



ELECTORAL LAW REVISION APPROVED

The bill was approved at the first reading yesterday in the plenary session with the support of 28 out of the 32 voters

P3 AL PLENARY



MORE AWARENESS OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Sands held its annual Responsible Gaming Team Training Program, inviting experts to discuss the impact of problem gambling

P7



ANTI-IS AIRSTRIKES CHANGE IRAQI MAP

P14-15

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WORLD BRIEFS



YEMEN Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition bombed a food factory in the capital Sanaa early yesterday, killing 14 civilians working on an overnight shift. Five women were among those killed in what effectively was the resumption of heavy bombardment by the Saudi-led alliance targeting Shiite rebels and allied forces loyal to ousted president Mansour Hadi. U.N. peace talks on the conflict collapsed over the weekend in Kuwait.

SOUTH CHINA SEA Japan's foreign minister summons China's ambassador over the increased number of Chinese vessels in waters near disputed islands in the East China Sea. More on p10-11



CHINA-TRUMP Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is playing the "China-bashing card" in an attempt to rescue his falling poll numbers but has no real ideas to resolve the two nations' differences, Xinhua says. More on p15



THAILAND's junta leader says he will hold elections in November 2017 under a newly approved constitution that ensures the military's control over the next government.

More on backpage

Chinese airline links Beijing to Las Vegas

P2



Crashed bus removed from street, building structure reinforced

P5



opinion

David Fickling, Bloomberg

MACAU'S BEGGAR KING SJM PREPARES FOR ITS MOMENT

Investors in Macau's casino stocks don't have much of an appetite for the territory's home-grown hero. SJM Holdings, owner of the lotus-shaped Casino Grand Lisboa, doesn't just trade at a discount to local peers - it's valued below even Las Vegas's casino stocks. If you compare the company's enterprise value to forecasts of Ebitda over the next 12 months, it looks more like an Appalachian racecourse than a company with more than 2,000 gaming tables and almost 4,000 slot machines in the world's biggest gambling destination:

SJM was the poorest performer of the territory's six casino stocks during a rebound in prices in July, according to Bloomberg Intelligence's Margaret Huang. The conventional explanation is straightforward. At a time when Macau's government is trying to engineer a shift from high-rolling VIP gambling toward family-friendly resorts and mass-market gaming tables, SJM is stuck in the past.

The revenue base is too exposed to its 400 VIP gaming tables, and its HKD30 billion (USD3.9 billion) casino in the territory's Cotai precinct won't open until well into next year, leaving a significant hangover of capital spending and execution risk.

While there's a lot of justification for that argument, it sells SJM short. The company has some significant challenges over the next 18 months, but there are few stocks more leveraged to a recovery in the city's casino industry. Some see signs this may be happening, as Macau's 50 percent-plus decline in gaming revenue flattens.

For one thing, SJM isn't nearly as overexposed to the VIPs as conventional wisdom suggests. As a share of the total, the VIP business has long made up a smaller share than those of Sands China, Galaxy Entertainment and Wynn Macau.

Then have a look at how net income has declined since the industry peaked around the Lunar New Year of 2014. SJM's performance has been poor, but not notably worse than that of Wynn Macau, and well ahead of Melco Crown.

In valuation terms, however, SJM started out at the back and has slipped further behind its peers:

The first-half results Monday night didn't prove an easy pill to swallow for those who think this underperformance may soon turn around. Adjusted Ebitda fell 28 percent from the same period a year earlier, a brutal result even by Macau's recent standards: MGM's earnings on the same measure fell 19 percent in the six-month period, and Wynn Macau's dropped 16 percent, while Melco Crown's rose 31 percent thanks to the opening of its Studio City casino last October.

Still, it's reasonable to look at SJM's problems as largely a result of timing. Its big Cotai development will be the last to open among the big six Macau casino companies, so at this point it's being compared (rather unreasonably) to the likes of Galaxy and Melco Crown, which have moved past the peak of their capital spending and are back in earnings mode.

That contrast probably will be heightened over the coming months, with the \$4.2 billion Wynn Palace opening in less than two weeks and the 3,000-room Sands Parisian less than a month later. By the end of this year, Cotai will, with luck, be escaping its current building-site feel and starting to turn into something a bit more like the Las Vegas Strip - but SJM, and MGM China, will still be waiting to open their major projects in the area.

Once it's opened, SJM's Grand Lisboa Palace will have 2,000 rooms and more than 90 percent of its floor area dedicated to non-gaming activities, sharply increasing the company's skew to the less glitzy activities the government wants to encourage. It will be just adjacent to the territory's indoor sports arena and a theme park being developed by Angela Leong, the wife of SJM's founder and Chairman Stanley Ho, who is herself a director and major shareholder of the company.

And there should be few problems funding all the capex. SJM has HKD13.5 billion in cash and bank deposits net of borrowings. Net debt will peak at about 2.5 times Ebitda in December 2017, according to analyst forecasts compiled by Bloomberg, dropping to 1.8 times the following year.

Investors might want to consider whether the bills that SJM will be piling up over the coming months represent a disadvantage or an opportunity.

AIR TRAVEL

Hainan Airlines to take up mantle of Beijing-LV route

Daniel Beitler

HAINAN Airlines is expected to commence a new Beijing-Las Vegas air service starting from December, challenging the only Asian airline to currently have a presence in the North American city, Korean Air. The three weekly flights between Las Vegas and Beijing will begin from December 2.

According to a press release issued by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Chinese airline filed an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation on August 4 "to launch an historic new route connecting Las Vegas to Beijing, the first-ever nonstop flight between Las Vegas and mainland China. The service will begin December 2, 2016 and will initially operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays."

The announcement has come at an unusual time, in the midst of Chinese president Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign, which has deterred high spenders from visiting Macau.



Now a direct route will open up between the Chinese capital and the world's second largest gambling hub.

The consequences in store for Macau remain unclear at the present moment. Las Vegas is much further away than Macau - an 11-hour direct flight versus 4 hours - which might reduce its attractiveness for high rollers and the mass market gamblers.

There are also many other locations closer to Beijing that could become centers of regional gaming, such as in Russia's eastern Primorsky region, South Korea and possibly Japan.

On the other hand, Las Vegas' distance mi-

ght provide an enticing shelter from the prying eyes of state officials in China. Additionally, Las Vegas' comparative advantages over Macau in the area of entertainment tourism, as well as its proximity to other North American destinations of interest means it might pull Chinese customers for reasons other than gambling.

While the move may appear to be a calculated reading of the market, some analysts are suggesting that it is less strategic than initially thought and more borne from necessity.

China's "one airline, one route" policy means that Chinese air carriers are normally prevented from serving identical routes to their

domestic competitors, unless specific exemptions are granted.

Air China, being the country's flag carrier and arguably the largest international Chinese carrier, is privileged with serving most of the first-tier destinations from Beijing, sidelining the potential for Hainan Airlines to enter these routes.

Instead Hainan has focused on North American cities at least partially neglected by other carriers, such as Chicago, Boston, Toronto, and now Las Vegas.

Hainan Airlines is undertaking large investment projects and developing routes to Portugal, as well as to other long-haul destinations. They have taken a share in TAP, Portugal's national carrier, and are now a part of the board as a major shareholder.

Last year, the airline launched a new route between Macau and Hainan's provincial capital, Haikou, providing three weekly flights on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Over 5,500 tickets sold during first day of sales

THE tickets for the 30th Macao International Music Festival (MIMF) went on sale on Sunday. According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), a large number of music fans had been waiting for various ticket offices to open to purchase tickets. Sales reached a satisfactory result, as 5,500 tickets were sold by 5 p.m. on the first day of ticket sales.

The 30th MIMF will be held from October 1 to 30, featur-



ring 20 shows and a total of 27 performances. At 8 a.m. on the first day of ticket sales, the organiser sent staff to each

ticket office to maintain order and to distribute queuing vouchers to waiting customers from 9 a.m. onward, thereby making ticket purchases more convenient.

During the first day of ticket sales, tickets for the Berlin Philharmonic String Quintet, Quintessence Night, Magic Bow and The Story of Pipa, among other concerts, were sold out. All tickets for the free admission concert Gloria were also completely distributed. According to the information released by the IC, the performances by Turandot, Ray Chen - Violin Recital, From Russia, With Classics, and the free performance Chaplin Once More! were highly sought after.

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AL PLENARY

Electoral Law revision approved with critics from pro-democracy wing

Renato Marques

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) gathered in plenary session yesterday for the final discussion and approval of a bill that amends the AL Electoral Law.

The amendments, disclosed by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan on July 28, were considered a matter of great urgency by the government. Only 12 days after the bill was completed it was sent for the AL's speedy discussion and approval.

The bill was approved at the first reading yesterday in the plenary session with the support of 28 out of the 32 voters; legislators Pereira Coutinho, Leong Veng Chai, Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San voted against it.

The debate was fueled by the directly-elected lawmakers. Some of them expressed doubts about the presentation of the law made by Sonia Chan. The secretary mentioned the "four favorable principles" that should be fulfilled for the "development of Macau's political system" according to the Basic Law and the constitution regulations of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

She said that the bill aims to "improve on the regulations of electoral campaign activities;" "reinforce the fight against electoral fraud;" "perfect the works of the electoral committee" and "improve on the requirements to submit an application [for office] and on the rules about the incompatibility of legislators."



Sonia Chan (center) listens

Ng Kuok Cheong criticized the fact that the bill did not propose any change to the constitution of the assembly, specifically regarding the long-awaited "growth of democracy." According to the lawmaker and early member of the New Macau Association, the population had expected to see in the 2017 elections the number of directly-elected legislators grow from 14 to 20.

"I'm really sorry that since the public consultation process and until today, the focal point of the stagnation of [Macau's] political development has not been addressed," Ng Kuok Cheong said. "The government simply applied the proposals from the Electoral Affairs Commission without integrating the opinions of society. [...] This isn't to the benefit of the [democratic] development of the MSAR," he argued, citing a study conducted by a Hong Kong university institution which concluded that over 60 percent of the population was hoping for a change involving the direct election of the Chief Executive."

Ng said that the content of the bill "doesn't respond to

peoples' expectations - quite the contrary - the authorities are seeking to limit freedom of participation in the elections."

Pereira Coutinho raised the bar, building on the criticism shared by Ng. The legislator accused the new Electoral Law of violating the Basic Law in at least six of its articles.

"This proposal violates the Basic Law. And these [violations] don't occur only over one or two articles. A handful of articles from our fundamental law, which we should all respect, are being violated [by the proposal]," said Coutinho, remarking that the written text of the proposal seems "only capable [of being drafted] in North Korea."

The lawmaker slammed the law, which he regards as a "suspension of freedom of expression" and an "authentic 'gag law,'" that is leading to the "bureaucratization of the electoral process."

Coutinho also said the new ineligibility proposal is a "revengeful law that is invading a sacred reserve of the statutes of the legislators." In the legislator's opinion there is already an ineligibility rule, which can only be proposed, approved and amended by the legislators themselves. He therefore called on his fellow legislators not to let the bill pass without significant changes made.

However, Song Pek Kei showed support for the bill, highlighting that "the election of the AL is an important process in our society. This initiative is

an opportunity to review and perfect the law." Song raised questions regarding the rule that prevents legislators who have renounced their mandates to participate afterward in a supplementary or mid-term election.

From the government's side, not much was advanced in terms of answers to the doubts raised by legislators. Instead it was proposed that these suggestions could be further addressed in the committee that will analyze the specifics of the law later.

The Secretary for Administration and Justice noted that amendments to the AL Electoral Law aim to ensure that the election process is conducted with integrity and is open to the public," remarking more than once yesterday that the bill was "worthy of the consent of the central government."

Sonia Chan stressed that disallowing the election of legislators with a political role in another country or territory - a proposal that recalls the case of Coutinho, since he was candidate in the latest legislative election in Portugal while also being a lawmaker in Macau - is followed by most other countries worldwide, including Portugal.

Regarding matters of corruption, the deputy Commissioner Against Corruption, Kuan Kun Hong, said: "In the past there were several registered actions that aimed to provide benefits to people and this can be considered a case of corruption."

"This mechanism [of prior declaration of interests] aims to establish a way to prevent complaints and unnecessary investigations," he added, also noting that "not all of the associations need to declare. Only when there is a direct connection with their candidates."



Ng Kuok Cheong voted against the amendments

This proposal is violating the Basic Law.

PEREIRA COUTINHO

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

SMG FLAWS DURING TYPHOON NIDA Zheng An-ting said the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) failed to communicate effectively with society during Typhoon Nida. "This was not the first time that the bureau has made mistakes this year and the population questions what is behind these flaws." The lawmaker urged the government to open the underpass of Sai Van Bridge for the transit of motorcycles even during lower typhoon signals and other severe weather situations. He also urged the government to solve the problem of flooding in the Inner Harbor area and on some streets, to which traffic is being due to the implementation of the exclusive bus corridor.

LAND CONCESSIONS Mak Soi Kun and Kwan Tsui Hang said the government does not demonstrate concern for citizens regarding land concessions that have resulted in problems. Mak said: "For the building on Calçada da Guia, the government suspended the project in 2008 based on heritage issues but didn't [pay attention to] buyers. Similar thing are occurring now with the Pearl Horizon development," he said. "Managing these issues according to the law seems to mean leaving peoples' rights behind." Regarding the Coloane hill skyscraper construction, Kwan Tsui Hang concluded: "Answers from the government are contradictory." She said that what is needed is to have "competent departments to investigate the legal terms of the changing of the general planning."

CTM MONOPOLY Song Pek Kei said "liberalizing the market necessitates that all operators are at the same starting line." She claims that the monopoly of CTM and the "unfair contract" signed with the government either highlights "lack of juridical knowledge from the services' workers at the time [...] or an intention to give preference to the concessionaire." The missing answers from the government are creating distrust and unhappiness in society, she said.

MONEY WASTED ON PUBLIC WORKS Ng Kuok Cheong noted that the most recent public works revealed a waste of money and lack of planning. Taking as examples the Taipa Maritime Terminal and the LRT project, the legislator shared concerns that the same wastage problem will be repeated with the Grand Prix Museum renovation. Cheong asked for further clarification on the details of the project.

MOTORSPORTS

Maro Engel to race in Hong Kong Formula E event

GERMAN racing driver, Maro Engel, is set to return to single-seaters to compete for Venturi in the first Hong Kong Formula E grand prix in October.

The racer told Motorsport that his previous successes in Macau, where he has won the GT Cup twice for Mercedes AMG, would place him in a good position for success in Formula E.

"I have good memories from my single-seater career and the great thing is that all of the races in Formula E are on street tracks which I love. It is pure racing to me and the challenge is very high," he told Motorsport.

"I am amazed it is that long ago but the sensation I had getting back in to a Formula car was very natural and I really didn't give it that much of a thought," he recalled.

It has been nine years since the new Venturi Formula E driver raced a single-seater, when he competed for Carlin Motorsport in the British F3 Championship.



Maro Engel pictured in Macau

Engel has been a Mercedes AMG factory driver for the last nine seasons, but Engel clarified that his upcoming race for Venturi is separate from his work with AMG.

According to the media outlet, Engel first tested for the Venturi team last year. Consequently, he was called upon to conduct some development works for

the seasons' three package, which will be known as the Venturi VM200-FE-02 car.

"I really enjoyed the testing, and then one thing led to another, and I am happy to become a Venturi driver today [...]," Engel said. The 2016/2017 Formula E season will make its debut on the streets of Hong Kong on October 9.

TOURISM

MGTO signs agreement with Inner Mongolia

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is taking part in the event known as "Beautiful China – Grasslands Silk Road Tour," to be held in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region between August 8 and 12.

During the event yesterday, MGTO signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation with the Tourism Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region to foster mutual exchange and cooperation in the tourism field.

Inner Mongolia, Hong Kong and Macau held a joint destination presentation followed by an array of signing ceremonies.

During her speech at the event, MGTO's deputy director, Cecilia Tse, remarked that as Macau is a major hub along the Maritime Silk Road, the local government will "strive to raise the international influence of the Silk Road cultural tourism brands."

MGTO representatives and members of the local travel trade will pay visits to a range of major tourism resources and facilities in various places to familiarize themselves with the other industries. These locations include Hohhot, Xilamuren Grasslands, Baotou as well as Ordos around Inner Mongolia, all of which are part of the Grasslands Silk Road.



Cecilia Tse (right) signs the tourism cooperation agreement

AD

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GAMING

Revised smoking bill may negatively impact gaming revenue

THE effect of the full ban on smoking in casinos is more likely to affect the VIP market rather than the mass market, Grant Govertsen, a gaming analyst of Union Gaming Research noted. Speaking to TDM, Goversten said that since the Legislative Assembly will only continue its debate about a full smoking ban on gambling floors in October, casinos will receive a "reprieve from any incremental smoking ban at least for now."

Although the gaming analyst looks forward to the opening of Wynn Palace and Parisian Macau to help improve the region's economic outlook, he fears that when the pending bill takes full effect, it may result in a revenue drop in the sector.

Macau's six casino operators have argued that a total ban would negatively impact their revenues and even jeopardize the region's position as a global destination for tourism and leisure.

Crashed bus removed from street, building structure reinforced

THE wreckage of the bus that crashed into a building on Rua da Entena on Monday leaving 32 passengers injured and seriously damaging the building, was removed from the street yesterday.

Prior to removal, several iron pillars were installed to compensate for the fact that a main pillar of the building was hit and almost destroyed by the out-of-control bus.

The latest information released by authorities indicates that 10 of the injured remain at the Kiang Wu Hospital. Three of the injured are in intensive care and there is one case considered life threatening.

The 22 tourists that were discharged from hospital were taken to the Public Prosecutions Office, where they testified their accounts of the incident. According to the Government Spokesperson Office, "the local travel agency [involved in the accident] is negotiating with the



The Chief Executive visits the injured at the hospital



The bus being towed at Rua da Entena

tourists the compensation to be paid, which depends on the injuries suffered." The travel agency "will pay the compensations in advance," before concluding negotiations ongoing with its insurance company.

Following the evacuation of residents from the building on Monday, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) issued a statement yesterday informing that seven families who live in the affected building were lodging in a cen-

ter for victims of accidents. Five other families totaling 10 persons, were temporarily lodged in hotels with IAS support.

The bus was carrying 46 tourists that had arrived from Shenzhen for a short one-day visit. The tour group included tourists from several different regions and provinces of mainland China.

The driver was allegedly outside of the vehicle trying to resolve a smaller traffic accident when the bus star-

ted to roll down the road. According to preliminary conclusions from the police, it did not have its brake applied successfully.

The structure of the building that was struck by the bus requires assessment, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Li Canfeng, said on Monday.

"The pillar [hit by the bus] is a main pillar and an important part of the building's structure," he stated. **PB**

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

Lynzy Valles

SANDS China held its annual Responsible Gaming Team Training Program at The Venetian Macao, for the fourth consecutive year, Monday and yesterday, attracting nearly 80 participants.

In a bid to enhance team members' knowledge of problem gaming and improving general awareness of the importance of responsible gambling, the gaming operator again invited experts both from the region and Las Vegas.

The program was overseen by Bo J. Bernhard, executive director of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' International Gaming Institute, along with local scholar and counselors.

According to Bernhard, the program has become "stronger" over the last few years. He believes that the region's treatment programs for problem gamblers are improving, as the industry's understanding of these problems has increased.

"Really, our understanding of problem gambling today is about where our understanding of alcoholism was maybe 20 years ago. But it's moving forward very, very fast and our knowledge is getting better," he told the press yesterday.

The expert also noted that

Locals more aware of problem gambling, experts say



Bo J. Bernhard



Davis Fong

the region's gaming industry is moving from focusing on high-rollers to more of a mass market, adding that the move would lead to new challenges in the city as the customer base changes.

According to Bernhard, the teaching approach he employed at The Venetian Macao was different from the ones he had used in Las Vegas. He stressed that the education programs provided for Sands China team members

mainly focuses on the cultural importance of "saving face."

"Here we really emphasize making sure these conversations [with problem gamblers] happen in private [...] because the shame is really powerful. I think it's really hard in Macau to get people to talk about this," he said.

Meanwhile, according to local scholar Davis Fong, also the director of Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming at the

University of Macau, efforts to raise awareness on responsible gaming in Macau have been successful.

He recalled that according to a study on problem gambling conducted in 2013, the rate of gambling disorder in the region was the lowest figure he had seen since 2003.

Based on the 2013 survey, some 60 percent of local residents have heard about responsible gaming, while back in 2009, only 16 percent of residents were aware of gaming problems.

According to Fong, the "2015 prevalence study" on the matter will be released soon.

Although most gamblers in the region are not locals, Bernhard is confident that the mainland is also starting to recognize problem gambling.

"Our hope is that we would also see more and more programs in the mainland, as well as more communication between mainland programs [and] mainland research," he said.

"That's why it's very important that Dr Fong was also in Beijing talking with experts in Beijing to make sure we're all communicating best practices," he added.

Certificates issued by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) were presented to the participating team members who came from the gaming operations, security and human resources departments to attend one or two training sessions.

This year's program included the increased participation of Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, which teaches crisis management and intervention skills. As a result, this year's training hours were extended from four to eight.

The Responsible Gaming Team Training Program was launched in 2013 and to date, over 360 participants have attended training sessions and more than 1,700 hours of training have been provided during the annual campaigns.

AD



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GAMING

Betting on the Olympics in Vegas? You might be the only one

Eben Novy-Williams

IT turns out Americans don't really want to gamble on the Olympics after all.

Las Vegas gamblers, able to wager on the Summer Games for the first time in 16 years, have largely stayed away from the events in Rio de Janeiro. Outside of a few big bets on basketball and football, sports book operators say the total Olympics handle has been underwhelming.

The Nevada Gaming Commission last year re-opened gambling on the Olympics

"We probably have taken about as much in Olympic wagers as we would on a big baseball game, regular season," Mirage bookmaker Jay Rood said in an e-mail. (That's not very much: Baseball is less popular with bettors than football or basketball.) The sports book is "getting action on the basketball and that's about it."

Vegas sports books haven't taken Olympics wagers since the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney. Following a push by U.S. Senator John McCain to ban betting on amateur sports, Nevada casinos compromised: They stopped taking bets on the Olympics, Little League



and other little-wagered events but stayed open for college athletics.

The Nevada Gaming Commission last year re-opened gambling on the Olympics, approving a proposal brought by a group of the state's casinos.

Westgate Las Vegas SuperBook has offered odds on more than 65 Rio events so far, its largest Olympics betting menu ever. The U.S. men's basketball team is the favorite there too. Those games see action roughly equivalent to a low-end Major League Baseball game, according

to Vice President of Race & Sports Book Operations Jay Kornegay.

"There was minimal interest decades ago and so far that has held true this year with a couple of exceptions," Kornegay said.

The Games end Aug. 21, and wagering will likely pick up as the U.S. basketball teams advance and soccer reaches the knockout stages. There's also the chance that an intriguing storyline could emerge that drives wagers moving forward.

"Right now, it's wait and see," Kornegay said. **Bloomberg**

Indonesia weighs Iran's proposal for USD8.4b oil refinery

Fitri Wulandari, Yudith Ho and Hashem Kalantari

INDONESIA will study a proposal from Iran to build an oil refinery, along with bids from other countries, as it seeks to boost refining capacity to catch up with rising consumption.

Iran proposed a plant with processing capacity of more than 100,000 barrels a day and pledged to provide the crude, IGN Wiratmaja Puja, director-general of oil and gas at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry, said in Jakarta yesterday. The project's value is estimated at USD8.4 billion and would be built over four or five years in Java, Iran's state run news agency Mehr reported, citing Hassan Khosrojerdi, head of the joint Iran-Indonesia refinery's board of directors.

Indonesia, already the only OPEC member that's a net oil buyer, may need to import half of its annual fuel needs even after increasing its refining capacity by 500,000 barrels a day in the next seven years, according to BMI Research. Iran is seeking to boost crude exports after international sanctions on its economy were eased in January.

A feasibility study on the refinery's economic justification is being conducted, a spokesman for Iran's oil ministry said. The National Iranian Oil Co. has not signed any deals on the project, he said. Indonesia has made no decision on Iran's proposal because it's still preliminary, Puja said.

Indonesia has also received proposals from China, Kuwait and Russia, Puja said. The ministry hasn't come to any decisions on the bids. The government plans to offer the Bontang refinery in East Kalimantan to investors before other projects, he said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

BLUE MAN GROUP TO HIT THE VENETIAN'S STAGE TOMORROW



Promoted by Chessman Production Ltd. Macau, Sliding Doors Entertainment (Singapore) and BASE Entertainment Asia (Singapore),

the Blue Man Group is set to perform at The Venetian from tomorrow until August 28.

During the Group's press conference in Hong Kong last

week, Allan Zeman, known as the "Father of Lan Kwai Fong" introduced the group, as the show is supported by his company.

According to a Chessman Production's statement, Blue Man Captain Meridian, along with Band - Strings & Resident Musical Director Tony, gave the press inside information on the inner workings of Blue Man Group and the meaning behind their performances.

The upcoming shows are part of a new worldwide tour by the Group, known for its bald, blue artists. Blue Man Group combines science, live music and vibrant visual effects in its shows. This will be the first time the Blue Man Group performs in China.

MGM HOLDS 'COMMUNITY CARE CAMPAIGN'



For the fourth consecutive year, MGM Macau held its inaugural "Community Care Campaign" last month, in which more than 250 volunteers participated in two-weeks worth of

community services.

The resort outlined in a statement that its volunteers delivered services to more than 580 local citizens.

The campaign held different

events such as visits to health centers to provide health consultations for seniors as well as visits to visually impaired residents.

All volunteers joined to help refurbish the walls of the dormitory hall and rooms of Jardins Dom Versiglia, with the aim to spread love and care to the young students at the school.

The campaign also collected more than 1,000 food and clothing items, that were later transferred to the Macau Salvation Army and Fuhong Society of Macau for sale, the proceeds of which would be put back into charity.

As part of the programme, a team of chefs and over 20 volunteers from MGM made snacks and desserts with about 50 students with special educational needs.

Energy the 'light at the end of the tunnel' for Mozambique's economy

MOZAMBIQUE'S energy sector, which includes major projects being launched by Chinese companies, offers the country the best prospects to overcome the current adverse economic period, analysts have indicated.



tain higher coal production in 2016-2019 "provided international coal prices recover from the current low levels," indicates the report.

More significantly, S&P believes that the government and foreign partners in liquid natural gas (ENI and Anadarko Petroleum) will conclude negotiations on this year's investment framework, allowing construction of facilities to begin in 2017-2018.

The Economist Intelligence Unit sees foreign investment staying low in the short term, though recovering slowly beyond 2017 if the government takes sufficient steps to re-establish the IMF program, which would be a crucial sign to investors that authorities are respon-

ding to the economic crisis.

Privatization of assets should attract some investment, while capital employed in the gas industry may recover in the middle term, it specifies, adding that given slow overall demand for Mozambique's main exports there will be no promise of high returns to attract investors; the government will have to boost efforts to improve the business climate.

China should become one of the main clients for Mozambican natural gas, where it has already made its presence felt. The Chinese National Offshore Oil Corp has obtained the first long-term contract envisaging the annual purchase of from 2 million to 2.5 million tons of gas, a quarter of production

capacity at the first liquefaction unit associated to Area 1 of the Rovuma Basin, where Anadarko Petroleum is the lead operator.

Chinese oil companies' interest in Mozambican natural gas had already led Sinopec to buy from Italy's ENI a 20 percent stake in Area 4, next to the one operated by Anadarko, for \$4.2 billion.

According to Standard Bank, natural gas exports will initially earn \$67 billion for Mozambique. With six liquefaction plants operational earnings will rise to \$212 billion.

The final decisions on Mozambique project investment by ENI and Anadarko are expected in coming months. ExxonMobil and Qatar Petroleum should

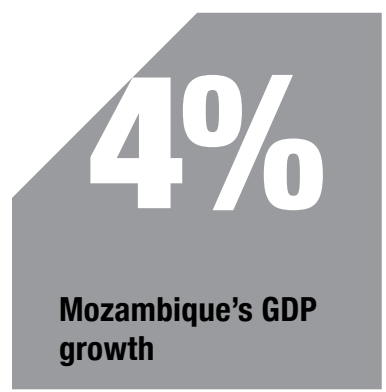
also be involved, Reuters recently reported.

ENI envisages financing of USD11 billion, selling a 20 percent stake in the Mamba well to ExxonMobil, a deal which could result in \$1.3 billion in tax earnings for Mozambique. That sum would be equivalent to the 'hidden' debts whose discovery led to cancellation of support from the IMF and other partners.

China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau (China National Petroleum Group, stakeholder in Rovuma Basin Area 4) will conduct the feasibility study for the 2600 km Rovuma/Gauteng gas pipeline announced last March. Once the investment decision is made, Chinese financial institutions will take on 70 percent of the financing.

Chinese involvement means the project will be a triple winner, the analyst Aubrey Hruby of the Atlantic Council Africa Centre has stated.

"China gains because Chinese contractors get the business; South Africa and Mozambique gain because they secure the gas they need and Zimbabwe and Zambia gain because they also need energy," said Hruby, cited by Interfax. **MDT/Macauhub**



Revision of Angola's 2016 budget delivered to parliament

THE proposed revision of Angola's state budget for 2016 was forwarded this week to parliament, where MPs will now review and vote on the document, which reduces spending origi-

nally planned at the beginning of the year, the Angolan press reports.

Finance Minister Armando Manuel said after officially delivering the proposal that the initial document had to

be revised because it was based on an oil price of USD45 per barrel while that the current average price is USD40.9.

"As revenue derived from oil sales is lower, the spending set out

in the state budget also has to be revised downward," Manuel said.

He specified that the spending adjustment would apply to current expenditures, as the go-

vernment's aim is for the revision now proposed to create more fiscal space for public investment spending, which acts as "a lever to revive the economy."

The minister guaran-

teed that social spending would continue to account for a fundamental part of the revised budget, adding that he was convinced that the two adjustments, of revenue and spending, would allow the new budget to contribute to the country's economic development. **MDT/Macauhub**

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US says more military transparency needed

Gerry Shih & Christopher Bodeen, Qingdao

THE response from Beijing and others to an arbitration panel's ruling invalidating China's vast South China Sea maritime claims has brought no surprises, but much more military transparency is needed to reduce tensions in the region, the commander

of the U.S. Pacific Fleet said yesterday.

Adm. Scott Swift also criticized China-Russia joint naval exercises planned next month in the South China Sea, saying the choice of location was not conducive to "increasing the stability within the region." He also said any decision by China to declare an air defense identification zone over the strategic

water body would be "very destabilizing from a military perspective."

Swift was visiting the northern Chinese port of Qingdao as part of efforts to build trust and understanding between the two navies, now locked in a protracted competition for primacy in East Asia, where the U.S. has traditionally been the dominant military power.

Attention has been fi-

JAPAN PROTESTS TO CHINA OVER SHIPS AROUND DISPUTED ISLANDS

JAPAN'S FOREIGN minister summoned China's ambassador yesterday and lodged a protest over the increased number of Chinese vessels in waters near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

The move by Fumio Kishida comes as the number of Chinese coast guard ships around the islands has nearly quadrupled over the past few days to as many as 13, a record number since China started sending ships to the region in September 2012 after Japan nationalized the islands' ownership.



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (left) meets Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua at foreign ministry in Tokyo

Kishida told Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua that the ships must leave the area, saying their presence has escalated tensions between the countries. He said their repeated infiltration and unilateral attempt to change the status quo were unacceptable.

The Japanese Coast Guard said at least two of the 13 Chinese vessels have been in the Japanese territorial waters around the islands despite repeated warnings for them to leave. Gun batteries were seen on several of the ships, officials said.



An illuminated globe shows the South China Sea at a museum in Pathumthani

xed on the South China Sea since the July 12 ruling by The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration in a case brought by the Philippines. China refused to participate in the case or recognize the ruling, and strongly criticized the U.S. for encouraging its ally to pursue

the matter.

Since then, Beijing has launched air patrols over the South China Sea, said it would consider declaring an air defense zone and vowed to continue work on man-made islands created from piling sand atop coral reefs in the highly contested

Spratly group.

New satellite photos show work proceeding on what seem to be two-dozen hardened concrete airplane hangars on the islands suitable for housing Chinese air force planes, including strategic bombers and inflight refuelers.

THE visit of the U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer USS Benfold to the northern Chinese port of Qingdao earlier this week is the latest development in a long-term effort to build trust between the countries' militaries amid tensions and a rivalry for dominance in Asia.

Though China resents the highly visible presence of the U.S. armed forces in Asia, especially the South China Sea, it has gradually overcome its reluctance and shown a willingness to engage that the sides hope will help avoid conflicts. Below is a look at the Benfold's visit and some of the steps the sides have taken to build their relationship.

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT?

The Benfold's visit is the first to China by an American warship since Beijing responded furiously to a Hague-based international arbitration tribunal's ruling that its expansive South China Sea maritime claims had no basis in law. The fact the visit went ahead appears to show that Beijing now values the military-to-military relationship too much to allow it to be derailed by other events as was once the case. Qingdao is the base

FAQ

Destroyer visit latest twist in military ties

of China's northern fleet and is thus less sensitive than ports to the south closer to hotspots, such as Taiwan and the South China Sea.

HOW HAVE THE SIDES RESPONDED TO THE ARBITRATION RULING?

China was incensed by the ruling and declared it null and void. It renewed its commitment to defend its sovereignty claims and continue work on man-made islands in the Spratly island group that have been heavily criticized by the U.S. and others as adding to regional tensions. Beijing has also launched what it says will be regular aerial patrols over the South China Sea and says it will consider whether to declare an air defense identification zone over all or part of the water body. The U.S. has called on China to respect the ruling, but has not staged another freedom of navigation mission in which its ships sail near China's artificial islands, which draw warnings and rebukes from Beijing.

WHAT HAVE THE SIDES DONE TO BUILD TRUST?

Apart from exchanging visits, China and the U.S. have sought to reach agreements on the rules of the road and work with each other on non-combat oriented training missions. At a multilateral forum in Qingdao in 2014, the two navies agreed to a Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea that seems to have allowed them to avoid confrontations. Last year, they added a similar agreement on aerial encounters between their military pilots that calls for, among other things, maintaining a secure distance, communicating clearly and avoiding rude body language. This year, China also took part in the world's largest maritime drills, known as RimPac, hosted by the U.S. every two years near Hawaii.

WHAT'S THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE?

China says it wants to turn a page on the arbitration ruling through bilateral talks with other claimants, although the



A Chinese military band plays as the guided missile destroyer USS Benfold arrives in port in Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong Province

U.S., Philippines and others resist that. The man-made islands will continue to be a source of tension, while the U.S. presence in the region will continue to grow. At the same time, China is narrowing the still-considerable gap with the U.S. Navy, adding to its fleet of high-tech

destroyers similar to the Benfold and building homemade aircraft carriers to join the single, heavily refurbished Ukrainian one it has now. That will make it even more crucial that the sides build trust and relationships to help overcome future problems. **AP**

in South China Sea



The photos were collected and studied by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, and reported in The New York Times. They show construction work on man-made islands at Fiery Cross, Subi and Mischief reefs.

China has said the new islands are primarily to assist fishermen and other causes, as well as to reinforce its sovereignty claims. China also says that the islands should be able to defend themselves, and that it is entitled to build whatever structures it wishes on them.

Meanwhile, Japan protested over a marked increase in the number of Chinese coast guard and fishing vessels in waters near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Swift said the responses of all parties to the arbitration ruling had been consistent with their long-held positions and it was unclear what, if any, recent Chinese actions had been taken specifically in response.

"I think it's a mistake to take them individually and not look at them as a collective. And you have to look at it as an extension of an arc," Swift said.

Such judgments were made more difficult by a lack of transparency about intentions, he said, repeating a frequent U.S. criticism of China's secretive military.

"The uncertainty in the

New satellite photos show work proceeding on what seem to be two-dozen hardened concrete airplane hangars on the Spratly islands

region is because of the lack of transparency and exactly where it is that arc is going. And that arc is defined by multiple data points," he said.

Swift cited two examples: The still unexplained cancellation by China of a visit by the aircraft carrier USS Stennis earlier this year, and the reason for the construction of the new aircraft hangars.

"That increases the angst and uncertainty, that lack of transparency, and that is generally destabilizing as opposed to a stabilizing action," Swift said.

The admiral said he was confident the U.S. Navy would continue to sail close to China's artificial islands in what are called

freedom of navigation missions to reinforce the stipulations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, although he said such decisions are made in Washington. China deeply resents such cruises, greeting them with threats and harassment.

Swift also criticized the planned China-Russia drills, saying, "There are other places those exercises could have been conducted."

"So I think that is a matter of concern and something that should be considered from the perspective of actions that are not increasing the stability within the region," he said.

Also yesterday, Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos said in Hong Kong that he wants to focus on points of common interest with China such as tourism and commercial fishing as part of efforts to smooth relations with Beijing roiled by the South China Sea dispute.

Current Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has asked the 88-year-old Ramos to act as his special envoy to pave the way for talks with Beijing.

While the Chinese government has yet to formally comment on Ramos' mission, the official Xinhua News Agency said in an editorial yesterday that it "brings a whiff of hope that the two countries will return to bilateral negotiations over the issue." AP

Chinese ambassador warns relations with UK at crossroads

CHINA'S ambassador to Britain has warned that U.K.-Chinese relations are at a crossroads following the U.K. government's delaying of a decision on a new nuclear power plant backed by Chinese investment.

In an article for yesterday's edition of the Financial Times, ambassador Liu Xiaoming made a direct link between the future of relations and the fate of the 18-billion-pound (USD23 billion) Hinkley Point project. He described ties as at a "crucial historical juncture" and stressed the importance of "mutual trust" to the two countries' relationship.

Britain's new Prime Minister Theresa May surprised the business world when she stalled the deal last month in order to review the power project in southwestern England, financed by a Chinese nuclear power provider and French energy giant EDF.

The delay threw into doubt the "golden era" of ties proclaimed by Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit to Britain last year.

The ambassador wrote that he hoped "the U.K. will keep its door open to China." He urged the British government to decide as soon as possible to proceed with Hinkley Point.

Some British politicians and diplomats are wary of the enthusiasm the previous government of Prime Minister David Cameron showed for boosting ties with Beijing.



An artist's impression of the proposed Hinkley Point nuclear plant (Photo: EDF)

Britain rolled out the red carpet for Xi during a lavish state visit in October, complete with a stay at Buckingham Palace as the guest of Queen Elizabeth II.

The two countries signed more than 30 billion pounds in trade agreements during the trip, as Cameron said Britain would be China's "partner of choice" in the West.

The visit also saw protests by pro-Tibet and human rights demonstrators concerned about the British government's lavish welcome for the Chinese leader.

And there was later embarrassment when the queen was caught on microphone saying Chinese officials had been "very rude to the ambassador" while the visit was being organized. AP

Residents of Lianyungang protest possible nuclear plans

RESIDENTS of a city in eastern China have protested for a third day against possible plans to build a nuclear fuel reprocessing center, a protester and a city employee said yesterday, as police announced a ban on public gatherings.

The protests in Lianyungang, north of Shanghai, reflect public unease about the safety of China's state-owned nuclear industry and growing willingness to oppose nuclear, chemical and other industrial projects.

The city government responded to the weekend demonstrations in a downtown square with an announcement that plans for the nuclear project were in early stages and no location had been confirmed.

Despite that, protesters gathered again Monday, according to a city hall employee who would give only his surname, Zhang, and man who gave his surname as Wang. Wang said he took part in one weekend protest and witnessed others.

About a dozen people who threw stones on Monday were detained by police, according to Wang. He said local residents were discussing plans for possible additional protests.

"We don't want this project," said Wang by telephone. "We worry

about whether there will be a leak and whether the technology is good enough to protect people's health."

Also yesterday, police announced a ban on unauthorized public gatherings and issued a statement calling on the public to disregard rumors.

There were no reports about the protests in Chinese media, suggesting censors ordered publications to suppress information about them.

China is the most active builder of nuclear power plants, with 32 reactors in operation, 22 under construction and more planned. The government has spent heavily to build up its ability to produce fuel and process waste.

The official Xinhua News Agency said in September that the state-owned China National Nuclear Corp. would build a nuclear fuel reprocessing center with French partner Areva starting in 2020, but no location has been announced.

Thousands of people took to the streets on Saturday when rumors spread that Lianyungang had been picked as the site for the facility.

Photos circulated on social media showed crowds in a central square. Some carried banners saying, "For the next generation, refuse construction of the nuclear waste plant." AP

JAPAN

Who is Naruhito, the likely next emperor?

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE Emperor Akihito's video message this week, though subtle, suggested that he wishes to abdicate, and the attention now goes to his elder son, the first in line to Japan's Chrysanthemum throne.

In his 10-minute recorded message Monday, Akihito primarily cited his old age and concerns that it may become difficult for him to fulfill his duties, but some palace watchers say a hidden reason for his desired abdication might be his successor.

■ **An avid hiker, skier and viola player, Naruhito first met Masako Owada at a party in 1986, but it took him eight years of waiting and two rejections before he won her heart**

Like his father, the son, Naruhito, is a soft-spoken and smiley man. A bit stocky at age 56, he's married to a Harvard-educated former diplomat, Masako, who has been ill for more than a decade and seldom appears in public. But she is better known abroad and his presence is often eclipsed whenever she comes out.

Having a father who has tried to break down Japan's ancient



Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito (right) plays the viola during a concert of the Gakushuin university's alumni in Tokyo

imperial traditions to bring his cloistered family closer to the nation, Naruhito was raised as a new breed of royals who grew up in a family seen as a model for the nation. His name in Chinese character means a person with heavenly virtues.

His mother, Michiko, the first commoner to become empress, helped to bring in fresh changes to the palace in child-rearing and education. The couple eliminated a wet nurse for Naruhito, born Feb. 23, 1960, and his two younger siblings. When they went on official trips and left Naruhito behind, they handed his nannies a list of rules for the then-prince in what was known as a "Naru-chan Kempo," or "Constitution."

Naruhito attended Gakushuin, a private school for former aris-

tocrats. After graduating from college, he studied at Oxford University, living in a dorm for two years for the first time while earning a master's degree in Thames River water transport systems.

An avid hiker, skier and viola player, Naruhito first met Harvard-educated diplomat Masako Owada at a party in 1986, but it took him eight years of waiting and two rejections before he won her heart in what is remembered as a modern-day royal romance.

Their marriage raised expectations of adding a modern face to imperial institutions, but Masako is still recovering from stress-induced mental conditions she developed after giving birth to their daughter, following criticism that she had

failed to produce a boy.

The succession law allows only male emperors, so Naruhito's only child, Aiko, 14, cannot inherit the throne. Instead, his younger brother Akishino, 50, is second in line, and Akishino's son Hisahito, 9, is third. Discussions on changing the law to allow female succession ended with Hisahito's birth.

For more than a decade, Naruhito has mostly traveled alone while performing his traditional duties, unlike his father, who is almost always with his wife by his side. This raises a question as to whether Masako can do even part of the work Michiko has done as empress.

Palace watchers and experts say Akihito wants to abdicate possibly to help smooth the transition, rather than waiting

until the last minute to burden his son with such a heavy immediate responsibility.

Naruhito would be the 126th emperor in a line believed to date to the fifth century.

The emperor is a purely symbolic figure today, with no political power. Akihito is known as a strong proponent of Japan's war-renouncing constitution, repeatedly showing support for the charter, which stipulates his symbol status.

"[Akihito] reflects obviously the mistakes and the errors made earlier on in his father's [Hirohito's] reign," said Robert Campbell, a University of Tokyo professor who is an expert of Japanese history and culture. "That's something I think everyone hopes will be carried on into his son's reign." AP

AUSTRALIA

Rights advocate opposes vote on same-sex marriage

A leading gay rights advocate and former judge yesterday urged Parliament to prevent a popular referendum on legalizing gay marriage in Australia.

Michael Kirby, a former High Court judge who headed a United Nations inquiry into human rights abuses in North Korea in 2014, wrote in The Australian newspaper that a popular vote against gay

marriage would likely set back the cause of marriage equality for decades.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull went to elections on July 2 promising to hold a referendum by the end of this year on whether Australia should recognize same-sex marriage.

The center-left opposition Labor Party promised to allow Parliament to decide the issue if it won

power and avoid the divisive public debate that would surround a popular vote.

Kirby, a 77-year-old who has been in a same-sex relationship since 1969, urged the new Senate to reject legislation that would allow the plebiscite when it sits for the first time this month.

"Defeat in a plebiscite on same-sex marriage would kill the reform, probably

for decades," Kirby wrote. "A defeat in Parliament alone would do no more than delay the inevitable for a short time."

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said he agreed with Kirby that a plebiscite "is a second-best option for marriage equality." But Shorten has not committed Labor to blocking the referendum in the Senate, where the conservative government

holds a minority of seats.

Kirby said the government proposed a referendum in the hope that it would fail. While opinion polls showed that most Australians wanted marriage equality, the surprise result of the Brexit referendum in which Britain voted in June to leave the European Union and the high failure rate of referendums in Australia served as warnings, he said.

"Brexit is an illustration of what can happen where a popular vote is chosen contrary to a nation's democratic and parliamentary tradition and launched for internal political reasons," Kirby said.

Kirby said same-sex marriage should be allowed in Australia, although he and partner Johan van Vloten had not decided whether they would ever marry. AP

Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINES

US concerned about extrajudicial killings

THE U.S. government has expressed concern over extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users in a bloody crackdown overseen by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and urged his government to ensure law enforcement efforts comply with human rights obligations.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau yesterday [Macau time] also criticized recent remarks by Duterte about the U.S. ambassador in Manila and said Philippine officials have been asked to clarify them.

The president recently referred to U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg with a profanity and accused him of meddling in the Philippine elections.

Duterte has had an uneasy

AP PHOTO



Police cars block a street as they enforce an overnight curfew for minors in Manila

We are concerned by these detentions, as well as the extrajudicial killing of individuals suspected to be involved in drug activity.

ELIZABETH TRUDEAU
US STATE DEPARTMENT

relationship with America and has said he would chart a foreign policy that is not dependent on the U.S., his country's longtime treaty ally. Relatedly, Duterte has tried to repair relations with China that have been strained over escalating disputes in the South China Sea.

The drug crackdown has left more than 400 suspected dealers and pushers dead and more than 4,400 arrested since Duterte took office on June 30. Nearly 600,000 people have surrendered to authorities, hoping to avoid getting

killed. The arrests have further overwhelmed the country's mostly rundown and already-overcrowded jails.

"We are concerned by these detentions, as well as the extrajudicial killing of individuals suspected to be involved in drug activity in the Philippines," Trudeau said. We strongly urge the Philippines to ensure its law enforcement efforts comply with its human rights obligations."

"We believe in rule of law. We believe in due process. We believe in respect for universal human rights. We believe, fun-

damentally, that those aspects ensure and promote long-term security," she said.

Roman Catholic church leaders and human rights groups in the Philippines have also expressed alarm over the widespread killings in reported gunbattles with police or still-unexplained deaths of drugs suspects, some of whom were abandoned with cardboard messages warning the public to stay away from illegal drugs or they would die next.

Several of the slain drugs suspects were killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen in recent

attacks similar to those carried out by the so-called "death squads," which were blamed for years of killings in southern Davao city while Duterte was its longtime mayor.

Trudeau also criticized Duterte for "inappropriate comments" on Goldberg.

"We've seen those inappropriate comments made about Ambassador Goldberg. He's a multi-time ambassador, one of our most senior U.S. diplomats," she said. "We have asked the Philippine charge to come into the State Department to clarify those remarks."

In a speech before army troops on Friday in the central Philippines, Duterte narrated a lunch meeting with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at the presidential palace in Manila last month. Duterte said Kerry, who offered more than USD30 million in aid for law enforcement training, was "OK" but he criticized Goldberg.

"I had a feud with his ambassador, his gay ambassador. Son of a bitch, I'm annoyed with the guy. He meddled in the elections, giving statements here and there. He wasn't supposed to do that," Duterte said without giving details.

During the presidential campaign, the Australian ambassador in Manila criticized a joke by Duterte, who said he "should have been first" in line to rape Australian missionary, who was gang raped and killed during a jail riot in 1989. Goldberg expressed support to the statement of his Australian counterpart.

Duterte reacted by asking the two ambassadors to "shut up." AP

Anupam Nath, Imphal

INDIA

Activist ends hunger strike after 16 years

ONE of India's most prominent political activists ended a 16-year hunger strike yesterday, licking honey from her hand and declaring "I will never forget this moment."

Irom Sharmila had been force-fed through a tube in her nose and held by police since November 2000, when she began her fast to protest a draconian security law that gives immense power to security forces in the northeastern state of Manipur.

Earlier yesterday, a judge had granted her bail after she assured him that she planned to end her fast.

Hours later, she appeared at a news conference, the nose tube already removed, and tasted the honey.

She said she plans to run in the next Manipur state

AP PHOTO



India's hunger-striking activist Irom Sharmila (center)

elections, in early 2017, to fight to have the security act struck down.

"I need power to remove this act," said Sharmila, 44. "I am the real embodiment of revolution."

Asked how she felt to finally eat, she said "I will never forget this moment."

She began her fast days after 10 civilians were killed by paramilitary sol-

diers in Manipur, which has long been plagued by uprisings by ethnic separatist militants and violent government crackdowns.

She was charged with at-

tempting suicide, a crime in India, allowing officials to force feed her.

Sharmila announced last week that she planned to end the fast and run for political office.

An official with Amnesty International India said the fast was "a testament to her passion for human rights."

"The government arrested her, confined her to a hospital room and force fed her for 16 years, seemingly to break her will. There was zero dialogue. A peaceful protest was criminalized," said the official, Abhir VP.

The Armed Forces Special Powers Act is in effect in Indian-ruled Kashmir and in a number of northeastern areas facing separatist insurgencies. The

law gives security forces the right to shoot to kill suspected rebels without

fear of possible prosecution and to arrest suspected militants without warrants. It also gives police wide-ranging powers of search and seizure.

The act prohibits soldiers from being prosecuted for alleged rights violations except with express permission from the federal government. Such prosecutions are rare.

Manipur, like some other parts of the northeast, faces unrest from separatist militant groups fighting for ethnic enclaves or independent states. Most northeasterners are ethnically more tied to China or Myanmar than they are to most of India. AP

WAR ON TERRORISM

Two years of anti-IS airstrikes have redrawn

Susannah George, Makhmour

TWO years ago, the U.S.-led coalition launched the first airstrikes on the Islamic State group, ushering in a deeper phase of intervention that dramatically changed the fight against the militant group in Iraq. Since then, more than 9,400 coalition airstrikes have allowed Iraqi forces to slowly claw back cities, towns, supply lines and infrastructure.

But the fight — which continues to be largely waged from the air — has also leveled entire neighborhoods, displaced millions and redrawn the Iraqi map.

The U.S.-led coalition estimates that since the airstrikes began on Aug 8, 2014, IS has lost more than 40 percent of the territory it once held in Iraq. But while coalition air-



A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter uses binoculars to check on Islamic State group's positions on the outskirts of Makhmour

trikes paved the way for Kurdish and Iraqi ground forces to retake territory, in many cases the result is a ruined prize.

The first coalition strikes were spurred by an IS push from Mosul a few weeks after the group's initial rampage across Iraq.

Makhmour base was just one of a number of front-line positions overrun in

early August 2014, bringing IS fighters within just 30 kilometers of Irbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdish region.

"Daesh was moving into this town and we were withdrawing up into the mountains," said Ayoub Khaylani, a Peshmerga soldier who was at Makhmour base with his unit just before the initial IS at-

tack on Makhmour. Daesh is an Arabic acronym for IS.

After three days of airstrikes, the IS advance on Irbil was slowed and Kurdish forces retook the base. Two years later, the fight against IS has moved west across the Tigris River into Nineveh province and Makhmour has transitioned from an active front

line to a sleepy support position.

"If it weren't for the strikes and the heavy artillery [given to the Iraqi army by the coalition], we would still be up in the mountains," Khaylani said, sitting in a small air conditioned room hunched over his mobile phone on an overstuffed sofa.

"I will not allow the United States to be dragged into fighting another war in Iraq," said President Barack Obama when he announced the authorization for airstrikes in Iraq in 2014. "American combat troops will not be returning to fight in Iraq."

On Friday, the Pentagon announced about 400 U.S. soldiers will deploy south of Mosul to Qayarah airbase to aid in the operation to retake Iraq's second-largest city. They are among the 560 additional troops that President Obama approved for the Iraq mis-

sion last month. The Pentagon says there are about 3,800 U.S. forces currently in Iraq, not including hundreds who are on temporary duty and not included in the official count.

As the push to retake Mosul ramps up, the scars from two years of costly victories remain vivid.

Sinjar, the small mostly Yazidi town north of Mosul, was retaken by Kurdish forces nine months ago, but it still lies in ruins. While Sinjar is technically "liberated" the vast majority of its residents still live in tented camps for the displaced scattered throughout Iraq's north.

The Pentagon claims 55 civilians have been killed in Iraq and Syria since the air war against IS was launched. However, human rights and humanitarian aid groups insist that number is vastly underestimated. Airwars, a project tracking airstrikes targeting

AD

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the map of Iraq

to Irbil in the summer of 2014 celebrated the first coalition airstrikes on extremist militants, hoping the stepped-up intervention would quickly repel the militants and allow civilians to return home.

Now, makeshift tents in church gardens and half-finished buildings have been replaced with neat rows of caravans on the outskirts of town that resemble fledgling neighborhoods more than temporary shelters.

Across Iraq, more than 3.2 million Iraqis remain displaced from their homes, according to information gathered by the International Organization for Migration.

Kindi Hameed Majid, 30, fled Mosul with his wife in the summer of 2014. The young couple thought they would only be gone a few days. Now more than two years later, he is still in Irbil and says he doubts he will ever return.

Even if Mosul is retaken by Iraqi forces, he said he worries the city will never be secure enough to be inhabitable again. "We see the future as dark and unknown." AP



AP PHOTO: Iraqi policemen ride a motorbike near Haji Ziyad Square in central Ramadi

IS, estimates that at least 1,568 civilians have likely died in coalition actions.

For Iraq's Kurdish peshmerga forces, pushing back IS has also meant strengthening their hold on disputed territory. Closely supported with coalition training, intelligence sharing and airstrikes, Kurdish forces have taken hundreds of towns and villages from IS that were previously claimed by both

the Kurdish regional government and Iraq's central government in Baghdad.

Amnesty International accused peshmerga forces of deliberately destroying thousands of homes in Arab villages taken back from IS in an effort to prevent Arab residents from returning to the territory, according to a report earlier this year.

Mosul residents who fled

China ridicules Trump's criticism of its trade practices

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate Donald Trump is playing the "China-bashing card" in an attempt to rescue his falling poll numbers but has no real ideas to resolve the two nations' differences, China's official news agency said yesterday.

Responding to a speech Monday in which the candidate accused China of breaking trade rules "in every way imaginable," Xinhua said such "inflammatory" rhetoric was meant to appeal to blue-collar Midwestern voters. It called the remarks dangerous and said they offered nothing of substance to improve bilateral relations.

Trump "played the China-bashing card once again in his latest attempt to rectify his falling popularity," Xinhua said in an editorial.

Trump accused China of illegally subsidizing exports, manipulating its currency and stealing intellectual property, all recurring themes in his campaign. Trump's criticism has focused almost exclusively on trade practices with few mentions of China's authoritarian political system or human rights abuses.

"At the center of my plan is trade enforcement with China. This alone could return millions of jobs into our country," Trump said in the speech



that focused on economic policy.

Xinhua said Trump had not only betrayed traditional Republican support for free trade, but also ignored the importance of China to his own business. Trump has claimed to have done major deals with Chinese customers, but given few specifics. Items in his Trump-branded clothing line have been produced in China.

"China-bashing is a recurring theme every four years, and by now it's become quite dull," Xinhua said. "Let's hope the next time around that future presidential [contenders] have something more substantial to say about America's relationship with China. U.S. voters deserve better." AP

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what's ON



AUGUSTE BORGET: A PAINTER-TRAVELLER ON THE SOUTH CHINA COAST
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ABSTRACT PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admittance after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 31, 2016
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

"MEMORIES OF MOMENTS - MACAO AND LUSOPHONE AFRICAN AND ASIAN REGIONS IN PHOTOGRAPH POSTCARDS" EXHIBITION
TIME: 10am-6pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: December 4, 2016
VENUE: Archives of Macao, No. 91-93, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

ART COURSES STUDENT'S EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU MUSEUM OF ART
TIME: 10am-7pm
 (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: November 27, 2106
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
 (free admission on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

INNOCENCEPEDIA - WORKS BY KAY ZHANG
TIME: 11am-7pm
 (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: August 21, 2016
VENUE: Art For All Society Macau,
 Av. do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues n. 265
ADMISSION: free
ORGANIZER: Art For All Society Macau
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

Offbeat

SORRY, WRONG NUMBER: CYPRUS COP MISTAKENLY CALLS 'HITMAN'

Cyprus police are investigating how an officer mistakenly telephoned a Serbian who was suspected of being the ringleader in a mafia-linked assassination plot.

Police spokesman Andreas Angelides said this week the officer intended to call his counterpart at Interpol's office in Serbia in March this year, but erroneously called the suspect instead. An investigation found it was a genuine mistake and not corruption-related.

The second probe will determine if the officer will face any disciplinary measures.

Cyprus police say the error happened after they were informed by Belgrade about a planned assassination attempt.

Critics claim the gaffe warned the plot ringleaders, who postponed the assassination to June, when a 51-year-old Cypriot businessman was killed in the resort of Ayia Napa. No one has been convicted of the killing yet.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:15	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
19:00	Merciless (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	GM Food - Cultivating Fear
21:30	Criminal Minds S9 - Finale
22:10	Merciless
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

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

DREAMON: 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



1977 TIGHT SECURITY FOR QUEEN'S IRISH VISIT

The Queen has visited Northern Ireland for the first time in 11 years as part of her Silver Jubilee tour.

A 21-gun salute marked her arrival at Belfast Loch aboard the royal yacht Britannia on Wednesday morning.

However, Her Majesty did not come ashore in Belfast where reaction to her visit has been divided.

In loyalist areas of Belfast the union jacks are out. But in the staunchly republican area of west Belfast there has been no celebration.

The IRA has threatened to give the Queen "a visit to remember".

As a result a specially strengthened contingent of 32,000 troops and police are on duty in the biggest royal security operation to date.

Security considerations meant the Queen made the short trip to the first stop on her tour - Hillsborough Castle - by helicopter.

At Hillsborough she was greeted by school children and inspected a guard of honour formed by members of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) which supports the regular army in Northern Ireland.

After the inspection the Queen hosted an investiture and a garden party for several thousand guests who were all rigorously screened.

Meanwhile the Duke of Edinburgh was meeting workers at the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast.

The royal visit - and the Queen's Silver Jubilee tour of the UK - concludes on Thursday with a visit to the New University of Ulster at Coleraine.

After leaving Northern Ireland the Queen and her family will take a cruise of the Western isles aboard Britannia.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the run up to the Queen's visit the Provisional IRA mounted a campaign of violence hoping to have it cancelled. The organisation mounted a spate of arson attacks on Protestant-owned shops in Belfast and the army HQ town of Lisburn. The attacks caused damage with an estimated repair bill of £1m. A bomb had also exploded at the New University of Ulster the week before the Queen's visit there. The queen did not go to Northern Ireland again until 1991. Since then she has returned several times including a visit to mark her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your ability to tune in to other people's issues is strong now...

Taurus April 20-May 20 A small warning sets you off on a health-related panic today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your energy levels are through the roof today, so make sure that you're sharing the wealth with your people...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You should find conflict where you least expect it today - so be on guard...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You take quick action to settle something important early today - and that leads to a cascade of decisions...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Today is perfect for little victories - though that almost certainly means dealing with little setbacks...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Pay careful attention today - others are starting to take notice of you! It may come out in subtle ways...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 This is not a good time for bold action - in fact, you should move toward the opposite, if possible...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your easy laugh and cheery mood makes life sweeter for everyone around you today - so open up and make sure that you're showing everyone just how to make it through life with a smile...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You need to flex your muscles today - someone is bucking your authority, and that just doesn't work for you...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your energy is terrific today - but it's best directed inward. You can figure out all sorts of interesting things about yourself...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've done a lot for people, and today brings that into mind quite strongly. Try not to get too resentful if it seems they're not as appreciative as they could be...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

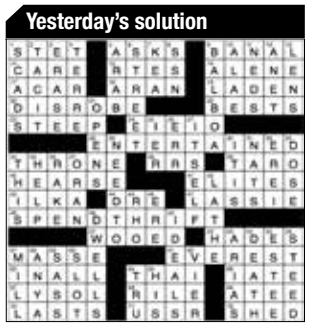
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Burn the midnight oil, studying; 5- Agenda entries; 10- Romeo's last words; 14- Musical McEntire; 15- Insertion mark; 16- Twining plant stem; 17- Mayberry boy; 18- Gardener's tool; 19- Environmental sci.; 20- Good brandy; 22- Seesaws; 24- Broadcast; 25- Cairo cobras; 26- Type of phone; 30- Milan's La ___; 35- I get it; 36- DDE opponent; 37- Senator Sam of Watergate fame; 38- Between sunrise and sunset; 41- Sampling; 43- Wrinkle removers; 44- Extra-wide shoe size; 45- Miserables; 46- Greek island; 47- Retailer; 50- Newman's Own competitor; 53- Are you a man mouse?; 54- Antipartheid activist; 58- Liquid container; 62- Yours, in Tours; 63- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.; 66- Underlying cause; 67- Actress Suvari; 68- Museum piece; 69- Part of QED; 70- Iowa city; 71- Poles for sails; 72- Title for Agatha Christie;

DOWN: 1- Gator's cousin; 2- Seized vehicle; 3- You're making ___ mistake!; 4- Frenzied woman; 5- Frozen dessert; 6- Little bit; 7- Unit of energy; 8- Confronts; 9- Throat bug; 10- Skeptic's scoff; 11- Gaming cubes; 12- Are you ___ out?; 13- Long fish; 21- Feel lousy; 23- Curved letters; 25- Pompous person; 26- Spanish seaport; 27- Butler's love; 28- Semisynthetic textile; 29- Witness; 31- Monitor, for short; 32- Walled Spanish city; 33- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 34- Emo anxiety; 39- Explosive stuff; 40- Grenoble's river; 41- Driver's aid; 42- Vigorous exercises; 44- Grounded bird; 48- ___Magnon; 49- Intense dislike; 51- What you put on snooze; 52- Hood-shaped anatomical part; 54- Baby's cry; 55- Up and ___; 56- Bar ___; 57- Buenos ___; 59- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 60- Good earth; 61- Novel ending; 64- French pronoun; 65- Mouthpiece of a bride;



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PSP 28 573 333
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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

Ibtihaj Muhammad makes US history, wears hijab in Olympics

Luke Meredith, Rio de Janeiro

AMERICAN Ibtihaj Muhammad looked like all the other fencers when she stepped on the piste, save for the non-descript black scarf covering her head.

With that small gesture, Muhammad made history.

Muhammad became the first American athlete Monday to compete in the Olympics with a hijab, which she wears to adhere to the tenets of her Muslim faith.

Muhammad, ranked eighth in the world in sabre, beat Ukrainian Olena Kravatska 15-13 in her first match before falling to France's Cecilia Berder 15-12 in the round of 16.

Muhammad will compete again on Saturday in the team sabre event.

"I feel like it's a blessing to be able to represent so many people who don't have voices, who don't speak up," Muhammad said. "It's just been a really remarkable experience."

The gold medal in the weapon



Ibtihaj Muhammad

went to Russia's Yana Egorian, who scored the final two points to stun teammate Sofya Velikaya 15-14.

Muhammad, a New Jersey native and three-time NCAA All-American from Duke, became an instant star when she qualified for her first Olympics earlier this year. And she embraced the spotlight, which helped make her an unlikely face of the U.S. team given how little publicity fencing typically receives.

"It represents who she's been her entire life. Ever since she was a little girl, she never let

anything hold her back. She never set limits. She's always striving to be the very best," said Ibtihaj's brother Qareeb, who was overcome with emotion when he saw his sister compete. "Despite the adversity she's faced; being a Muslim, being an African-American, being a female, she's still confident in her ability to be successful. She's my hero."

Muhammad's siblings, parents and friends came from as far away as Los Angeles and New Jersey to cheer her on, giving Muhammad a standing ovation ahead of her first match.

Muhammad got off to a shaky start against Kravatska, but she rallied with a string of points that put her over the top.

But Berder, ranked ninth, took control of their round of 16 match midway through and rolled to victory. Muhammad was so frustrated by her performance that she needed over an hour to compose herself before meeting reporters.

"In a sport like fencing, you're your own biggest opponent. If

you can control yourself and your nerves and your emotions and execute the actions that you want to execute in the way that you want to execute, you'll always be successful. I failed to do that," Muhammad said.

Muhammad's history-making moment overshadowed the upset loss by teammates Mariel Zagunis in the round of 16.

Zagunis, a two-time Olympic gold medalist ranked third in the world, was beaten by Russia's Ekaterina Dyachenko 15-12. Still, Muhammad and Zagunis are two major reasons why the Americans will be a medal favorite on Saturday.

"There is that silver lining in the sense that you do have that team event. I know that the Americans didn't perform in the way that we wanted, but I love my team, I love my teammates and I believe in them. I believe in myself. I believe in us, and I want us to win a medal more than anything. I want us to do it for our country," Muhammad said. **AP**

Gymnast kicked off the Netherlands' team

DUTCH gymnast Yuri van Gelder has been kicked off the Netherlands' team at the Olympics and is being sent home from Rio for breaching team rules.

The Royal Netherlands Gymnastics Association says Van Gelder, a former world champion on the rings, left the athletes' village on Saturday night and has admitted drinking alcohol before returning early Sunday.

The 33-year-old Van Gelder, who was to have taken part in the rings final in Brazil, had no immediate comment, according to a statement yesterday on his website.

Maurits Hendriks, head of the Dutch Olympic team in Rio, is quoted on the gymnastics association website as saying "it is awful for Yuri, but this behavior is unacceptable."

This is not the first time that Van Gelder has run into disciplinary problems. In 2010, he was dropped from the Dutch team for the Gymnastics World Championships after he admitted using cocaine. That tournament was to have marked his comeback after a one-year ban for cocaine use. **AP**

AD

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RIO OLYMPICS

Australian women win 1st gold medal for Olympic rugby sevens



Australia's Evania Pelite (right) scores a try as New Zealand's Kelly Brazier, chasses during the women's rugby sevens gold medal match

John Pye, Rio de Janeiro

THE first Olympic rugby gold medal in 92 years has gone to a group of Australian women that includes a mechanic, an elite former sprinter and a 21-year-old newcomer who has traveled around Rio de Janeiro carrying an inflatable kangaroo.

Australia absorbed an expected early battering from New

Zealand and conceded an early try before responding with four consecutive tries to win the women's rugby sevens final 24-17 on Monday.

"It was a typical trans-Tasman battle," Australia co-captain Shannon Parry said, referring to the intense sporting rivalry between her country and neighboring New Zealand. "Very excited, very elated with what we've achieved."

The sevens world series-

winning Australian women extended their streak to five straight wins against 2013 World Cup winner New Zealand, quite a change in fortune in the broader rugby context.

Australia's men's team, the Wallabies, have struggled against New Zealand's famous All Blacks for more than a decade in the traditional 15-a-side game. The All Blacks have not only retained the Bledis-

loe Cup, they've also won two World Cups — beating Australia in the final last year.

The women's sevens team usurped New Zealand in the rankings, winning the world series for the first time last season. The Australian Rugby Union put them on contracts, set up an academy for sevens and allowed them to train as professional athletes.

"When I started the game, women's rugby in Australia wasn't very big," Parry said. "It was very much a minority sport."

"To think, eight years down the track, I'm an Olympian, I play rugby as a full-time job. I just think how far the game has gone."

Rugby is back in the Olympics for the first time since 1924, but in the condensed sevens format and with women competing for the first time. Canada beat Britain 33-10 for bronze, avenging a 22-0 loss the previous day at the end of the pool stage. The United States beat France 19-5, after a come-from-behind 12-7 win over Fiji, to secure fifth place.

The men's tournament kicks off today [Macau time], with Fiji the favorite for gold.

Each tournament is played across three days and involved 12 teams. The top eight from the pool stage advance to the quarterfinals, and the winners of those matches go into the playoff for medals. **AP**

No riches, but respect for Zimbabwe football team at Olympics

FELISTAS Muzongondi used to be a house cleaner. She's now an office clerk for a sugar manufacturer, and also the captain of the Zimbabwe women's football team at the Olympics.

If you need a reminder that the Olympics are about more than just riches and rewards, then the Zimbabwean football team is one of the starkest in Rio de Janeiro.

"Apart from the joy of qualifying for the Olympics, the biggest feat was showing what we can do as women in this country," Muzongondi said. "I don't think before this achievement we had the recognition we deserved as women footballers in this country, and women's football in general."

Paid only USD20 a day each when on national team duty, and just \$50 each for playing in a match, it's no wonder the Zimbabwean players all have day jobs.

Until recently, they didn't have their own uniforms, making do with cast-offs



Zimbabwe's players confer prior to their group B match of the women's Olympic football tournament

from the men's national team. Their pre-Olympic training camp was at a university campus where they slept in dorm rooms usually occupied by students and ate plain food served up in the college's dining hall. The training equipment was basic.

Even Zimbabwean officials have been of little help, and instead jeopardized the team's chances of making the Olympics

because they didn't provide enough money to fly the squad to a qualifier in Ivory Coast, forfeiting that game.

Somehow, the Zimbabwe team still made it to Rio, battling through all these issues and more to now rub shoulders with the best in the world. They are the first football team — men or women — from Zimbabwe to qualify for the Olympics, striking a blow for the women's game back home, which is severely underfunded and neglected, Muzongondi said.

Determined to make the federation take notice of them and respect them, the players went on strike in the buildup to the Olympics to demand better wages and treatment.

"Financially we struggle more than the men, yet we have done what no other Zimbabwean team has managed to do," Muzongondi said. "We are looked down upon as women footballers."

Zimbabwe lost to Germany 6-1 and to Canada 3-1 in its first two matches in Rio and plays its final group game against Australia on Tuesday. But forget those scores and concentrate, rather, on the fact that Zimbabwe is ranked No. 93 in the world and still made it to the top 12 teams in the world. **AP**

Bolt says sub-19 seconds in 200 still a goal

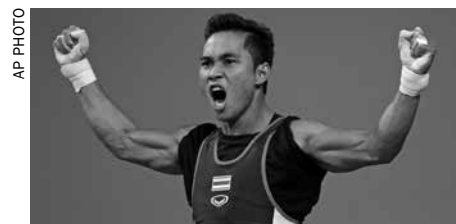


The "Usain Bolt Variety Hour" hit Brazil, big time, on Monday. The closing number said it all: After talking about life, sprinting and the Olympics — and yes, Bolt insisted the Rio de Janeiro Games will be his last — the 6-foot-5 Jamaican pulled out his cell phone and started taking selfies while he shimmied off stage, surrounded by more than a dozen thong-and-headdress-wearing Samba dancers. The evening with Bolt also included his now-immortalized "To The World" pose, a few serious questions about racing and doping, along with one reporter who said he had no question, but pronounced: "I really love you, man," then poetry slammed the following: "I hope you win. I hope it's your day. I hope you will go even though you get hit by a Segway."

Kosovo wins country's 1st-ever gold in judo

Kosovo's Majlinda Kelmendi has won her country's first-ever Olympic medal — and it's a gold. Kelmendi defeated Italy's Odette Giuffrida in the women's 52-kilogram judo division final in a tight contest marked by aggressive grip-fighting as both competitors struggled to get a decisive hold on the other's uniform. Kelmendi only managed to score once, but it was enough. After her victory was announced, Kelmendi hugged Giuffrida and then walked off the mat in tears. Wearing a blue uniform that matched some of the Kosovo flags being waved in the arena, a teary Kelmendi waved to the crowd and raised her arms in victory. The bronze medals were won by Japan's Misato Nakamura and Natalia Kuziutina of Russia.

Grandmother of Thai Olympian dies watching him lift on TV



A celebratory occasion for a Thai Olympic bronze medal winner's family turned somber as the athlete's grandmother collapsed and died minutes before he won third place in the 56-kilogram weightlifting category. A mourning ritual was held yesterday at the home of Sinphet Kruithong, whose grandmother was among scores of family and friends watching his event live on a big television screen set up especially for the occasion in his village in northeastern Thailand. The festive atmosphere — villagers cheering and clapping as Sinphet heaved the weights up — turned somber Monday when people noticed that 82-year-old Subin Khongthap had collapsed. She did not live to see her grandson win the bronze medal.

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



EXPORTING HOTEL DEVELOPMENT EXPERTISE

In the last decade the number of hotel rooms in Macau has exploded, and this growth will continue for the next several years. Why can't expertise in developing new, high quality hotels be an export industry for Macau to help diversify its economy?

Some years ago, a student and I did some desk research to understand the future growth in the regional hotel industry. By reviewing the annual reports of major international hotel companies and existing industry reports it was clear that opening new hotels will be a daily occurrence in East and Southeast Asia for many years to come. For example, at least six million new hotel rooms should be built in China between now and 2050. This equates to about 500 new hotel rooms opening in China every day for the next 35 years! In a recent update we found that this analysis is still valid, and is on track to be achieved.

As well as this exceptionally high growth rate in new hotel construction in the region compared to the rest of the world, the nature of the hotels to be here built is also different. Hotels in the developed world can rely on stable, high quality infrastructure - electricity and water blackouts are exceptionally rare, and large skilled and stable workforces are readily available. This is not the case in Southeast Asia. Here, electricity and water supplies can be unreliable and there is limited staff sourcing and training capacity. Thus, new and innovative ways are needed to develop and operate hotels so that they require minimal electricity and water infrastructure support and can operate with minimal skilled staff.

It surprises me, but hoteliers, architects and construction engineers are very conservative and strongly resist new innovations. I have observed this many times in my discussions with professionals in these fields in Macau. Moreover, this seems to be a global phenomenon because hotel school curricula place negligible emphasis on this issue, and international hotel companies appear to do little direct research and development (and certainly do not talk about it in their annual reports).

I see this as a significant opportunity for Macau to develop expertise in innovative hotel design, development and operations that can be exported to the region as consulting. Macau has a strong and growing hotel stock that can be a research test-bed to benefit both local hotels and to create an exportable industry. Moreover, I have always said that Macau should be a showcase for future technologies so that its tourist visibility also becomes a marketing tool for Macau expertise.

I believe that it is in the interests of the Macau hotel industry to support local hotel technology research and development to improve its own efficiency and productivity and to support the diversification of Macau's economy.

For example, in slab cooling and heating is increasingly being seen as a very cost effective alternative to conventional air-conditioning, but it has never been tried in Macau. Similarly, I do not understand why hotels still have front desks for check-in and check-out - why not take a lead from the airlines which now mostly use online bookings, electronic tickets and self-serve baggage checking to provide much quicker and more effective service while also eliminating many of the people hand-offs for passengers getting on and off airplanes.

I am sure that universities in Macau would be very interested in collaborating with local hotels on industry research and development. It is just a matter of will and interest.

THE CHINESE TOUR GUIDE ALLEGEDLY KILLS TOURIST IN KENYA

A Kenyan police official says a Chinese tour guide has been arrested for allegedly stabbing a couple during an argument over seating arrangements for dinner in the famed Maasai Mara game reserve. The wife died, and the husband was injured.

Narok County Commander Abdi Galgalo says the man works for a Chinese tour company.

A police source who insisted on anonymity

because he is not authorized to speak with the press identified the tour guide in custody as Lee Changqin, and the deceased woman is Luo Jinli, 45. Her husband, who suffered injuries, is Dong Ya, 47.

The source says the suspect confronted the couple yesterday [Macau time] at Keekorok Lodge and demanded that they move from a table, and an altercation ensued.

AP PHOTO



CLASH OF TITANS

Guardiola vs. Mourinho duel resumes in Manchester

Steve Douglas, Manchester

THEY'VE hired the two most coveted coaches in world football. Their spending on new players this offseason has just shattered the USD300-million barrier. Their stated aim is to win the English Premier League.

Make no mistake: The Manchester clubs mean business.

It was clearly an affront to United and City that they ended up fighting it out for fourth place in the Premier League last season. Standards slipped, rivals stole a march, a big reaction was needed.

So United hired Jose Mourinho as coach, made a statement signing in Swedish superstar Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and has just broken the world-record transfer fee to lure France midfielder Paul Pogba for around 105 million euros (\$116 million). Forget being satisfied just making the top four: Mourinho, a win-at-all-costs coach, is demanding the title.

"I want to win," Mourinho said on being hired. "I think we can really, yes."

By the time Mourinho was confirmed at United in May, City had already secured the signature of Pep Guardiola. It renews a coaching rivalry in Spain that sparked and occasionally got nasty when Mourinho was in charge of Real Madrid and Guardiola at Barcelona.

And Guardiola has set about bringing more youth, pace and intensity into City's squad by signing six players - including Leroy Sane, Nolito, teenage Brazilian prodigy

Gabriel Jesus and Ilkay Gundogan - for around \$130 million.

This is the biggest test of Guardiola's coaching career after his trophy-laden spells with Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

"Our objective," City chief executive Ferran Soriano said, "is to get to the end of the season with chances to win everything."

For the hotbed not just of English football but the world game, look no further than Manchester.

In 2012, City and United were the central figures in the most exciting end ever to a Premier League season, with the blue half winning the title on goal difference. They also finished as the top two teams the following season, this time United winning the league.

Since then, United hasn't finished higher than fourth place in a post-Alex Ferguson era characterized by questionable managerial appointments and haphazard player recruitment. City has won the league once more (in 2014), which is widely considered a poor return given the wealth and players at the disposal of a club owned by the Abu Dhabi royal family.

Mourinho and Guardiola will shake things up. They have each captured 22 major trophies and have coached the biggest names in the sport. They have an intense work ethic and are among the most ruthless managers around. They are winners, pure and simple.

It's no wonder, then, that there's often fireworks when

they meet. For the moment, there's a truce - at his official presentation at City, Guardiola said Mourinho had helped him "reach another level" as a coach - but there will be as much focus on the dugouts and technical area as on the field during the first Manchester derby of the season on Sept. 10 at Old Trafford.

As for their new teams, there are many questions to be answered.

At United: Will the one-paced strike partnership of Ibrahimovic and Wayne Rooney be a success? Will Pogba be weighed down by the record price tag? How long will it take for Mourinho to change United players' mindset from the Louis van Gaal era?

At City: Can Guardiola adapt to the grueling, competitive nature of the Premier League where almost every win is hard-fought? Does the team still rely too much on injury-prone stars Sergio Aguero and Vincent Kompany? What role does Yaya Toure have under Guardiola, the man who sold him at Barcelona? Is City's defense good enough to win the league?

At least one of these two superpowers will come up short in the Premier League this season. Maybe even both, considering Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham and even Liverpool are live contenders for the title, not forgetting defending champion Leicester.

Reputations are on the line, but United and City couldn't have done much more to get their teams in the right shape for the new season. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES A historical commission, former human rights victims and left-wing groups oppose President Rodrigo Duterte's approval of a plan to bury late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, reigniting a divisive and emotional debate. Meanwhile, the U.S. expressed concern over extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users. **More on p13**

PAKISTAN Lawyers mourn colleagues slain in a shocking suicide bombing the previous day at a hospital in the city of Quetta that killed 70 people, mostly lawyers. The attack, which stunned the judicial community, also underscored concerns that militants in Pakistan are still capable of striking in the heart of the country's cities and towns - despite government claims of dismantling terror networks.

MALDIVES The United Nations' human rights chief urges the Maldives to stick to a decades-long moratorium on imposing the death penalty, citing fears that three men are at "imminent risk" of execution.

AP PHOTO



AZERBAIJAN Leaders of Russia, Iran and Azerbaijan met to discuss a new transport corridor and other economic projects in the Caspian Sea region. A prospective railway link between Iran and Azerbaijan is expected to become part of a transport corridor that would run from India all the way to St. Petersburg in Russia, providing a faster and cheaper alternative to existing sea routes.

EUROPEAN UNION Brussels has set new deadlines for Spain and Portugal to bring their budget deficits into line after both countries escaped fines for failing to rein in spending. EU headquarters said yesterday that "Portugal is now required to correct its deficit by 2016 and Spain by 2018 at the latest." The two countries must submit a report by Oct. 15 on how they plan to bring their deficits under the EU ceiling of 3 percent of GDP.