced from office in May 2014 when a court found her guilty of abuse of power in a personnel case. The army ousted her government shortly afterward.

Her supporters believe she is being persecuted by the army and by political opponents of her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. **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
21:40	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

cinema



CINETEATRO

28 Jul - 03 Aug



ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm
 (3D) 5.45 pm

Director: Mike Thurmeier, Galen Chu
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

BOUNTY HUNTERS

ROOM 1
 9.30 pm
Director: Shin Terra
Starring: Lee Min Ho, Chung Hon Leung, Tang Yan, Karena Ng
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 110min

FINDING DORY

ROOM 2
 2.30, 4.30 pm
Director: Andrew Stanton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 97min

START TRECK BEYOND

ROOM 2
 (2D) 7.15 pm
Director: Justin Lin
Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 2
 9.30 pm
Director: Eiichiro Edo
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

GHOSTBUSTERS

ROOM 3
 (2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
 (3D) 7.15 pm
Director: Paul Feig
Starring: Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 116min

MACAU TOWER

21 Jul - 03 Aug

START TRECK BEYOND

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Justin Lin
Starring: Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg
Language: English (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min

this day in history



1990 IRAQ INVADES KUWAIT

More than 100,000 Iraqi soldiers backed up by 700 tanks invaded the Gulf state of Kuwait in the early hours of this morning.

Iraqi forces have established a provisional government and their leader Saddam Hussein has threatened to turn Kuwait city into a "graveyard" if any other country dares to challenge the "take-over by force".

Iraqi jets have bombed targets in the capital and special forces have landed at the defence ministry and at the Emir's palace. Road blocks are in place and there are reports of looting in the city's shops.

Initial reports suggest up to 200 people have been killed in heavy gunfire around the city.

It is reported that the younger brother of Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Sabah has been killed whilst trying to defend the palace, while the Emir himself has escaped to Saudi Arabia.

All communication has been cut with Kuwait and many people, including thousands of foreign nationals, are trapped in the city.

The invasion has sparked strong condemnation from leaders around the world.

The United Nations Security Council, in emergency session, has called for the "immediate and unconditional" withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, branded the invasion as "absolutely unacceptable" while American president George Bush condemned the attack as "a naked act of aggression."

So far there has been no condemnation of the attack from any Arab country.

Kuwait's assets in the UK and the US have been frozen to prevent Iraq from seizing them and the US has also frozen Iraq's assets.

The Soviet Union, Iraq's main supplier of arms, has suspended the delivery of all military equipment to Iraq.

In recent weeks Iraq had accused Kuwait of flooding the world market with oil and has demanded compensation for oil produced from a disputed oil field on the border of the two countries.

In response to the news of the invasion the price of oil rose dramatically and stock markets around the world have fallen.

Kuwait has appealed for international aid but there is no suggestion of any military action from the West at this stage.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 9 August 1990 the UN Security Council voted 15-0 to declare Iraq's annexation of Kuwait null and void.

During the next three months allied forces were deployed to the region as part of Operation Desert Shield. The Soviet Union stated it would not participate in military action. The Gulf crisis intensified and President Bush continued preparations to remove Iraq from Kuwait by force. Iraq ignored all deadlines set by the West to end its occupation of the Gulf state.

On 17 January 1991, coalition forces launched Desert Storm in what would be the longest air strike in the history of aerial warfare.

Iraq responded by launching Scud missiles against Israel and Saudi Arabia. Fierce fighting continued until 28 February when Iraq, whose military capability had by now been seriously harmed, agreed to a ceasefire.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
An email or short phone call can start you on a wild goose chase if you're not careful. As long as there's no money involved, all that's wasted is your time. But if money is necessary to keep you going, then keep it short and sweet.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Your feelings and your money are intertwined. Balance depends on how much control you exert over each. Controlling your spending is not easier than reigning in your emotions. Both are urgently necessary.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
There's no point in all of your good ideas if you never follow through with any of them. The last thing you want on your tombstone is 'could have been'. Start taking baby steps toward making your financial goals a reality.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You're mature enough to make your own financial decisions, and that's what you have to tell the wild-child inside of you. Begging won't make you break out your wallet, no matter how attractive that may seem.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Listening to your friends can be trouble if what they're dishing up is financial advice. Use the same social skills you use at parties: Smile and nod. Don't take out your wallet or pen, all you have to do is pretend to be impressed.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You need to squeeze out some profit where there seems to be none. Go over everything until you're down to print so fine it's impossible to read. You're looking for forgotten cash in the pockets of your pants.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You need to generate some momentum. You need good energy to generate good energy. There are lots of ways to jumpstart the process, but your biggest source of enthusiasm is deep within you.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you're handling other people's money, you may be tempted to let a few more things slide than you would if it was your own cash. Don't give in to that kind of laziness.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Being all talk and no action isn't really your style. But you have to stay busy somehow when there's just no action to drum up. Be careful not to miss a golden opportunity, though, by getting too wrapped up in cheap talk.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You want money that's here to stay, not instant riches squandered as fast as it's earned. Resist the feeling that you're desperate for any kind of cash. Be clear that your goals are long term, then get back to work on them.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
With the skills you've honed surviving the last year and a half, you have what it takes to start on a completely new path once your finances stabilize. But is that what you want to do with your new-found creativity?

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Your illusions are being revealed for what they are, and the reality behind the curtain is not what you want to see. If you want something different, then get busy making it happen.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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	8			1				
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								1
							7	
				3	4			
1	2							
7								

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	25	33	cloudy/clear
Harbin	22	32	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	25	33	overcast/clear
Urumqi	14	23	heavy rain/clear
Xi'an	25	34	cloudy
Lhasa	10	21	drizzle/shower
Chengdu	23	31	drizzle/cloudy
Chongqing	26	35	thundershower/cloudy
Kunming	16	27	shower
Nanjing	27	35	cloudy/thundershower
Shanghai	28	34	cloudy/thundershower
Wuhan	27	35	clear/shower
Hangzhou	27	34	cloudy/thundershower
Taipei	29	33	drizzle/moderate rain
Guangzhou	25	29	heavy rain/rainstorm
Hong Kong	25	28	rainstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	17	30	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	23	overcast/moderate rain
Paris	17	24	drizzle
London	14	21	heavy rain/drizzle
New York	21	26	moderate rain/drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Old Testament book; 5- "The covers of this book are too far ____" à€" Bierce; 10- Farm unit; 14- Lopsided victory; 15- Stroll; 16- Rise sharply, as a bird would; 17- Kitchen addition; 18- Run up; 19- Completely without madness; 20- High-speed skiing; 22- Inflammation of bone; 24- Run away to get married; 25- Spirited horses; 26- Joel's "Cabaret" costar; 28- "Who's there?" reply; 32- Get in a hand; 35- How was ____ know?; 37- In and of ____; 38- Plant; 39- Peachy!; 41- High-pitched; 42- Kind of license or justice; 45- Blubber; 46- Washington bills; 47- Look of disdain; 48- Deal; 50- Take turns; 54- Brewery kilns; 58- Solidity; 61- Enclosing band; 62- Jai ____; 63- Declare; 65- Struggle for air; 66- Cafe au ____; 67- Yankee manager Joe; 68- To Live and Die ____; 69- Singer Lovett; 70- Bears the ictus; 71- Rat-____;

DOWN: 1- ____ having fun yet?; 2- Highway stop; 3- Perform better than; 4- Spire; 5- Neat as ____; 6- Bad review; 7- Cravat; 8- Employ again; 9- Rich cake; 10- Aids; 11- Paint layer; 12- Wife of a rajah; 13- " ____ Tu": 1974 hit; 21- Kauai keepsake; 23- Prepare a book or film for release; 25- Fill to the gills; 27- Bluish white metallic element; 29- Actor Connery; 30- Fr. miss; 31- Young newts; 32- Cairo cobras; 33- Middy; 34- Affectedly dainty; 36- Stumblebum; 37- Very small quantity; 40- Record with a VCR; 43- White ant; 44- Wrinkle remover; 46- Earache; 49- Dove's sound; 51- Seed covering; 52- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 53- Romanov rulers; 55- Slope; 56- Inventor Nikola; 57- March honoree, briefly; 58- Drop; 59- Now ____ me down...; 60- Racetrack boundary; 61- So-so grades; 64- TNT part

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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Honda Macau





Doctoral candidate Rodrigo Staggemeier collects samples of sand from Ipanema beach, for a study commissioned by The Associated Press



An aerial view shows sewage moving into the canals that rim the Barra de Tijuca neighborhood near Olympic Park

Jenny Barchfield, Rio de Janeiro

RIO OLYMPICS

JUST days ahead of the Olympic Games the waterways of Rio de Janeiro are as filthy as ever, contaminated with raw human sewage teeming with dangerous viruses and bacteria, according to a 16-month-long study commissioned by The Associated Press.

Not only are some 1,400 athletes at risk of getting violently ill in water competitions, but the AP's tests indicate that tourists also face potentially serious health risks on the golden beaches of Ipanema and Copacabana.

The AP's survey of the aquatic Olympic and Paralympic venues has revealed consistent and dangerously high levels of viruses from the pollution, a major black eye on Rio's Olympic project that set off alarm bells among sailors, rowers and open-water swimmers.

Since the AP released the initial results last July, athletes have been taking elaborate precautions to prevent illnesses that could potentially knock them out of the competition, including preventatively taking antibiotics, bleaching oars and donning plastic suits and gloves in a bid to limit contact with the water.

But antibiotics combat bacterial infections, not viruses. And the AP investigation found that infectious adenovirus readings — tested with cell cultures and verified with molecular biology protocols — turned up at nearly 90 percent of the test sites over 16 months of testing.

"That's a very, very, very high percentage," said Dr. Valerie Harwood, Chair of the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of South Florida. "Seeing that level of human pathogenic virus is pretty much unheard of in surface

Expert to athletes: 'Don't put your head under water'

waters in the U.S. You would never, ever see these levels because we treat our waste water. You just would not see this."

While athletes take precautions, what about the 300,000-500,000 foreigners expected to descend on Rio for the Olympics? Testing at several of the city's world-famous beaches has shown that in addition to persistently high viral loads, the beaches often have levels of bacterial markers for sewage pollution that would be cause for concern abroad — and sometimes even exceed Rio state's lax water safety standards.

In light of the AP's findings, Harwood had one piece of advice for travelers to Rio: "Don't put your head under water."

Danger is lurking even in the sand. Samples from the golden beaches at Copacabana and Ipanema revealed high levels of viruses, which recent studies have suggested can pose health risks — particularly to babies and small children.

"You know how quickly an infant can get dehydrated and have to go to the hospital," said Harwood. "That's the scariest point to me."

While local authorities including Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes have acknowledged the failure of the city's water cleanup efforts, calling it a "lost chance" and a "shame," Olympic officials continue to insist Rio's waterways will be safe for athletes and visitors. The

local organizing committee did not respond to multiple requests for comment, though it has previously said bacterial testing conducted by Rio state authorities has shown the aquatic venues to be within state guidelines.

The crux of the issue lies in the different types of testing used to determine the health and safety of recreational waters.

Bacterial tests measure levels of coliforms — different types of bacteria that tend not to cause illnesses themselves but are indicators of the presence of other, potentially harmful sewage-borne pathogens such as other bacteria, viruses and protozoa that can cause cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A and typhoid, among other diseases. Bacterial tests are the worldwide standard because they're cheap and easy.

But there's a growing consensus that they're not ideal for all climates, as bacteria break down quickly in tropical weather and salty marine waters. In contrast, viruses have been shown to survive for weeks, months or even years — meaning that in tropical Rio low bacterial markers can be completely out of step with high virus levels.

That disparity was borne out in the AP's testing. For instance, in June 2016, the levels of fecal coliforms in water samples at Ipanema Beach were extremely low, with just 85 fecal coliforms per 100 milliliters. But still, it had high rea-

dings for rotavirus, the main cause of gastroenteritis globally, with 32.7 million rotaviruses per liter.

The testing revealed alarming spikes in fecal coliform levels — the very measure the state government uses to determine the safety of Rio's recreational waters.

"If these were the reported values in the United States, let's say in California, there is definitely an indication of a problem," said Dr. Kristina Mena, a waterborne virus expert at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

According to California's bacterial tests standards, 400 fecal coliforms per 100 milliliters is the upper limit for a beach to be considered safe for swimming. AP's tests re-

■ Athletes have been taking elaborate precautions to prevent illnesses that could potentially knock them out of the competition

vealed that Copacabana Beach, where the marathon and triathlon swimming are to be held and thousands of tourists are likely to take a dip, exceeded California's limit five times over 13 months of testing.

The beaches even violate Rio state's own standards, which are much less stringent than those in California, many other U.S. states and beach-loving countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

Promises to clean up Rio's waterways stretch back decades, with a succession of governors setting firm dates for a cleanup and repeatedly pushing them back. In the city's 2009 Olympic bid document, authorities pledged the games would "regenerate Rio's magnificent waterways."

Just over a month before the games, biologist Mario Moscatelli spent more than two hours flying over Rio in a helicopter.

Viewed from above, rivers are tar-black; the lagoons near the Olympic Park bloom with fluorescent green algae; surfers paddle amid a giant brown stain that contrasts with the azure of the surrounding waters.

"The Guanabara Bay has been transformed into a latrine," said Moscatelli, an activist who's the most visible face of the fight to clean up Rio's waterways. "Unfortunately Rio de Janeiro missed the opportunity, maybe the last big opportunity" to clean it up. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



ARE SMARTPHONES AFFECTING SOCIAL GATHERINGS?

I wonder how many people have encountered the following awkward moment in our social lives. You finally found time in your busy schedule to have dinner with an equally busy friend whom you have not seen for some time, hoping to catch up. But once your friend arrived at the restaurant, she was busy chatting away on the phone about her day with her colleague. When she finally hung up the phone, you started to ask her how her life was, and she was busy texting five other people at the same time on WhatsApp, WeChat and Facebook Messages. So you sat there for over half an hour with your friend across the table, yet feeling alone, before you could finally get her attention for a moment to ask her what she wanted to order for dinner. As soon as the order is placed, she is back on her phone.

Perhaps this case was a bit over-exaggerated, maybe not all of the above happened at the same time, but one of these unfortunate moments must have happened to most of us a few times, if not often. So what does this tell us about the effect of smartphones in our social lives? In the past, we were less busy, but contacting friends was less easy too. So, it sometimes took many hours of phone calls just to reach a few friends to make arrangements for a dinner. But without distraction, friends gathering once a month or two can enhance the quality of connection. While the ease of modern communication increases our connectivity in terms of quantity – we can talk to all our friends over one of the messaging application every day, it unfortunately decreases the quality of social relationships. Many articles discuss how smart phones have affected the efforts modern people spend on cultivating deeper relationships, but it is not modern technology that should be blamed. The problem is that we are not developed enough in social etiquette to handle the development of modern technology.

We have become so used to answering phone calls and replying to messages at once that we lost track of when we should put our phones aside. Every Sunday in the churches in Macao, church-goers have to be reminded to switch off their mobile phones or turn their devices to silent before mass in order to concentrate on the Eucharistic celebration. But when I attend mass in other places, I don't hear this announcement. This is an action that we shouldn't have to be reminded to do, and yet, be it in the church or at the theatre or cinemas, or at the dinner table, without reminders we would not turn off our phones, and when they come a-calling, we uncontrollably have to answer or read and reply to messages. At least, I am addicted like that. Which caused me to stop and question myself: where have my social manners gone?

Perhaps we need to be reminded that whether it is a gathering of friends, lunch with an acquaintance or just a coffee or a drink with colleagues, the people we invited or accepted the invitation to hang out with are physically present in front of us. They should be the ones we carry out a conversation with, not the friend on the other side of the phone. If we need to answer an important phone call, we should excuse ourselves. Or if we really have many calls and messages that need to be answered, when next time a friend invites us to dinner, we can honestly say: "Sorry, I have an appointment with my phone. But we can eat at the same table."

THE CAESARS JUMPS ON USD4.4B DEAL TO SELL GAMES UNIT

Caesars Entertainment Corp. surged as much as 11 percent after agreeing over the weekend to sell casino-style online games unit Playtika Ltd. for USD4.4 billion to Chinese investors led by Shanghai Giant Network Technology Co.

The sale could give Caesars, the Las Vegas-based casino operator, more cash to help reach a settlement with bondholders of its largest division, which filed for bankruptcy in January 2015. Caesars acquired Playtika in 2011 via a separate unit, the Caesars Interactive Entertain-

ment arm, which remains the owner of the World Series of Poker and real-money online gaming businesses.

Caesars jumped 6.2 percent to \$7.33 at 9:38 a.m. after reaching as high as \$7.69 earlier. The shares had sunk 13 percent this year through last week.

The all-cash deal gives the Chinese buyers a foothold in a fast-growing segment of the gaming industry, as users turn to mobile applications over PC- and console-based systems.

Taiwan president apologizes to aboriginals for suffering



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen talks during a ceremony at the Gen. Andres Rodriguez school in Asuncion, Paraguay

TAIWAN'S president yesterday apologized on behalf of the government to the island's aboriginal peoples for 400 years of conquest and colonization, saying the facing of difficult historical facts was necessary for society to move forward.

Tsai Ing-wen said her government wished to "take a further step" and offer its "fullest apology."

"If we wish to declare ourselves as a country of one people, we need to face these historical facts. We have to face the truth. Most importantly, the government

must truly reflect on itself and that is why I'm standing here today," Tsai said at a ceremony at the presidential office building in the capital, Taipei.

A "justice and historical justice commission" would be established to deal with the problems of the past, Tsai said. She was speaking on Taiwan's official aboriginal people's day before representatives of the island's 16 officially recognized native tribes.

Taiwan was inhabited by a variety of tribes for thousands of years before Dutch colonizers began importing

Chinese laborers in large numbers during the mid-17th century.

The Dutch were expelled from the island by Chinese privateer Koxinga, whose successors were then defeated by the Manchu Qing dynasty as part of their conquest of most of China. It was loosely administered from the mainland until becoming a province in 1885 under foreign pressure and was made a colony by Japan in 1895.

At the end of World War II, Taiwan was handed to Chiang Kai-shek's Republic of China, whose government relocated to the island in 1949 after being driven from China by Mao Zedong's communist forces.

Tsai was elected by a landslide in January elections that have thrown a shadow over the island's relations with China, which claims Taiwan as a part of its territory from ancient times. Her view of Taiwan as a colonial society clashes with Beijing's claim that the island has always been an inherent part of China, which must eventually be reunited with the mainland, by force if necessary. **AP**

270 participants in 'Precious Moments' photo contest



First prize was awarded to Ku Soi Lan



Wu Yisheng was the runner up

A total of 270 contestants submitted their entries for the "Precious Moments in Macau" 2016 Photography Competition, which is co-organized each year by the Government In-

formation Bureau (GCS) together with eight photographic organizations and five media associations.

Out of a total of 1,144 entries, 62 winning submissions were selected following a professional evaluation by a 13-member judging panel on June 26.

First prize was awarded to Ku Soi Lan for his work entitled "Passing the Baton." Meanwhile second and third prizes were given to Wu Yisheng and Lam Sao Wa respectively, for their works entitled "Colorful clouds over the peninsula" and "NAPE in the evening." A further 49 winning entries were selected for merit prizes.

The first, second and third place winners were awarded prizes of MOP8,000, MOP5,000 and MOP3,000 respectively, in addition to a trophy. Merit prize winners were given MOP500 each and a certificate.

This year's competition continued to use an online portal for the submission of entries, which was open from May 17 to June 7.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Bad
Ambient	75-105 Bad

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



TURKEY yesterday slammed a German court decision that prevented President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from addressing a demonstration in Germany denouncing Turkey's failed July 15 coup, and summoned a German diplomat in protest. The German Embassy's charge d'affaires was due at the ministry yesterday to discuss the issue, an official said, as the attempted coup continued to strain Turkey's relations with allies.

NIGERIA A man accused of scamming USD60 million from companies around the world through fraudulent emails has been arrested after months of investigation, Interpol and Nigeria's anti-fraud agency said yesterday. The ringleader of the global scamming network, identified only as a 40-year-old known as Mike, was arrested along with a 38-year-old accomplice in Nigeria's oil capital, Port Harcourt. **More on p15**



US A tiny island village on Alaska's storm-battered western coast is entering a new chapter in its decades-long pursuit to move the entire community from its badly eroding shores to safer ground. The Inupiat Eskimo community of Shishmaref will hold a special election next month asking residents if they should develop a new community at a nearby location on the mainland or stay put with added protections, such as expanding a seawall that has never been completed.