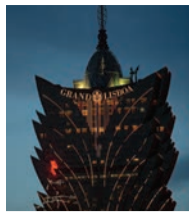




### NEW LINK TO SEOUL

Air Seoul, a low-cost carrier of Asiana Airlines, announced that it is set to operate new flights to several regions, including Macau

P2



### SJM RECORDS 38.7 PERCENT FALL IN PROFIT

Gaming operator SJM Holdings has published its financial statement for the first half of 2016

P3



### SUICIDE BOMBING AT HOSPITAL KILLS 63

P13 PAKISTAN

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### WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**SOUTH CHINA SEA** A U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer arrives in the northern Chinese port of Qingdao in the first visit by an American warship to the country since Beijing responded angrily to an arbitration panel's ruling that its expansive South China Sea maritime claims had no basis in law. More on p11

AP PHOTO



**JAPAN's emperor** expresses concern about fulfilling his duties as he ages, in a public address that is remarkable for its rarity and its suggestion that he would like to abdicate. More on p13

AP PHOTO



**AFGHANISTAN** Five gunmen wearing Afghan military uniforms have abducted an American and an Australian in Kabul. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abduction. The two foreigners were taken from their SUV while driving on Sunday night on a main road near the American University of Afghanistan. They are believed to be employees of the university.

AP PHOTO



**INDIA** Police say government forces have arrested more than 1,000 protesters in Indian-controlled Kashmir in an attempt to stem protests in the Himalayan region.

More on backpage

# Out-of-control tourism bus crashes leaving 32 injured

P2

RENATO MARQUES



### IT'S GAMING, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT

# Virtual games could become tourism offering in Macau

P5 MDT REPORT



Renato Marques

A tourism bus with 46 passengers on board crashed against a building on Rua da Entena, close to the Kiang Wu Hospital, leaving 32 passengers injured. Three of the victims are in a serious condition, including one whose medical condition is considered critical.

The bus was carrying a tour group that arrived from Shenzhen for a short one-day visit. The group included tourists from several different regions and provinces of mainland China and was expecting to leave the territory yesterday by 5 p.m.

The driver was allegedly outside of the vehicle trying to resolve a smaller traffic accident when the bus, which according to preliminary conclusions from the Public Security Police Force (PSP) did not have its brake applied successfully, started to roll down the road.

"The driver didn't brake the bus properly [before leaving his position]," the acting deputy commissioner of the PSP, Wong Chi Fai said in a press conference held yesterday evening at the government headquarters to discuss the accident.

The passenger in the most serious condition following the accident is a 46-year-old woman with a severe brain injury.

The woman is "currently in a coma after having been submitted to a surgical intervention to stop the brain from bleeding," the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion said, adding that her condition is considered critical and life threatening.

Another two women also suffered serious injuries related to the brain and to internal and external bleedings, as well as multiple bone fractures.

All three are currently at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Kiang Wu Hospital and have been joined by another six passengers who will spend at least a day in the hospital under observation for several bone fractures on their feet, ribs, legs, eye sock-



RENATO MARQUES



JOÃO JORGE MAGALHÃES

## Tourism bus crashes, 32 injured

ts and jaws, informed a representative of Kiang Wu's Emergency Services responsible.

In the immediate moments following the accident, which occurred around 2:40 p.m., it was thought that a passer-by might have been struck by the bus due

to a shared image of a person pictured unconscious and heavily bleeding next to the bus. However, Lei Chin Ion confirmed to the Times during the press conference yesterday evening that "all the injured were passengers of the bus. No passer-by was in-

involved [in the accident]."

The police force representative also added that the bus driver, a local resident over 50 years old and considered "experienced" at the job had already been "invited" by the PSP to assist the Police Traffic Depart-

ment in their investigation of the accident.

Although "the responsibilities and culpability of the driver for the accident has yet to be verified," Wong said the driver is being investigated for "inappropriate practices in his driving."

## Building hit by out-of-control bus evacuated

**T**HE building that was struck by the bus may also be in danger, said the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Can-feng.

"The pillar [hit by the bus] is a main pillar and an important part of the building's structure," he said, adding "we [DSSOPT] have already taken measures to temporarily support [the building's integrity] and we are requesting the collaboration of the Civil Engineering Laboratory of Macau to conduct a follow-up on the case in the next few days."

As for the building's residents, those who were at home when the accident occurred (10) were "all evacuated from the building," the second-in-command at the Fire Services, Chao Ka Cheong, informed.

Li said that DSSOPT will conduct permanent monitoring of the building in loco with the appropriate equipment. "At the moment is not convenient to hold an intensive inspection to the interior. We are studying the possibilities and will decide after [this first analysis]," adding "for the time being residents will be prevented from entering their homes."

The bus will also remain in place "inserted into the pillar and will only be removed after the building support [restoration] works," he informed, to ensure the structure's integrity.

Residents who require assistance from Welfare Affairs Bureau (IAS) will be temporarily lodged in the Shelter Center at Ilha Verde, said Au Chi Keung, vice president of the IAS. He said six families are already lodged in the Ilha Verde



RENATO MARQUES

Centre for Victims of Disaster.

The passengers suffering from minor injuries are being accommodated in local hotels, confirmed the Tourism Office deputy director, Cheng Wai Tong.

He also added that the unaffected members of the tour group have "already returned to mainland to continue their trip or return home this afternoon."

### TRANSPORTATION

## Air Seoul announces route to Macau

**A**IR Seoul, a low-cost carrier of Asiana Airlines, yesterday announced that it is set to operate flights to several regions including Macau.

The budget airline has

started to sell international flight tickets to Japanese cities and Southeast Asian regions, in a bid to heighten Asiana Airlines' revenues after its flight lines to cities in Japan and Southeast

Asia proved unprofitable.

The six Japanese cities are Shizuoka, Toyama, Nagasaki, Hiroshima, Yonago (Tottori), and Takamatsu; while flights to the three Southeast Asian destina-

tions are Siem Reap (Cambodia) Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) and Macau.

Asiana Air handed all of the aforementioned flights to Air Seoul except for departures to Nagasaki and

Macau.

The Korea Economic Daily reported that Asiana's operations to Japanese cities were the main loss makers as most passengers have noted that they would rather travel in a more affordable aircraft.

The media outlet stressed that Asiana is expected raise its profitability through

the handing of flights to the low-cost carrier, despite the inevitable decline in sales revenue.

Air Seoul is the second airline subsidiary of Asiana, which also operates Air Busan. Air Busan is focused on domestic flights, while Air Seoul is aiming to build a network on short-range international flights.

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MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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GAMING

## SJM records 38.7 percent fall in profit

CASINO operator SJM Holdings Ltd. has published its financial statement for the first half of 2016, showing a 38.7 percent fall in net profit to just under HKD1.1 billion compared with the first half of 2015.

In the same period, the total revenue of the group amounted to HKD21.13 billion, of which gaming revenue accounted for the majority, HKD20.89 billion, but was still down by more than one-fifth year-on-year.

Analyzed by sector, mass market table gaming revenue of SJM Holdings decreased by 11.5 percent year-on-year during the first half of 2016, while VIP gaming revenue was down by 28.5 percent. Meanwhile, slot machines fare better, seeing a smaller drop of 8.3 percent compared with the first half of last year.

As for the group's flagship hotel, Casino Grand Lisboa, SJM Holdings noted that the property's revenue, adjusted property EBITDA and attributable profit were down by 25.3 percent and 30.8 percent and 35.2 percent respectively, as compared to a year earlier.

Meanwhile the occupancy rate of the hotel increased by 10.4 percent from the first half of last year to 90.5 percent. Average daily room rate decreased during the period by 32.9 percent to HKD1,609.

In its statement, the group said that it has maintained a strong financial position with cash, bank balances and pledged bank deposits totaling nearly HKD14.62 billion as of June 30.

The company declared an interim dividend of HKD0.06 for the period, down 40 percent from the HKD0.1 it paid a year ago.

## Typhoon warning signals may be revised



SMG's director Fong Soi Kun (center) pictured last week during a meeting where he said that the weather was not rough enough to justify a T8 signal. Later he apologized for the bureau's communication management

AFTER being flooded with criticism from local residents, a representative from the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) said that the bureau would revise its regulations on typhoon warning signals.

In a TDM Forum Sunday, a number of citizens gathered to robustly condemn the bureau's decision to

not hoist typhoon no. 8 last week.

One citizen harshly argued that the bureau's decision should not be made from digital devices.

"Whatever scientific figures [backing your decision] would be invalid if one has lost his life. [...] I believe as an observatory, the bureau's future policymaking shouldn't only

be scientifically backed, as we need officials instead of just computers to making decisions," said the resident.

Tang Iu Man, who supervises the bureau's meteorological division, defended SMG by informing the public that authorities are open to amending the regulations on the criteria of warning signals, to reflect

public opinions.

However lawmaker Melinda Chan criticized Tang's remarks, explaining that authorities should retain "professional judgment" instead of amateur opinions.

"Meteorological forecasts require scientific judgment and professional knowledge. Not every citizen is meteorologically knowledgeable. The government should use scientific figures and professional judgement in hoisting typhoon signals," Chan noted.

Chan added that the regulations SMG is reliant on when issuing typhoons were created back in 2000.

Tang explained that the bureau would start to work on the adjustment of its regulations by obtaining opinions from other civil protection services and broader society later this year.

In SMG's press conference last week, director of the bureau Fong Soi Kun announced that the decision to not hoist T8 typhoon signal was based on "scientific data, knowledge and experience." However despite his statements, the public further slammed the bureau for failing to recognize the public's safety concerns. LV

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Daniel Beitler

**L**EADERS of a recently established eSports (electronic or virtual sports) association told the Times last week that through the growth of eSports in the city, they hope to turn virtual gaming into a distinct tourism offering. This would complement the government's vision of an entertainment-driven Macau.

Founded only last year, Grow uP eSports is a non-profit Macau association whose objective is to create and develop the eSports industry, not just in Macau but also throughout the ASEAN region. It operates as an expansion to Grow uP Gaming association in Portugal, which was founded over a decade ago and is today one of the largest and oldest such groups in Europe.

Frederico Santos Rosário, the chairman of Grow uP eSports, said that key to establishing the activity as a driver of tourism growth is recognition from two essential government bodies; the Sports Bureau (ID) and the Government Tourist Office (MGTO).

With regards to the latter, Rosário noted that Grow uP eSports has already enjoyed success in securing both institutional and financial support, which he believes can be used to better the position eSports as a tourism offering in Macau.

"[Virtual] gaming is an interesting channel to promote tourism," posited the association's president, Fernando Pereira "because we are attracting a new set of specialized tourists to Macau – Millennials – who are not currently being targeted with the gambling offerings."

"Things are changing in Macau," he added. "It is becoming an entertainment city, so there is potential for the development of eSports."

The association seeks to develop residents' interest in virtual gaming and eSports in order build a budding, home-grown community, but also seeks to position the activity as an area for the MSAR's economic diversification.

Grow uP eSports promises that eSports can "complement the rich entertainment industry that is currently diversifying

IT'S GAMING, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT

# Virtual games could become tourism offering in entertainment-driven Macau



Frederico Santos Rosário (left) and Fernando Pereira

Macau [... and support] with the 15,000 seats eSports arena [which] opens in 2017."

An announcement in 2014 by Major League Gaming (MLG) publicized the construction of the world's first eGaming arena, which is planned to be built in Hengqin. The 15,000-seat arena is scheduled to open in 2018 as part of a project with a total investment of MOP22.21 billion.

The market growth and sponsorship money being invested into eGaming worldwide is truly staggering, the association's co-founder Andrew Pearson wrote in an email to the Times.

"I've seen nothing like it before and I doubt we'll see anything like it again," he wrote. "The sponsorship money coming into eSports is phenomenal [...] by 2017 or 2018 eSports sponsorship money will eclipse the NBA [the National Basketball Association in the U.S.], which is a staggering statistic, as it took the NBA 40-plus years to reach its current level, while eSports will have done it

in about 10."

"I believe that the casinos will start preparing for the virtual gaming market," added Fernando Pereira. He noted that this could be an opportunity to establish an entirely new betting market in the city, which he added "would rather bet on which [eGaming] player will win rather than a baccarat game because of [the former involving] skill and not just luck."

"eSports are bringing in a young and highly coveted demographic that normal marketing channels won't necessarily reach," explained Pearson, who agrees that casino operators are beginning to scope out the opportunity as a means of becoming less reliant on gambling revenue.

"It's an enormous opportunity [...] since] gamers and eSports fans are highly sophisticated tech users [that] the casinos marketing departments aren't going to find on normal marketing channels," he wrote. "[Casino operators] are going to have to revamp their marketing

**I believe that the casinos will start preparing for the virtual gaming market.**

FERNANDO PEREIRA  
GROW UP ESPORTS

departments, especially their social media departments, to connect with them."

What's more is that "three of the top four [eSports] revenue-generating countries are in this region – China, Japan, and South Korea – and these are the countries that provide a large portion of Macau visitors. Holding events here could draw some of these eSports fans," noted Pearson.

In April, Macau's Grow uP eSports held its first tournament in the territory for the football game FIFA. According to the organizers, the tournament had around 50 participants. "Next year, we want to organize big competitions in Macau and create a university league to compete against Hong Kong and Taiwan," noted Pereira.

However, before this can occur, the association needs to flourish within the city. One of the biggest priorities in the years ahead will be to have eSports formally recognized as a sport by the territory's authorities, said Fernando Pereira, and this requires acknowledgement from ID.

"They [ID] have previous-

ly refused to meet us because they say that it is not a sport, even though China [PRC] have recognized it as a sport," he said. This is important because recognition would provide the group with government sponsorship as well as making it easier to promote the activity, Pereira explained. The Sports Bureau did not immediately respond to a Times enquiry on the matter.

Separately, the senior leaders of the association say that their objective, aside from promoting the activity as an economic market, is to encourage social exchanges within the gaming world.

"We want to avoid the stereotype of gamers who [are often thought to] stay at home, isolated from society and playing by themselves," said Rosário. "It's actually a very social experience."

Rosário gave the example of a player that he met online some years ago, with whom he initially traded "insults" and "abuse." He assured the Times that it was all friendly in nature and after they finally met in person some two years later, Rosário invited the gamer to his wedding.

"We don't want gaming to be something bad... like an addiction," said Pereira. [The usefulness] of gaming is often questioned, including how you can transfer the skills of gaming into the real world," he added, arguing that to the contrary, there are many transferable skills, such as dexterity, multi-tasking competency, and leadership.

In regards to leadership, Pereira referenced a 2007 IBM study titled, "Virtual Worlds, Real Leaders," which found that risk-taking in virtual gaming was conducive to decision-making in modern, fast-paced business environments.

Additionally, the group is seeking to develop precautions against the negative consequences of excessive gaming. The group's leadership cited as an example their Portuguese mother organization, which has affiliated itself with members of Portugal's Order of Psychologists in order to gain access to qualified practitioners who can help players to avoid or remedy gaming addiction. Macau organizers say they want to seek out a similar arrangement locally.

## Grow uP eSports sets date for 2nd tournament

**A**FTER the success of the organization's debut tournament in April, a second tournament is now set for the last weekend of the month on August 27 and 28. It will include tournaments for two distinct games; collectible card game Hearthstone and the incessantly popular League of Legends, which recorded an average of 27 million worldwide daily players in 2014.

Pereira and Rosário said that they are unsure over the number of participants for the tournament

but noted that it is likely to be in the hundreds. They add that there are as many as 7,000 League of Legends players in Macau today.

Six "champions" from the Macau tournament this month will be sent to Jakarta in October to participate in a world championship for the two games where they will compete against individuals from more than 40 countries. Organizers said that the local winners will be awarded an "all expenses paid" trip to the championship.



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Daniel Beitler

POLITICS | ELECTORAL LAW DEBATE

# New Macau says election transparency more essential than freedom of expression

**A**T a New Macau Association (ANM) meeting yesterday, vice president Jason Chao said that need for transparency in the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections next year is more essential than freedom of expression, given the particular circumstances of Macau. Chao made the comment during an ANM meeting ahead of the AL's discussion on the topic today, when the body is expected to vote on amendments to the Electoral Law.

In reaction to what the association sees as the flouting of the Electoral Law by organizations with access to significant resources, ANM want to expand the list of entities prohibited from aligning with, and favoring, particular candidates.

Currently, companies with capital sourced or partly sourced from public funds, media organizations, and gaming operators are prevented from publicizing explicit or official support for individual candidates. However, the ANM proposal would see this extended to private companies, regardless of their size and irrespective of whether they are recipients of government grants, save for a few exceptions.

"[Under the current system] marginalized activists such as New Macau do not have any advantage [in the election]," said Chao. "We hope that the Electoral Law will create fairness and equality of participation, but this [current version of the] legislation is not taking a step in that direction."

"New Macau Association is proposing the inclusion of business organizations and associations receiving public grants in the list of having no eligibility [...] as an election campaign supporter," he added.

However, ANM's proposal to expand the list of organizations prohibited from officially supporting individual candida-



New Macau representatives at the meeting yesterday, including Jason Chao (center right) and Scott Chiang (far right)

tes is being seen by some as a challenge to freedom of expression. Even the association's senior leadership acknowledged that it was problematic, since the group has indignantly, and on numerous occasions, called for better protection of the particular freedom.

"While some will challenge that it [ANM's proposal] is a restriction on freedom of speech – and to some extent, that's [true] – you have to take the circumstances of Macau into account," justified Chao. "Macau needs transparency. It's a matter of whether or not this piece of legislation is going to create fair ground for every ticket to contest those seats."

When questioned by journalists as to whether striving for fewer restrictions might be more in line with ANM's vision for Macau politics, the association's senior leadership said that

they would prefer to work within the "current framework" of the Electoral Law, adding that they had little confidence in oversight bodies to prevent "cheaters" in a less controlled electoral climate.

"One might move in the direction of lifting all restrictions [on campaigning] like in Hong Kong," Chao speculated, "but under the current framework of Macau's election law, [the legislation is moving] in the restrictive direction. At this stage, we are sticking with the restrictive framework and so we are calling for more restrictions [in the name of] transparency."

The problem also stems from a lack of confidence in electoral affairs monitoring agencies, according to a statement published by ANM yesterday.

"In the real world scenario, it is practically impossible to draw a clear line between the resources devoted to an elec-

tion campaign and that [which is] under the 'normal operations' of these organizations," the statement noted.

"Without a strong auditing practice and the required power of the [oversight] committee, not only will the system not improve but it also opens another loophole, enabling cheats [of the system]," added ANM president Scott Chiang yesterday.

"Is the committee powerful enough to detect every activity held by this organization's su-

porters? I don't think so," he hypothesized. "Do they have the willingness to count every expenditure and put that under the bill of the list?"

"In practice, will this amendment improve the fairness of political participation in Macau, or will it enable cheaters to [cheat] legally?" he challenged.

Under the new ANM proposals, only a small number of associations would be able to sign up as official supporters of specific candidates, in addition to individuals who would be permitted to freely affiliate themselves with electoral candidates.

Chao sheepishly acknowledged during yesterday's meeting that ANM would be one such group, though the reason for the awkwardness was unclear since political associations like ANM are already seen as essential to the functioning of Macau's electoral system.

The association has additionally requested a meeting with members of the AL committee who will today deliberate changes to the bill to share some of the concerns raised during yesterday's meeting.

## OPPOSITION STATED TO MOP25,000 DEPOSIT

**NEW MACAU** also commented during yesterday's meeting on the introduction of a security deposit of MOP25,000 which some hope will be required from potential candidates before they can put their name forward. "This restriction may make sense in places with

vibrant civil societies such as Hong Kong, where many people actively engage in an election, but in Macau this price of electoral participation [...] is a big amount for those who do not have many resources," noted Jason Chao. "We oppose the introduction of the deposit."

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# Jack Ma is opening his wallet to Europe but not to Europeans

Marie Mawad

**J**ACK Ma will set a bag aside for you at your favorite Paris store or hail you a ride in Rome - just as long as you're not European.

China's biggest third-party payments platform Alipay, an affiliate of Ma's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., is signing deals with brick and mortar retailers in Europe to bulk up its offering for Chinese tourists and expats. It's seeking to add extras to its mobile wallet app for Chinese travelers in France, the U.K., Germany and Italy, though it has no plans to offer its services to consumers who aren't from China.

"Europe is a popular destination for our Chinese customers, so it's an important market for us," Rita Liu, head of Alipay Europe, Middle-East and Africa, said in an interview. "We're actively looking for partners across Europe - merchants who want to cater to Chinese tourists or technical providers on the payments side. But we have no plans to target European customers."

Alipay held talks with retailers in the French capital including Printemps, one of the city's biggest department stores; it unveiled a deal last week to sell travel insurance from Axa SA to its users; and it's working with Germany's Wirecard AG to support the mobile wallet service in as many as 69 stores at Munich Airport. Alipay is in talks with other technical, retail and payment partners in France and Germany, as well as the U.K. and Italy, Liu said.

The cross-border strategy mimics one Alipay - with 450



Jack Ma (center)

million users - has deployed with U.S. partners. It has cut deals with the likes of Uber Technologies Inc., Airbnb Inc. and Macy's Inc. to let Chinese customers pay with the Alipay wallet, either by tapping their phone on a contactless register or having a cashier scan a bar code on the mobile screen to charge a registered account.

It highlights how in payments, as with other tech sectors, Europe and the U.S. need Chinese customers more than the other way around, echoing Uber's humbling lesson from selling its Chinese operations to local rival Didi Chuxing.

About 120 million Chinese tourists traveled last year, and their most popular destinations outside Asia were France, Italy, Switzerland and Germany, data by the China Tourism Research Institute showed. They spent USD875 each on average while traveling.

In the war to dominate how consumers around the wor-

ld pay for purchases, China is miles ahead. Tencent Holdings Ltd has 700-million-plus users on its WeChat messaging platform, where it offers financial services including payments, dwarfing the few dozen million subscribers combined who've adopted mobile wallets by Apple Inc., Google or Samsung Electronics Co. It's still early days for Facebook Inc., which is hoping it can make its way into payments by investing in helpful robotic assistants that will let consumers send texts on its Messenger chat service to order hamburgers or office supplies.

In a world where all roads lead to payments, Alipay's latest initiatives show hand-holding customers through their purchases is a key function of the business. The end-game for these digital giants, regardless of which side of the globe they're on, is to become an important driver of commerce and put themselves in a position to take a cut of transac-

tions they help generate.

To do that, all are seeking to grow the lists of retailers who'll accept their payments service alongside a Visa or American Express card. Facebook, for instance, said it's lined up more than 30 partners, including Bank of America, Burger King, and Staples, in its chatbots push. In China, Apple's \$1 billion investment in the country's biggest ride-hailing service was seen helping win powerful local allies to push services including Apple Pay.

"The key battle for digital giants today is scale on the merchants side. That's true for anyone from Alipay to Apple or Facebook," said Michel Leger, head of innovation at Ingenico Group SA, which recently cut a deal to manage electronic cross-border purchases for Alipay. "They each have a relationship with millions of consumers, but they need the other side of the equation - the address book of merchants." **Bloomberg**

GAMING

## Rumors of King Kong coming to Vegas

**L**ATER this month, Wynn Resorts will open the USD4.2 billion Wynn Palace on the Cotai Strip, drawing inspiration from the floral themes and colorful displays at Wynn Las Vegas.

The Cotai project is not, however, the only project that company chairman Steve Wynn is working on. Across the Pacific Ocean, Wynn hopes to brief his company's board of directors next month on his Las Vegas plans, which include a USD1.5 billion project called "Wynn Paradise Park."

The park, which will contain a golf club and 38-acres of lagoon and beach, has made headlines because a Forbes report suggested it will include a giant figure of King Kong. There will reportedly be two islands in the middle of the proposed lagoon, on one of which the King Kong figure will be erected.

"We will have an eight-story-tall [King] Kong who will make an appearance every day before the water shows," said Wynn at a Couture Time exhibition in June. "He will be articulated to turn 360 degrees and will have a 50-foot arm spread, and in his left hand he will hold a girl. He will have animated eyes and a big sound."

"Millions of people come to Vegas each year and we know they will come to see this. The question is, how much will they pay?" he asked at the exhibition.

Under Wynn's proposal, the park would open by 2020 if work begins this year as scheduled. **DB**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA CONTINUES TO SOURCE FROM LOCAL SUPPLIERS



Since launching its Local Supplier Support Program in July of last year, Sands China Ltd. has purchased various products from 74 new local suppliers, leading to a total of

more than MOP55 million.

As of July 31, this sum comprised some 1,300 purchase orders, and 2,500 items.

Sands China's statement outlined that its scheme focused

on three types of local businesses which had been identified in collaboration with the Macao Chamber of Commerce: small and micro companies, "Made in Macau" companies, and local young entrepreneurs.

Sands China's Local Supplier Support Program is in line with the MSAR's government's initiative to "buy local" and demonstrates the company's commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of its corporate social responsibility efforts.

The scheme is part of Sands China's supplier relationship management strategy which guides the company's long-standing effort to source from local suppliers, who it views as its strategic partners.

### WYNN CLOSING NEW DEALS WITH LOCAL SMES



In just three months, Wynn Resorts and the Macao Chamber of Commerce's "Local SME Procurement Partnership Program" have closed new deals valued at MOP68 million, involving than 200 lo-

cal SMEs.

This scheme consists of Business Matching Sessions and a "Procurement Platform Mobile App Design Competition", as well as a series of workshops tailored to local

SMEs.

Through the Local SME Procurement Partnership Program, Wynn Resorts' statement said that it has been providing a list of procurement items in 36 categories, as well as organizing business matching sessions.

Each of these sessions focuses on one major category, namely Food & Beverage, Hotel Operations, Facilities and others including, but not limited to Services and Contracts.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, incentivizing local companies is a step towards achieving the goal of transforming the region into a global center of tourism and leisure, adding that the company would continue its efforts to "buy local".



# Cape Verde's public debt exceeds USD2 billion

CAPE Verde's public debt amounted to 199.5 billion escudos at the end of March and 205.9 billion escudos (USD2.070 billion) at the end of July 2016, the Bank of Cape Verde indicates in a recently released report.

The GDP of Cape Verde stood at \$1.630 billion (162.1 billion escudos at the current exchange rate) at the end of 2015, according to the World Bank.

In its report on second quarter 2016 economic and financial indicators, the island country's central bank notes a less unfavorable performance of public accounts in the first quarter, due to the 5 percent increase in revenue and the 33.1 percent reduction of non-financial assets.

The report adds that the improved public account deficit resulted in a reduction of about 1.934 billion escudos in external loan outlays for direct state implementation of investment projects and for public enterprises.

The central bank document also indicates that the country's net international reserves increased by nearly 4.7 million euros until May, thereby guaranteeing 6.3 months of the goods and services imports forecast for the year. **MDT/Macauhub**

## ANGOLA

# Economy minister proposes structural change of economy

THE economic, financial and foreign exchange situation of Angola, owing to an external shock, requires a structural change of the economy to ensure the wellbeing of its citizens, said Economy Minister Abrahão Gourgel.

Gourgel made his comments at the National Pension Fund Conference last week in Luanda, an initiative of the Insurance and Pension Fund Academy. He explained that structural changes imply meeting domestic demand for goods and services with domestic production and increasingly higher levels of national added value, among other measures and options.

He also called for reducing imported labor to "what is necessary", a process that should be accompanied by technical and professional preparation of the national workforce.



Oil tankers pass along the road towards the capital Luanda

Gourgel said that pension funds and social security are complementary, offering an alternative to the distribution system whereby younger generations pay the pensions of older generations, repor-

ted Angop news agency.

Pension funds are based on a capitalization system in which the beneficiary receives pensions per the contributions made during years of service and respective inco-

me generated by those contributions, he added.

The National Pension Fund Conference was held on the occasion of National Insurance and Pension Fund Day on 5 August. **MDT/Macauhub**

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# Official says Australian security key to Chinese investment

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA'S treasurer said yesterday that national security would be his overriding consideration when he makes a decision on whether to allow a Chinese consortium to lease a major Sydney electricity grid.

Chinese foreign investment, particularly from state-owned companies, has become contentious in Australia as China takes a more aggressive stance in territorial disputes

Scott Morrison said he was close to making a decision on whether to allow Chinese state-owned State Grid Corp. and Hong Kong-registered Cheung Kong Infrastructure Group to buy a 99-year lease for half of the New South Wales state-owned electricity network Ausgrid for more

AP PHOTO



Australia's Treasurer Scott Morrison walks out after he was sworn into office at Government House in Canberra

than 10 billion Australian dollars (USD7.6 billion).

"This is not an easy decision," Morrison told Sydney Radio 2GB. "National security out ranks everything."

Chinese foreign investment,

particularly from state-owned companies, has become increasingly contentious in Australia as China takes a more aggressive stance in territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

President Barack Obama raised questions with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull last year after Australia allowed a Chinese company, Landbridge, to secure a 99-year lease over the strategically impor-

tant Port of Darwin, which has become a U.S. Marines training hub in northern Australia. Turnbull said Australian defense and security officials determined the AUD506 million deal did not threaten national interests.

Peter Jennings, executive director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a government-established independent think tank, said neither the Darwin Port lease nor the proposed Ausgrid deal were in Australia's security interests.

Jennings said a Chinese-controlled Ausgrid could become vulnerable to being shut down by cyberattack as hackers linked to Russia had done in the Ukraine in December.

Hackers used a coordinated attack to take down part of western Ukraine's power grid, blacking out more than 225,000 people after hitting regional electric power distribution companies. U.S. officials called it the realization of a nightmare scenario — hackers able to take down a critical system on which a country depends.

"You have to be concerned in a future world where we might find ourselves in a much more hostile relationship with China: Could they do us damage domestically by hacking into our electricity grid in Sydney?" Jennings told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Senator Nick Xenophon, the leader of three senators whose support could be crucial to the government to pass legislation through the upper chamber when Parliament resumes this month, said the foreign investment decision-making process lacked transparency.

"I don't believe it is in the national interest for a state-owned enterprise to control one of our biggest power assets in this country," Xenophon told ABC. AP

CHINA'S exports fell again in July by an unexpectedly wide margin while a decline in imports accelerated in a possible sign of weakness in the world's second-largest economy.

Exports contracted 4.4 percent to USD184.7 billion, a slight improvement over June's 4.8 percent contraction, customs data showed yesterday. Imports fell 12.5 percent to \$132.4 billion, accelerating from a decline of 8.4 percent.

Weak global demand has hampered efforts to shore up Chinese trade and stave off job losses in export industries. The contraction in imports reflects possible weakness in the domestic

## ECONOMY

# Imports, exports fall again in July

economy, but the figures also are depressed by a decline in prices of oil and other commodities.

Chinese economic growth held steady at 6.7 percent in the quarter ending in June compared with a year earlier, though that was the lowest quarterly level since the aftermath of the 2008 global crisis.

The declines in both exports and imports were worse than many forecasters expected.

"The data dash hopes that a pick-up in global manufacturing growth last month might

have buoyed shipments from China," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

"The country's export growth is likely to remain subdued for some time," said Evans-Pritchard. "While we think the worst is probably over for many emerging markets, global growth is likely to remain lackluster well into next year."

The slump in imports meant China's global trade surplus swelled by 22 percent from the same month a year ago to \$52.3 billion.

China's trade surplus with the European Union, its biggest trading partner, was \$11.8 billion. The surplus with the United States was \$24.7 billion.

Even taking lower prices into account, the Chinese figures suggest imports fell by 5.3 percent, according to Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

"It implies that volumes dropped substantially month on month," said Kuijs in a report. "It may herald that domestic demand started to slow down in July." AP

AP PHOTO





Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# US Navy visits Qingdao; Ramos in Hong Kong for talks

A U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer arrived in the northern Chinese port of Qingdao yesterday in the first visit by an American warship to the country since Beijing responded angrily to an arbitration panel's ruling that its expansive South China Sea maritime claims had no basis in law.

Arriving in the home port of China's northern fleet, the USS Benfold held a signal exercise with the Chinese navy. Cmdr. Justin L. Harts said the visit aimed to "build relationships" with counterparts from China, but referred questions on tensions in the South China Sea to Pacific Command in Hawaii.

China rejected last month's ruling by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in a case initiated by the Philippines and has criticized the U.S. as encouraging Manila's actions.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the U.S., Japan and Australia were "fanning the flames" of regional tensions after they released a joint statement urging China not to construct military outposts or reclaim land in the disputed waters.

Meanwhile, former Philippine President Fidel Ramos flew to Hong Kong yesterday for talks aimed at rekindling ties with China that have been strained by long-seething disputes in the South China Sea.

Ramos said in a news conference at Manila's airport that he would act as an "ice breaker" and the warmer relations he



AP PHOTO  
Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos gestures during a press conference before his flight at Manila's International Airport in suburban Pasay, south of Manila

wanted to forge could engender formal talks between China and the Philippines.

President Rodrigo Duterte has designated Ramos as a special envoy to pave the way for negotiations with Beijing after an international arbitration tribunal invalidated China's expansive territorial claims in a case put forward by the Philippines.

"I am just the ice breaker, as

they say, to rekindle, to warm up, again, our good, friendly, neighborly relations with China and that's all that I have to do," Ramos said.

Ramos, now 88, was president when China seized the disputed Mischief Reef in 1995, sparking protests from the Philippines. Amid the rift, then-Chinese President Jiang Zemin paid a visit to Manila in 1996 and in a

memorable moment, both leaders danced and sang Western songs, including Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender" while on a Manila Bay cruise, helping ease tensions.

On Saturday, China's air force said it had conducted a combat air patrol over disputed areas of the South China Sea to improve its fighting ability.

The air force didn't say when the exercises took place, but after the July 12 arbitration ruling, the air force had said such patrols would be "a regular practice."

Air force spokesman Senior Col. Shen Jinke said in an online statement that bombers and fighters, early warning aircraft and reconnaissance planes patrolled the airspace around the Spratly Islands, Scarborough Shoal and surrounding areas.

In Australia, an amateur marine archaeologist says the Chinese coast guard harassed him and his team while they were diving to a shipwreck off Borneo.

Farmer Hans Berekoven told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that while the Chinese ship did not directly intervene, it clearly was trying to make them leave.

"They were trying to push us out. When we arrived there and

started diving, they would up-anchor and sort of circle around us, sometimes really close. It was a sort of gentle intimidation," Berekoven said.

The report said the location was the Luconia Breakers, a cluster of shoals and a tiny island about 84 nautical miles (135 kilometers) north of Borneo that lies inside Malaysia's exclusive economic zone. China also claims the area within its nine-dash maritime border that the Hague arbitration panel ruled invalid.

Berekoven also said the Chinese ship was causing major damage to the coral reef near where it was anchored.

"She's got a massive anchor chain. Every time the wind changes or the current changes that big anchor chain is just making a hell of a mess of that reef," he said.

Other reports of harassment appear to show China's determination to monopolize marine archaeology in the South China Sea, which is littered with the wrecks of ships of all nationalities. China has used archaeological finds to support its claim to have mapped and named the sea's features from ancient times and therefore to have a historical right to sovereignty. AP

ONE BELT, ONE ROAD

## China's 'Marshall plan'

CHINA'S ambition to revive an ancient trading route stretching from Asia to Europe could leave an economic legacy bigger than the Marshall Plan or the European Union's enlargement, according to a new analysis.

Dubbed 'One Belt, One Road,' the plan to build rail, highways and ports will embolden China's soft power status by spreading economic prosperity during a time of heightened political uncertainty in both the U.S. and EU, according to Stephen L. Jen, the chief executive officer at Eurizon SLJ Capital Ltd., who estimates a value of USD1.4 trillion for the project.

It will also boost trading links and help internationalize the yuan as banks open branches along the route, according to Jen.

"This is a quintessential example of a geopolitical event that will likely be consequential for the global economy and the balance of political power in the long run," said Jen, a former International Monetary Fund economist.

Reaching from east to west, the Silk Road Economic Belt will extend to Europe through Central Asia and the Maritime Silk Road will link sea lanes to Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

While China's authorities aren't calling their Silk Road a new Marshall Plan, that's not stopping comparisons with the U.S. effort to rebuild Western Europe after World War II.

With the potential to touch on 64 countries, 4.4 billion people and around 40 percent of the

global economy, Jen estimates that the One Belt One Road project will be 12 times bigger in absolute dollar terms than the Marshall Plan. China may spend as much as 9 percent of gross domestic product - about double the U.S.'s boost to post-war Europe in those terms.

"The One Belt One Road Project, in terms of its size, could be multiple times larger and more ambitious than the Marshall Plan or the European enlargement," said Jen.

It's not all upside. Undertaking an expansive plan like this one will inevitably run the risk of corruption, project delays and local opposition. Chinese backed projects have frequently run into trouble before, especially in Africa, and there's no guarantee that potential



recipient nations will put their hand up for the aid.

In addition, resurrecting the trading route will need funding during a time of slowing growth and rising bad loans in the nation's banks. Sending money abroad when it's needed at home may not have an enduring appeal.

Still, at least China has a plan.

"The fact that this is a 30-40 year plan is remarkable as China is the only country with any long-term development plan, and this underscores the policy long-termism in China, in contrast to the dominance of policy short-termism in

much of the West," said Jen.

And that's a win-win for soft power.

"The One Belt One Road Project could be a huge PR exercise that could win over government and public support in these countries," he said. Bloomberg



AP PHOTO



A fishing boat passes near a construction site of the Don Sahong dam, near Cambodia-Laos borders, in Preah Romkel village, Stung Treng province

# Laos' thirst for Mekong River dams imperils fishing, farming

Stephen Wright, Chiang Khong

**D**ISMISSING its neighbors' pleas, impoverished Laos is rapidly building a Mekong River dam that threatens fisheries crucial to millions of Southeast Asia's poorest people.

The site of the Don Sahong dam, less than 2 kilometers from the Lao-Cambodian border, is in an area famous for spectacular waterfalls and deep pools that is among the few habitats of the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin. A "coffer dam" blocks one of the Mekong's main channels to allow construction of the hydropower project, which will suck in as much as half of the river's water during the dry season.

Landlocked Laos is Southeast Asia's poorest state, and all its neighbors far exceed its population of 7 million. But by virtue of geography and burgeoning Chinese influence, its authoritarian leaders wield unaccountable power over a 4,800-kilometer-long river that begins in Tibet and winds through six countries before emptying into the South China Sea.

China has built six dams on its stretch of the Mekong since the mid-1990s, and Laos

**■ The effects of existing Chinese dams are apparent to many across the Mekong from Laos in the sleepy northern Thailand town of Chiang Khong, which once bustled with hundreds of fishing boats**

plans nine. Many dams have been built on Mekong tributaries as well, and dozens more are planned. Experts say they are already damaging the world's largest inland fisheries and degrading a rice bowl delta that helps feed Cambodia and Vietnam, the two countries farthest downstream. Even building a few dams on the lower Mekong will drama-

tically compound the damage to a river basin that 60 million people rely on, according to scientific models of dam impacts.

The Don Sahong dam "is like a one-ton bomb above us," said Phoy Vanna, a tourist boat owner and father of 10 who has joined hundreds of other Cambodian villagers in protests.

The rest of Southeast Asia is powerless to stop Laos. Under an international agreement on protecting the Mekong, the country is obliged only to consult its neighbors.

At 256 megawatts, Don

Sahong will have relatively little power capacity, but it could be especially damaging because it blocks a major route for fish migrations.

In an environmental impact study that did not consider effects on neighboring countries, Laos says it will protect fisheries by deepening an inlet and blasting rapid to create new routes for fish to swim upriver.

"We don't know what the claims that things will be fine are based upon. This is unacceptable considering the high stakes," said Ian Baird, a geography professor at the Uni-

AP PHOTO



A Cambodian tourist boat owner Phoy Vanna drives his wooden boat near a construction site of the Don Sahong dam on the Mekong River

versity of Wisconsin-Madison who studies Mekong fisheries.

Laos has said the power will help fuel development in the south of the country. Yet overall, its plans for nine hydro dams call for exporting most of the electricity to Thailand and Vietnam.

Research indicates the combined effect of planned Mekong dams would be devastating.

Most recently, a study for Vietnam by Danish water consultancy DHI predicted Mekong Delta rice production would drop steeply because the dams would trap sediments, reducing nutrients flowing downstream. The study predicts annual fishery and farming losses of more than USD760 million in Vietnam and \$450 million in Cambodia, the two worst affected countries.

With Don Sahong, Laos followed a pattern established five years earlier when it went ahead with the Xayaburi dam in northern Laos over the objections of neighboring countries.

Philip Hirsch, a professor of human geography at Sydney University, said China has emboldened Laos. Chinese dams have raised dry-season water levels, making downstream hydro development more viable. And Beijing's influence has made Laos less dependent on Vietnam, the country worst affected by Mekong dams.

The effects of existing Chinese dams are apparent to many across the Mekong from Laos in the sleepy northern Thailand town of Chiang Khong, which once bustled with hundreds of fishing boats.

More than a decade ago, a day's catch could be 10 or more kilograms. Today, it's 1 or 2 kilograms or often nothing. Some species of fish have gone altogether. Fishing as a main livelihood has almost disappeared.

"I'm a fisherman but I feel like I have to buy a can of fish to eat," said 60-year-old Somdet Tanatunyakul.

Unpredictable dam releases also damage riverbank gardens that line the Mekong throughout Southeast Asia. More than half that riverbank land will be lost if all proposed mainstream dams are built, according to an Australian study.

Pianporn Deetes, a campaigner with International Rivers, an advocacy group, said the Mekong will be irreversibly damaged within the next decade without a binding agreement to control development.

"Each dam will be owned and operated by different companies, from different countries. Each of them will be focused on extracting the resources of the Mekong for the highest profit they can make," she said. **AP**





People help victims of a bomb blast in Quetta

PAKISTAN

# Suicide bombing at hospital in Quetta kills 63

A suicide bomber killed at least 63 people and wounded dozens in an attack that struck a gathering of Pakistani lawyers on the grounds of a government-run hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta yesterday, police and doctors said.

Witnesses described horrifying scenes of bodies being scattered about and the wounded screaming out and crying for help. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast.

Nearly 100 lawyers had come to the hospital in the heart of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, after the body of their colleague, prominent attorney Bilal Kasi was brought there.

Kasi, the chief of the province's bar association, was shot and killed by gunmen earlier yesterday as he was on his way to his office. The lawyers gathered at the Quetta Civil Hospital to express their grief as is common with public figures. Kasi was among the most outspoken lawyers in the province and was popular for campaigning for improvements in the lawyers' community.

"It was a suicide attack," said Zahoor Ahmed Afridi, a senior police officer.

Afridi said the attacker hit shortly after Kasi's body was brought in and that it seemed the two events were connected.

Abdul Rehman, the director at the Civil Hospital, said the bombing killed 63 people, mostly lawyers. He said they were also treating 92 wounded in the explosion.

One of the survivors described a horrifying scene, saying there were "bodies everywhere." Waliur Rehman said he was taking his ailing father to the emergency ward when the explosion shook the building.

The blast was so powerful that they both fell down, he said.

When he looked up, Rehman said he saw bodies of the dead and the wounding crying out for help. He was about 200 meters away from where the bombing struck, he added.

Another witness, lawyer Abdul Latif, said he arrived at the hospital to express his grief over Kasi's killing. But he said he didn't know he would "see the bodies of dozens of other lawyers" killed and wounded shortly after arriving.

Sanaullah Zehri, chief minister in Baluchistan province, said both the bombing and Kasi's

slaying seemed to be part of a plot to disrupt peace in the provincial capital.

Sarfraz Bugti, the provincial interior minister, denounced the attack as an "act of terrorism." A Pakistani news channel reported that one of its cameramen was also killed in the blast.

Local TV stations broadcast footage showing people running in panic around the hospital grounds. Afridi said most of the dead were lawyers who had gathered after Kasi's body was brought to the hospital.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif strongly condemned the blast and expressed his "deep grief and anguish over the loss of precious human lives" in the attack, in which several senior lawyers were also killed.

"No one will be allowed to disturb the peace in the province that has been restored thanks to the countless sacrifices by the security forces, police and the people of Baluchistan," he said in a statement. Sharif asked the local authorities to maintain utmost vigilance and beef up security in Quetta.

He also instructed health officials to provide the best treatment possible to those wounded in the attack. AP

JAPAN

# Emperor Akihito suggests he would like to abdicate

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPAN'S emperor expressed concern yesterday about fulfilling his duties as he ages, in a public address that was remarkable for its rarity and its suggestion that he would like to abdicate.

"Fortunately I am now in good health. However, when I consider that my fitness level is gradually declining, I am worried that it may become more difficult for me to carry out my duties as the symbol of the state," Akihito, 82, said in the 10-minute recorded speech broadcast on national television.

Japan's post-World War II constitution restricts what the emperor can say as a symbolic monarch with no political power. Akihito repeatedly said he is aware of the constraints, and as expected, avoided explicit mention of abdication, which could have violated those restrictions.

The speech was seen in part as an attempt to explain to the public why he might want to abdicate, and presumably win public understanding when the time comes. Sources leaked the possibility to Japanese media almost four weeks ago, which set the stage for yesterday's address.

Abdication isn't expected to happen soon, and would require parliament to approve a change in the law.

It was only the second time that Akihito has spoken directly to the Japanese people over television. In March 2011 he urged people to work hand-in-hand to help the victims of a massive earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he took Akihito's comments seriously.

"I think we have to thoroughly think what we can do to accommodate his concerns, taking into consideration the emperor's age and the current burden of official duties," Abe said.

Japanese media reports said the government may consider a legal change allowing Akihito's abdication that would not be applicable to his successors.

Current law is largely inherited from a 19th-century constitution that banned abdication as a potential risk to political stability.

While much of the discussion has centered on Akihito's age and health, he obliquely introduced at the end of his address another possible argument for abdication: a smoother succession process.

Akihito raised concern about the impact on society when an emperor falls sick but remains in power, which experts said was an apparent reference to his father, Hirohito,



In this photo provided by the Imperial Household Agency of Japan yesterday, Japan's Emperor Akihito reads a message for recording at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo

who died in 1989 after a protracted illness.

Palace doctors regularly announced Hirohito's declining health condition, and the public responded by canceling festivals and other events. Some even postponed weddings.

"The emperor was so distressed by the fact [his father's death] had slowed down social activities that he has been thinking what can be done to make a transition smoother in the future," Isao Tokoro, a Kyoto Sangyo University expert on the imperial family, said on public broadcaster NHK.

Akihito said the more than year-long period of mourning and funeral events after an emperor's death also places a heavy strain on those involved, in particular the imperial family.

"It occurs to me from time to time to wonder whether it is possible to prevent such a situation," he concluded, perhaps as strongly as he could suggest he would like to see a smoother transition.

Akihito explained at length how much effort and thought he has put into his work, traveling across the country to deepen his understanding of the people.

A small number of the emperor's duties have been transferred to Crown Prince Naruhito, his successor, but Akihito said that can't keep happening.

"I think it is not possible to continue reducing perpetually the emperor's acts in matters of state and his duties as the symbol of the state," he said.

Tokoro said Akihito's message signaled his thoughts about the role of the emperor in an aging society.

"I believe he is mostly talking about himself, but I think he is concerned about his successors down the road," Tokoro said. AP



## DIVIDED AMERICA

# Will Trump energize the Latino vote?



Fabiola Vejar (right), registers Stephanie Cardenas to vote in front of a Latino supermarket in Las Vegas

Sergio Bustos & Nicholas Riccardi, Las Vegas

**I**T'S a paradox in American politics: Many Hispanic families have an immense personal stake in what happens on Election Day, but despite numbers that should mean political power, Hispanics often can't vote, aren't registered to vote, or sit it out.

Enter Donald Trump, and the question that could make or break the election in key states. By inflaming the anti-immigrant sentiments of white, working-class men, has the Republican nominee jolted awake another group — 27.3 million eligible Hispanic voters?

"A lot of times you hear this rap about how politics doesn't affect their life," says Yvanna Cancela, political director of Las Vegas' largely immigrant

Culinary Union. "But that changes when it's personal, and there's nothing more personal than Donald Trump talking about deporting 11 million immigrants."

Hispanics now represent the nation's largest ethnic community with some 55 million people. More than one-third of them are U.S.-born, and the others immigrants who are citizens, legal residents or here illegally. Most trace their familial roots to Mexico, one of Trump's favorite targets.

A cornerstone of Trump's platform is building a wall along the Southwest border — and forcing Mexico to pay for it by threatening to cut off remittances those living in the U.S. send to relatives. He questioned the impartiality of an Indiana-born federal judge hearing a lawsuit

against him because of the judge's Mexican ancestry. He's complained Mexico has sent "rapists" and "criminals" illegally to the U.S.

Now some Republicans worry Trump is creating more people like John Herrera, 38, who signed up to vote in June in Las Vegas.

"I've never really voted until now, only because of Trump being against Hispanic people," he said. "I didn't think my vote would count before but now I want to make a difference."

Republicans blame a 1994 ballot measure targeting illegal immigrants in California for alienating that state's growing Hispanic population and turning it solidly Democratic.

"With Trump saying the things he's saying, we might see this same thing again," says Jody Agius Vallejo, a University of

Southern California sociologist and author of "Barrios to Burbs: The Making of the Mexican American Middle Class." "Only this time, it would be nationally."

There is reason, though, to be skeptical. Overall, the Hispanic voting record is not good.

The first obstacle is that more than half of the nation's Hispanics cannot vote because they are either under age 18 or not citizens. Relatively few of the Hispanics who are eligible to vote actually register and

office and won control of both houses of the Legislature for the first time since 1929. But in 2008, 2010 and 2012 they helped deliver the state for Democrats.

"When you have the resources put in, you see turnout that favors the Democrats," says David Damore, a political science professor at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. "But you need to put resources in the community. It's not just going to happen."

This year — with Trump priming the pump, and with former state Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto running to become the first Latina senator — resources are flowing.

In June, two days after graduating from high school, Fabiola Vejar stood outside a Latin grocery store on a sweltering afternoon quizzing a parade of customers in Spanish: "Are you registered to vote?" Most shook their heads no. Vejar followed up: "Are you eligible?" Again, most responded in the negative. One man laughed and bellowed: "Soy Mexicano!" I'm Mexican!

Vejar cannot vote. Now 18, she came from Mexico with her mother when she was 2 years old.

So she volunteers with Mi Familia Vota, encouraging others to be heard at the ballot box.

"I don't have that voice," she says, "but there's other people [...] who feel the way I do. They should vote."

Xiomara Duenas will. She immigrated legally to the United States from Cuba in 1996 to join her father. She had always believed that her shaky English prevented her from becoming a citizen. She was resigned to the idea that immigrants didn't have the same rights as native-born Americans — until Trump's candidacy.

Last November, she became a citizen. This November, she plans to act.

"I didn't want him to become president, but I couldn't do anything," says Duenas. "But now, I can vote."

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — This story is part of *Divided America*, AP's ongoing exploration of the economic, social and political divisions in American society.

**I've never really voted until now, only because of Trump being against Hispanic people.**

JOHN HERRERA, 38

then cast ballots. Their turnout rate in the 2012 was lower than that of blacks and whites.

In Texas, where 39 percent of the population is Hispanic, Democrats have been shut out of statewide elections for decades. During 2014's elections, fewer than 2.3 million Texas Hispanics reported being registered to vote, or about 46 percent of the nearly 4.9 million who were eligible, according to U.S. Census Bureau surveys.

"We've been spending our money wrong," concedes Crystal Zermenio, director of special projects for the Democratic field organization Texas Organizing Project.

"For the past 15 to 20 years, we've been focusing on moving swing white voters. If you talk to Hispanic voters, they say, 'No one has asked me to vote.'"

There are success stories. In Nevada, Latinos have demonstrated the power they wield when they either turn out or stay home. In the 2014 midterms, for example, Hispanic turnout plummeted, and Republicans swept every statewide

## USA

## Delta grounds flights due to system problems

**D**ELTA Air Lines says limited flights have begun several hours after a computer outage grounded its flights around the world and stranded thousands of people.

The Atlanta airline said yesterday that delays

and cancellations are ongoing.

The airline says that a power outage at a facility in Atlanta at around 2:30 a.m. Eastern started the cascading meltdown.

Flights that were already in the air when

the outage struck continued, but many flights remained grounded. Over the next several hours, only a handful of flights took off instead of the usual hundreds, according to flight-tracking services. AP





Daniella Cheslow, Jerusalem

GAZA STRIP

# World Vision says Israeli charges based on 'huge gap' in numbers

**T**HE international charity World Vision said yesterday that Israel has accused the charity's Gaza Strip director of funneling what appears to be an impossible sum of money to Hamas.

Israel's Shin Bet security agency said Mohammed el-Halabi siphoned about USD7.2 million a year to the Islamic militant group over a period of five years. The security agency said this is roughly 60 percent of World Vision's total Gaza budget.

World Vision Germany spokeswoman Silvia Holten said the charity's budget in Gaza in the last decade totaled \$22.5 million. She said World Vision has stopped its Gaza operations while investigations continue. Germany and Australia suspended donations to World Vision in Gaza amid the allegations.

"There is a huge gap in these numbers the Israeli government is telling and what we know," Holten said.

Israel indicted el-Halabi last week.

According to the Shin Bet, el-Halabi crafted an elaborate scheme to funnel funds, food, medical supplies and agricultural equipment to Hamas. He



fraudulently listed the children of Hamas operatives as wounded, created straw organizations, and inflated project costs to divert cash, the agency said. Building supplies intended to support farming projects were transferred to Hamas for constructing tunnels and military installations, according to the Shin Bet.

The allegations, if proven correct, would bolster Israel's arguments for maintaining its blockade of Gaza, imposed af-

ter Hamas seized power in the coastal strip in 2007. Israel says the closure is vital to preventing Hamas from importing weapons and materials used to attack Israel.

Robert Piper, the U.N. coordinator for aid in the Palestinian territories, said Monday that the allegations against el-Halabi "raise serious concerns" for aid groups in Gaza, and that, if proven true, "deserve unreserved condemnation." He called for a fair and transparent trial.

Attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, president of Israeli legal advocacy group Shurat Hadin, said her organization warned World Vision four years ago its funding was being diverted to armed militant groups in Gaza. She said she discovered this while her group researched a lawsuit against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which in the past was involved in attacking Israelis. She said the PFLP used front

organizations that appeared as beneficiaries on the World Vision web site. Darshan-Leitner said she is exploring suing World Vision in the United States for aiding and abetting terrorism.

"Foreign NGOs want to give money to Gaza," Darshan-Leitner said, even as they "ignore all the signs that their money is diverted to terrorism."

World Vision did not immediately respond to the charge.

The U.S. also funded humanitarian projects run by World Vision through 2011, which overlaps with el-Halabi's time as Gaza director. The U.S. State Department said in a statement that it is closely following the Israeli investigation. If confirmed, Hamas's embezzlement of aid funds would be "reprehensible," according to the statement.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon speculated that World

Vision's budget does not include in-kind donations like food.

"They are trying to belittle their role and to show they are much smaller than they really are," Nahshon said of World Vision. He did not provide proof of his claim, but said el-Halabi's legal team will have access to the evidence. He added that el-Halabi confessed to his crimes, but el-Halabi's lawyer Mohammed Mahmoud said his client did not confess.

Holten said the World Vision budget includes all in-kind donations, but she did not provide a detailed report of the organization's spending in Gaza in recent years. She said World Vision performs stringent internal audits and commissions external audits from outside companies as well.

El-Halabi's father has denied he is a member of Hamas. A spokesman for Hamas in Gaza, Hazem Qasem, has called the allegations "lies." AP

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## what's ON



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

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

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

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

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

## Offbeat

## US: 'POKEMON GO' PLAYERS BLAMED FOR DAMAGE AT HISTORIC FORT



A fort destroyed in the Revolutionary War is again fending off attacks — this time from "Pokemon Go" players.

Caretakers of Fort Phoenix in Massachusetts say players of the popular smartphone game are damaging the historic site.

Gary Lavalette, volunteer caretaker at the fort in Fairhaven, near the Rhode Island state line, says people have been leaving trash, vandalizing historic structures and publicly urinating. He told WLNE-TV (bit.ly/2b3Jknk) that a stone wall was taken apart with a crowbar and parts of the property look like a "minefield" because people are digging up the ground.

The Fairhaven Historical Commission says hundreds of "Pokemon Go" players have been flocking to the fort, often at night, because it's where a rare Pokemon can be found.

The fort was destroyed by the British in 1778 but later rebuilt.

## TV canal macau

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

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

04 Aug - 10 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

## DOREAMON: BIRTH OF JAPAN

ROOM 2  
 2.30, 4.30, 7.30 pm

**Director:** Shinnosuke Yakuwa  
**Duration:** 97min

## ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 2  
 9.30 pm

**Director:** Eiichiro Edo  
**Language:** Japanese (Cantonese/ English)  
**Duration:** 120min



## THE SHALLOWS

ROOM 3  
 2.15, 6.05, 7.45, 9.30 pm

**Director:** Jaime Collet-Serra  
**Starring:** Blake Lively, Óscar Jaenada, Brett Cullen, Sedona Legge  
**Language:** English (Cantonese/ English)  
**Duration:** 86min

## ONE PIECE FILM GOLD

ROOM 3  
 3.50 pm

**Director:** Eiichiro Edo  
**Language:** Japanese (Cantonese/ English)  
**Duration:** 120min

## MACAU TOWER

04 Aug - 17 Aug

## SUICIDE SQUAD

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

**Director:** David Ayer  
**Starring:** Will Smith, Jared Leto, Margot Robbie  
**Language:** English (Cantonese/ English)  
**Duration:** 123min



## this day in history



## 1969 FILM STAR STABBED IN 'RITUALISTIC' KILLINGS

Actress Sharon Tate has been found brutally murdered in her Los Angeles home, along with three high-society friends and a fifth, as yet un-named, victim. All five died from shooting and multiple stab wounds.

Sharon Tate, 26, was the wife of film director Roman Polanski and was eight months pregnant.

In what police said appeared to be a "ritualistic" murder, she was found tied together with her former fiancé, hair stylist Jay Sebring.

Police said both had nylon nooses around their necks, and Mr Sebring's head was covered with a black hood.

They said both probably died of stab wounds.

The bodies of Abigail Folger, 25, a member of a wealthy coffee-manufacturing family, and her boyfriend Voyteck Frykowski, 32, were found sprawled on the lawn outside. Both had been shot.

The fifth victim, a man, was found slumped over the wheel of a car with multiple gunshot wounds.

Police described a horrific scene at the hilltop house in the wealthy Bel Air district of the city.

Some of the bodies had been mutilated, with blood smeared everywhere and the word "Pig" scrawled on the front door in blood. Police said the phone and electricity lines had been cut.

It's believed that Miss Folger and Mr Frykowski, as well as Mr Sebring, had come from San Francisco to spend the weekend at the house.

The bungalow-style property, in an isolated area between Beverly Hills and the San Fernando Valley, is owned by Terry Melcher, son of film star Doris Day.

It was being rented by Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate who had recently returned there to have her baby after working in London.

Mr Polanski was still in Europe directing his latest film, but left immediately for Los Angeles on hearing the news.

Immediately after the discovery of the bodies, police arrested a houseboy, William Garretson, 19, who was living in a guest house behind the house. After five hours of questioning, he was charged with five counts of murder.

Sharon Tate began her acting career in the television series, Beverly Hillbillies. She also had parts in the films Valley of the Dolls, the Americanisation of Emily, and The Sandpiper.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The fifth victim was later identified as Steven Parent, 18, a local boy who had been visiting William Garretson. The bodies of another wealthy couple were found 36 hours later not far from the scene of the Tate murders.

Leno LaBianca and his wife Rosemary had also been brutally murdered in their own home. The crime scene bore striking similarities to the Tate murders.

William Garretson was released without charge on the same day. The LAPD were reluctant to link the Tate murders and the LaBianca killings, until mid-October when another similar murder led the police to a hippie group calling itself the Manson family.

In January 1971, Charles Manson and three of his followers - Susan Atkins, 22, Patricia Krenwinkel, 23 and Leslie Van Houten, 21 - were convicted of the Tate-LaBianca murders, after the longest murder trial in US history.

They were all sentenced to death, but this was commuted to life imprisonment after California abolished the death penalty in 1972.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Romance is starting to swirl in the air and you are out of practice. Do a dress rehearsal. Start in the coffee-break room. The more daring your run-through today, the easier the real feat will be.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Power struggles at work are rubbing off on you. In fact, they're starting to leave a permanent mark. Try being more tolerant of those in your personal life. There's no day like today to begin.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Lounging on the couch is usually your definition of a good day, but you're feeling too intellectual for that. Nothing short of being taken seriously will do the trick for you. Start some light debating.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Wondering what you can afford means more than just adding up your money. Be sure you're prepared for another work day. If doing something outrageous means showing up dog-tired tomorrow, then it's not in your budget.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Basking in the warmth of home today makes it that much harder to imagine going back to the office tomorrow. Put some of it in a fantasy jar or locket to keep in your breast pocket. Capture enough to warm your whole cubicle.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you want to be organized, go to the office. But if you want to enjoy your personal time, allow things to get a bit chaotic. The more jumbled and unsystematic, the better. Ask life to bring on the confusion.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Colleagues are fine for work days, but you need to spend time with people you enjoy. Just exactly who you're with or what you do isn't what matters, as long as they're people you truly take pleasure in being with.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Don't waste time rehearsing in the mirror. It's not the right time to ask for a raise, no matter how much you need it or think you deserve it. Spend the day in a more relaxed role-playing mode, instead.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Is it easier to be the recipient of generosity or the generous one? Whatever side you find yourself on, being gracious is everything. Practice your manners before leaving the house.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's not an easy day, and you were so looking forward to it, too! But don't write today off as a total loss. You can turn things around with minimal effort. Start by avoiding postures.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If nothing else, you love the independence that the day offers. It only becomes more precious to you as you think of tomorrow. Savor every last drop by following any and all impulses.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You don't have to keep your mind from wandering the way you do at work, but don't lose the day to fantasy, either. A bit of reality and a bit of daydreaming is just the right mix to enjoy the day.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' level with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' level with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather forecasts for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc., with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

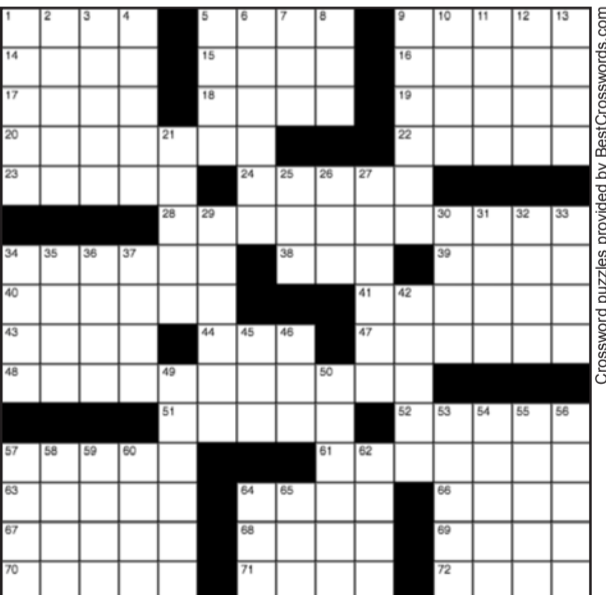
WORLD

Table of weather forecasts for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, and New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Editor's mark; 5- Questions; 9- Commonplace; 14- Part of TLC; 15- AAA suggestions; 16- Coeur d'... ID; 17- Rent-...; 18- Irish island group; 19- Burdened; 20- Undress; 22- Outdoes; 23- Exorbitant; 24- Refrain in a children's song; 28- Amused; 34- Seat occupied by a sovereign; 38- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 39- Poi source; 40- Last car?; 41- In groups; 43- Columnist Chase; 44- Rapping Dr.; 47- Timmy's dog; 48- Wastefully extravagant; 51- Courted; 52- Mythical hell; 57- Pool stroke; 61- Himalayan peak; 63- Counting everything; 64- Bangkok native; 66- Must've been something...; 67- Disinfectant brand; 68- Rub the wrong way; 69- Suit to...; 70- Wears well; 71- The Beatles' "Back in the..."; 72- Storage shelter;

DOWN: 1- Lots; 2- Unspoken; 3- Clear the boards; 4-... Haute; 5- Member of a largely Middle Eastern people; 6- Thoroughfare; 7- New Zealand parrot; 8- Nine-digit ID; 9- Monetary unit of Panama; 10- Wings; 11- Actor Beatty and others; 12- Work without...; 13- Optical device; 21- Goes into business; 25- Suffix with cloth; 26- Be off; 27- In and of...; 29- Must; 30- How sweet...; 31- Turner and others; 32-... saw Elba; 33- Prescribed amount; 34- Michael Moore's "Downsize...!"; 35- Assist; 36- Leaf tool; 37- Port of Algeria; 42- Shaping tool; 45- Letter after pi; 46- Before, in verse; 49- Resides; 50- Standards of perfection; 53- Met highlights; 54- "Til... do us part"; 55- First name in cosmetics; 56- War horse; 57- Factory; 58- Novelist Seton; 59- Disrespectful back talk; 60- One-armed bandit; 62- Contender; 64- Capote, to friends; 65- "... and hers"



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
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Coloane Mountains Views Ref: 16045473
Super Flower City Unit A Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Stunning Views HKD 19,500 / 2,200 sq ft Ref: 16060591





RIO OLYMPICS

# Cycling course leaves riders bloodied, broken

Dave Skretta

**A**FTER a series of spills in the men's Olympic road race left cyclists with broken bones and bloody road rash, it seemed as if the women's race Sunday was going to escape serious injury.

That all changed in a fraction of a second. Dutch rider Annemiek van Vleuten, barreling down the final descent of Vista Chinesa in the lead, hit the deck in a spectacular fall. Her bike catapulted into the air, and van Vleuten lay motionless on the side of the road while the rest of the field cautiously swept past her.

She was transported to a Rio de Janeiro hospital and diagnosed with a concussion and three small fractures of her spine, and was to remain in intensive care for at least 24 hours.

"It was horrendous crash," said road race silver medalist Emma Johansson of Sweden. "The peloton is so small and we all know each other very well. I

## Dutch rider Annemiek van Vleuten was expected to remain in intensive care for at least 24 hours

just hope she's OK."

So dangerous was the course over the first two days of the cycling program at the Rio Games that the International Cycling Union was forced to defend it, pointing to a test event and numerous training opportunities that gave riders a chance to familiarize themselves with it. It didn't appear to do much good.

The carnage began on Saturday when Giro d' Italia winner Vincenzo Nibali and Colombia climber Sergio Henao were leading on the same slippery, technical descent. Nibali likely would have won gold had he been able to stay upright, but wound up heading to the hospital instead.

His coach, Davide Cassani, said that the Italian broke his collarbone in the fall.

Henao fractured the upper part of his pelvis in his wreck, while Australia's Richie Porte broke his scapula in another crash, an accident that will keep him out of Wednesday's [Thursday, Macau time] time trial.

Geraint Thomas of Britain and Nelson Oliveira of Portugal also hit the pavement.

"It was anarchy out there," American rider Brent Bookwalter said.

Nibali actually warned Italy teammate Elisa Longo Borghini about the chaotic final descent ahead of the women's race, so she took it a bit slower on Sunday and wound up earning a bronze medal.

Anna van der Breggen of the Netherlands took gold. "It's a



Annemiek van Vleuten, of the Netherlands, leads Mara Abbott, of the United States, during the women's cycling road race

difficult descent because you can go really fast but you also have to corner," she said. "After the men's race I think we were all warned that we needed to take care of the descent and we did. Of course, if you're riding in front, maybe you take too much risk. I don't know."

The course was widely regarded as the toughest in Olympic history, even before the first riders set off on it. Long stretches of flats gave way to pounding cobblestones that caused numerous mechanical issues, and a hard series of climbs shook up the fields even before Vista Chinesa.

Then they came to the climb that defined both races. Olympic cou-

rses tend to be flat affairs with a few small climbs thrown in to spice things up — nothing compared to the 10-kilometer climb in Rio. That means riders also rarely see such a hard, sharp descent, one that becomes all the more treacherous so close to a gold medal.

"Everybody wants to win. Yeah, everybody's taking risks," men's gold medalist Greg Van Avermaet said. "Some guys probably went over the limit and that's why it happened. I think the road was pretty good. I was happy to stay safe. I think I took a little bit of risk, but not too much, and I think this was the best decision because if you're on the ground, the race is over." AP

AD



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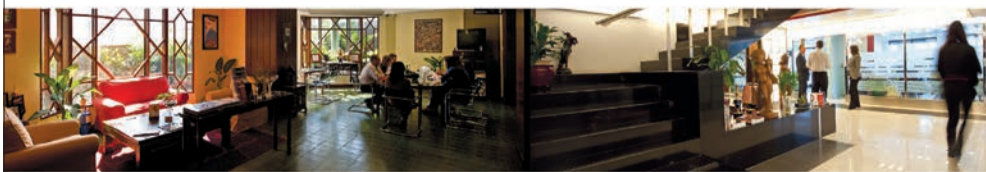
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RIO OLYMPICS

# Australian, Chinese swim officials tangle amid doping feud

Gerry Shih, Beijing

**S**WIMMING officials from Australia and China are jumping into the fray as a feud over doping between swimmers Mack Horton and Sun Yang keeps boiling over at the Rio Olympics.

The Chinese Swimming Association yesterday asked Horton to apologize for his "inappropriate words" after he labeled Sun a "drug cheat" — a reference to Sun's three-month 2014 suspension over banned heart medication. Australia's Olympic Committee, hours later, shot back in Horton's defense, saying he was speaking his mind in support of clean athletes, and wished him luck.

Horton, 20, made a dig at Sun while the two attended a press conference Satur-



Australia's Mack Horton and China's Sun Yang (right), compete in the final of the men's 400-meter freestyle

day after Horton unseated the Chinese defending champion in the 400-meter freestyle. It was the second time in days that Horton had publicly referred to Sun's drug suspension as part of what the Australian team acknowledged is a campaign to unsettle the Chinese star.

Sun had earlier been accused of splashing water at Horton in an apparent attempt to get his attention and Horton made his initial "drug cheat" reference when asked why he had ignored Sun.

Sun, 24, who won two golds at the 2012

London Games, has a long history of bad behavior and tangling with others. He has been accused of disruptive pool behavior by swimmers — both men and women — from several countries. The Chinese team briefly banned him from competing following a raft of disciplinary issues, including crashing a friend's Porsche SUV into a bus in 2013 while driving without a license, landing him in jail.

Sun has previously said he did not know the medication trimetazidine, which he took for chronic heart palpitations, had been placed on the banned list when he tested positive.

The 2-meter Chinese star burst into tears Sunday after losing to Horton, garnering an outpouring of support from Chinese social media users who pilloried Horton on his Facebook page. The Australian was accused of snubbing Sun's attempt to congratulate him on his win after the race, although the two did briefly shake hands at the podium.

Chinese swim team manager Xu Qi also laid into Horton, saying the Australian had "hurt the feelings between Chinese and Australian swimmers" and showed "a lack of good manners and upbringing," according to the official Xinhua news agency.

Sun appeared to get his swagger back yesterday as he told reporters at an Olympic village bus stop that he is "the king" in the 1,500-meter freestyle event scheduled for Sunday, when he will again compete against Horton. **AP**

## BRITAIN'S PEATY, SWEDEN'S SJOSTROM SET WORLD RECORDS

**ANOTHER NIGHT**, another world record for Adam Peaty. The British swimmer cruised to victory in the 100-meter breaststroke with a time of 57.13 seconds yesterday [Macau time], shattering the mark of 57.55 he set a day earlier in the preliminaries. Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom also turned in a world-record performance in the 100 butterfly. She led right from the start and touched in 55.48, knocking off the mark of 55.64 she established at last year's world championships.

# With an eye-popping score, US gymnasts put world on notice

**T**HE nerves were there. Unmistakable. Unavoidable. Standing in the darkened tunnel before entering Rio Olympic Arena yesterday [Macau time], the U.S. women's gymnastics team felt the pressure that comes not from outside expectations but those held within.

Then the lights came on. And just like that, the young women in the glittery red-and-blue leotards national team coordinator Martha Karolyi has molded into a global force relaxed. And dominated.

On bars. On beam. On vault and floor too. Their not-a-typo score of 185.238 was nearly 10 points better than second-place China through four of the five subdivisions, a preposterous gap in a sport where the difference between first and second is measured in fractions.

"It's never 100 percent perfect but I think we showed that our

gymnastics is of the highest level," Karolyi said.

One no opponent is close to reaching. If the U.S. had swapped out its highest score on each event with its lowest, it would still be up by six points.

Three-time world champion Simone Biles led the way. Her score of 62.366 was well clear of teammate Aly Raisman. So much for the butterflies in her stomach.

"I do a very good job at hiding it," Biles said. "The team, we just calm it down."

Consider it a luxury of being so far beyond the rest of the planet. All five women earned a spot in either the all-around or event finals, or in the case of Biles and Raisman, both.

Raisman, a three-time Olympic medalist four years ago, grabbed the second spot in the individual all-around for the Americans by edging reig-

ning Olympic champion Gabby Douglas thanks in part to what Raisman called "the best bar routine of my life."

Rules limit each country to two gymnasts per event in the all-around and event finals, meaning even though Douglas was third overall, she'll miss out on a chance to defend the crown she won in London. Not that she was moping. When Raisman drilled her dismount on beam, Douglas rose from her chair and gave her a hug.

No wonder Russian gymnastics star Aliya Mustafina figures everybody is playing for silver. "It's going to be really difficult to compete against the American team," Mustafina said through a translator after the Russians survived a sometimes shaky qualifying session. "They are unbeatable at the moment."

China and Russia both struggled at times on Sunday, beset



United States' Simone Biles performs on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's qualification

by mistakes they can't afford to make if they want to make the team finals anything more than a coronation. While each have their strengths, the truth is the U.S. has few weaknesses. The margin for error will be thinner in the three-up, three-count final. Yet after the U.S. went 16 for 16 during an occasionally showstopping 90 minutes, they hardly seem overburdened by the stakes. **AP**

## Brazil disappoints again in men's football

Disappointed yet again, the Brazilian fans jeered their own team and saved their applause for Iraq. Brazil, which has never won the Olympic gold medal in men's soccer, failed to win for the second consecutive game, held to a 0-0 draw by the Iraqis on Sunday. The result leaves Brazil tied for second place in Group A. The team needs a victory over Denmark on Wednesday [Thursday, Macau time] in Salvador to advance and avoid another huge embarrassment at home two years after the 7-1 loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals.

## Djokovic out of Olympic tennis

Novak Djokovic shook his head and placed his palm over welling eyes on his way to the locker room after a first-round Olympic exit, devastated he might never realize his goal of adding a gold in singles to a substantial collection of Grand Slam titles. "I mean, no doubt, it's one of the toughest losses in my life, in my career," Djokovic said later, shaking his head and speaking in subdued tones. "Not easy to handle." Djokovic's 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2) setback Sunday night was caused in large part by ferocious forehand after ferocious forehand from a resurgent Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina.

## Kiwis avoid upset against US to reach Olympic semifinals

In back-to-back games, the U.S. women were within range of upset wins over Australia and New Zealand, the two leading contenders for the first rugby sevens gold medal ever awarded at the Olympics. By the end of an eventful Sunday, though, the semifinal pairings reflected the status quo in women's sevens with the top four teams in the world series vying for medals. World series winner Australia rebounded from a surprising 12-12 draw with the United States in the last game of the pool stage to trounce Spain 24-0 and set up a semifinal match against Canada, which rallied to beat France 15-5 in the quarterfinals. Britain advanced 26-7 over Fiji and then watched as semifinal opponent New Zealand struggled to put away the Americans 5-0, the only points coming from a try by world series try-scoring leader Portia Woodman just before halftime.



opinion

**Our Desk**

Lynzy Valles



**SOMEBODY PLEASE STOP INDOOR SPITTING**

The habit of spitting on the streets is already visually unpleasant, but imagine having neighbors expectorating on the staircase, or seeing spittle on the elevators of residential and/or commercial buildings.

I think one would agree that it is nasty. I have seen locals, non-locals and tourists practicing this habit outdoors and I guess that's tolerable because everybody falls prey to such nasty actions at some point. Of course, to some it may be acceptable, but I suspect that most would still see the act as appalling behavior.

Although the habit was said to be a norm a few centuries ago, I'd still like to think that indoor spitting is disrespectful to both the place you're in and the people around you.

The obvious and ongoing issue here is that some people spit indoors and even make gruesome noises when hawking up phlegm.

A couple of months ago, I was on an airplane and I was turning on my laptop with my earphones plugged in my ears, when suddenly this man seated beside me started to clear his throat in a violent manner, took the sickness bag from the airline and spat. This happened throughout the three-hour flight.

Although it is odd that such habit occurs on planes, indoor spitting is also present in hotels, casino floors and corridors. WHY? It may seem an exaggeration, but I have also heard several stories of other people witnessing this unattractive habit in a variety of places, from the casino gambling floors, hotel lobbies, and residential corridors, to commercial buildings' elevators.

Some may say that this article may be quite disrespectful as it slates a habit of an individual, but a quick Google search revealed that there are actually reports showing that some cities have banned indoor spitting, citing public health concerns.

Health-wise, medical experts believe that tuberculosis can be spread through saliva particles on the ground, as when it dries up the wind spreads the bacteria through the air.

Hong Kong's Department of Health stated that the disease is "mainly transmitted through inhalation of airborne particles [...] the particles are generated by maneuvers such as coughing, sneezing, and singing by patients with tuberculosis" and only a small number of bacteria are needed to cause an infection.

Whether it's overstated or not, I reckon individuals could learn to prevent the cultivation of such habits, although to some nationalities, such action has already been embedded in their culture.

A professor in China said in Huanqiu magazine that due to the fact that they spit loudly, cut lines and litter, Chinese tourists would feel unwelcome in other countries.

"But discrimination and prejudice against Chinese people abroad hasn't diminished," Sun Yingchun wrote. "Even though Chinese people bring tourist business with them they are also castigated by foreigners. Some foreigners don't feel kindly toward Chinese tourists because they say they are ill-mannered."

So how can one really eliminate such practice when it's already culturally normal? How can one see that the habit is nasty when they've been doing it all along? I believe it would really take considerable self-reflection to actually rid the practice.

As the saying goes, "Habit, if not resisted, soon becomes necessity."

However, indoor spitting, expectorating and hawking up phlegm in a violent manner in public places should not be called "normal."

**THE CAMBODIA PM SAYS HIS POTBELLY IS HURTING HIS GOLF SWING**

Hun Sen says his growing potbelly is getting in the way of his golf swing.

The Cambodian premier, who is known for his casual comments, went off track yesterday while responding to a Facebook comment on his health to talk about his weight. He said someone had reposted on Facebook a 2-year-old video clip purporting to show he had suffered a stroke.

"If you need to broadcast the news of the prime minister's health, you better say that the pri-

me minister is worrying about his belly that is now getting big," Hun Sen said in the southern Kandal province.

"Don't say that the prime minister suffered a stroke. Better say that the prime minister is worrying his weight is increasing and at the same time his belly also getting big, which makes it difficult for my swing while playing golf."

Hun Sen, 64, went on to say that he has put on 3 kilograms in recent days.

**Seven new Unesco World Heritage sites you can actually visit**



Unesco last week designated 21 new World Heritage Sites, adding up to a group of 1,052 protected places including St Paul's Ruins

UNESCO recently designated 21 new World Heritage Sites. They join a group of 1,052 protected places around the world that are awarded status for their "outstanding universal value" from either a cultural or natural standpoint. These include such iconic spots as the Giza pyramids in Egypt and the entire city of Venice.

Not all this year's inductees are bound to become travel destinations. Some, such as the Ahwar of Southern Iraq — an archeological site and biodiverse inland delta system — are in conflict zones. Others, like the bird haven of Archipiélago de Revillagigedo, Mexico, are too remote for visitors. (The four volcanic islands that make up the archipelago are roughly 500 miles from the nearest port town — and offer nowhere to stay.)

But some of them would

make memorable additions to popular itineraries or, better yet, are smack in the middle of well-trod destinations. "Once a site is inscribed, it sort of becomes a destination," said Peter Debrine, Unesco's senior project officer for sustainable tourism, in an interview. "Japanese travelers, in particular, often travel to see World Heritage Sites — they'll sketch out itineraries going from one to the next," he added.

According to data provided exclusively to Bloomberg by Foursquare, a location-intelligence company, sites that receive World Heritage status tend to see a bump in foot traffic, especially in the year following its induction to the list. The Singapore Botanic Gardens, for instance, saw a 204 percent increase in Foursquare visits and Swarm check-ins since being designated in 2015; the Tomioka Silk

Mill, outside Tokyo, experienced a 43 percent year-over-year bump after earning Unesco status.

"Unesco designation does drive an increase in foot traffic," said Sarah Spagnolo, editor-at-large at Foursquare. "But if a site is less popular at the outset, it's typically not enough of a tourist draw to send droves of travelers into lesser-known spots."

Lesser-known is a relative term. Though it had indicated an interest in drawing tourists when it applied for Unesco recognition — and is set in a major city — the San Antonio Missions in Texas didn't receive sufficiently substantial foot traffic for Foursquare's data team to study. Neither did Christiansfeld, a historical site that lies an easy day trip from Copenhagen or Hamburg. Both sites were inscribed in 2015.

Debrine said that Unesco is not in the business of inscribing tourism sites, but the organization does view tourism as a "vehicle that instills a sense of pride in sites and encourages [local communities] to take care of them."

Want to visit some of this year's newly inducted heritage sites? Here are the seven you can access with relative ease. **Bloomberg**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Luca Bruno



Heat. Teams from Argentina, Korea, Trinidad and Tobago and Taiwan row to shore after competing in the women's single scull repechage heat during the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. (More on the Olympics on p18-19)

Station	Air quality
Roadside	35-55 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: D5M6

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**PHILIPPINES** Communist guerrillas reject a warning by the President Duterte against use of land mines that have killed troops and vow instead to intensify their use of such explosives at the risk of scuttling planned peace talks.

**NEPAL** A helicopter crashed in a mountainous region of Nepal yesterday, killing all seven people on board, officials said. Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority said efforts were being made to bring back the bodies from the crash site in the Chuchebhir area, located northwest of the capital, Kathmandu

**NEW ZEALAND's** state-owned farming company said it will stop using palm kernel products to feed its animals as it seeks to take better care of the environment. Landcorp announced it will stop using the products by the middle of next year. Environmentalists have linked growth in the palm oil industry to rainforest destruction in Indonesia, which in turn is contributing to the decline in species like the Sumatran tiger.



**ZIMBABWE's** longtime president has praised his security forces while warning against violent protests, days after the police crushed an anti-government march in the capital, Harare. President Robert Mugabe spoke yesterday at a commemoration event notable for the absence of some of his previously loyal wartime allies.



**POKEMON** It was a bit touch and go for Hiroshima officials, but the atomic bomb memorial park in the western Japanese city is now Pokemon No. The city had asked the developer of the popular "Pokemon Go" smartphone game to remove the creatures and sites that appeared in the park by last weekend, when a solemn annual ceremony was held to mark the anniversary of the atomic bombing that killed 140,000 people in the final days of World War II.