



POLICE TARGET NON-DRIVERS IN DRIVING OFFENCE CRACKDOWN

In separate cases, two men were charged with driving offences when neither was in fact driving

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MACAU STOPOVER FOR 'INSPIRATION'

Inspiration, the first homebuilt aircraft in HK takes off for a journey around the world with a Macau stopover in November

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YUAN TRADES NEAR FIVE-WEEK LOW AS FED SIGNALS MORE PRESSURE

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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES-CHINA

President Rodrigo Duterte told China's ambassador yesterday that he will not immediately press Beijing to comply with an international tribunal's ruling that invalidated Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea, but would do so in the future. More on p11

EAST TIMOR-AUSTRALIA

East Timor and Australia opened conciliation talks yesterday in their bitter legal battle to set a permanent maritime boundary that will carve up billions of dollars in oil and gas reserves underneath the seabed. More on p13



SOUTH KOREA's Defense Ministry says it has no plans to introduce nuclear-powered submarines, despite calls by lawmakers to do so following a recent test of a submarine-launched missile by rival North Korea.



JAPAN Tokyo's first female governor said yesterday she will use her platform to host a cost-efficient and environmentally friendly 2020 Olympics and push a women's rights agenda that she hopes will be a model for Japan's central government.

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GAMING

Bowie confident of MGM mass-market strategies, Packer sells Crown shares

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DANIEL BETTLER



MDT PREVIEW

STOMPing its way to Macau

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Renato Marques

THE police have caught two suspects of serious driving offences. Although the cases are separate and unrelated, both men were intercepted and charged with the driving offences despite the fact that neither was actually driving, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) informed in a press conference held

Police target non-drivers in driving offence crackdown

yesterday afternoon at the PSP's headquarters.

In the first case, a 40-year-old local resident was spotted

by a patrolling police officer on Avenida de Kwong Tung in Taipa around 6:20 a.m. on August 27. According to police information, the officer found the man resting inside a parked vehicle with the engine running.

After approaching the suspect, the police officer noticed an intense alcoholic odor and requested the man to participate in a breathalyzer test. The test showed a result of 3.16g/L; an amount that, according to police standards, placed him close to entering a coma.

Although he was not driving at the time, the man was accused of driving under the influence and sentenced to a three-month jail term. The

man's license was also suspended for two years and he received a driving prohibition order for one year.

The second case occurred on August 26 around 8:30 p.m. at Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde, when a vehicle failed to comply with an order to pull-over by a police officer who was performing a car inspection operation in that location.

Following a police chase, the car and its occupants were finally intercepted near the football field of Rua Sul do Canal dos Patos.

At that time the alleged driver was a woman around 20 years old who presented herself at the wheel of the car, but police officers who wit-

nessed the incident claim to have seen the man next to her driving the vehicle at the time that it was ordered to stop for inspection.

Further investigation revealed that the man (19), who failed to show a valid driver's license when requested, does not possess such a document and he was in fact previously caught on two occasions driving without a legal document back in April 2013 and May 2016.

The duo were both sent to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP), and the man was charged with illegal driving while the woman was charged for shielding, a crime punishable by Macau's Penal Code article 331.

Women scammed in high interest deposit scheme

A local resident found herself in trouble after hoping to see significant returns in an alleged high-interest deposit scheme she saw advertised on Wechat app, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed in press conference held yesterday afternoon.

The case began to unfold on August 1 when the woman saw the advertisement for the alleged financial product that would provide her with an 80-fold return. Three days later, she decided to contact the advertiser and request information.

The contact informed her that if she invested a sum of over MOP10,000 for a period of two weeks she would make as much as MOP800,000. The woman decided to invest MOP19,000, which she transferred to the contact. After waiting the two weeks and not receiving any further communication, she tried to make contact again, only to discover the contact was now unreachable.

She decided to file a complaint to the PJ claiming a loss of MOP19,000.

The police say they do not yet have any suspects for the case but it is still under investigation.

WOMAN DIES AFTER JUMPING FROM NOBRE DE CARVALHO BRIDGE

ACCORDING TO information from both the PSP and PJ, a woman around 30-years-old jumped to her death from the highest peak of Nobre de Carvalho Bridge on Sunday. The incident occurred around 3:20 p.m. and was allegedly witnessed by a passer-by who alerted the authorities.

The police, the fire services and later the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) were called

to the location to help with the rescue operation.

The body of the woman was recovered from the water by a DSAMA speedboat only two hours later.

After being transported to the public hospital (CHCSJ) the woman was pronounced dead. The identity of the person is still unknown as the body was found without any documents that could help to identify it.

ONE SHOT NEWS



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, welcomes Mainland Olympians Delegation at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal on the start of a four-day visit to the region, yesterday.

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Lynzy Valles

MGM confident in its mass market development strategies

As the region's gaming operators shift their focus toward mass-market recreational gamblers, and away from their previous VIP targets, MGM is confident that its property can shoulder the continuous decline of gross gaming revenue (GGR).

Speaking on the sidelines of the operator's forum yesterday, Grant Bowie, MGM China CEO, told the press that the currently under-construction MGM Cotai resort is looking into offering various products and services for the mass-market.

As MGM Cotai, slated to open next year, will not be offering VIP tables, Bowie said MGM Macau would continue to develop its VIP offerings, while the new Cotai property would instead focus on entertainment and other tourism services.

"What we're most focused on is making sure we don't continue to dilute the business [...] at this early stage, we're looking to keep our VIP business at our Macau property and continue to develop and diversify through the Cotai property," he said.

Although Bowie admitted that the government has not yet disclosed the number of gaming tables to be awarded, he said MGM would continue to prove its "level of diversification" in order



Grant Bowie

to meet the necessary criteria to attain the maximum number of tables.

The CEO reiterated that MGM is confident in focusing on the mass-market segment as it has been their strategy since 2008, when MGM Macau first opened.

Despite the continuous decline in the number of Chinese touris-

ts arriving in the region, Bowie said that the resort will maintain its share of customers, as the gaming enterprise acknowledges the changing nature of Chinese and regional consumers.

"I'm totally confident that Chinese consumers will still want to come to Macau and buy the products and services that we have,

but we need to continue to evolve and develop those products and services to meet their expectations," he explained.

MGM held a "National Condi-

tions Forum" yesterday for over 200 team members of middle-management tier and above in a bid to inform them of the business potential resulting from the economic development of China.

Commenting on the event, Bowie argued that since Macau is "inextricably linked" to the growth and prosperity of the mainland, "it is vital for the team members to understand opportunities for Macau from China."

"Macau's single most sustainable advantage is being a part of China because the reality is China is the engine of growth of global development," he said during the opening of the event.

"The rapidly growing middle-class consumption and consumer behavior of China is not only fueling Macau but also fueling global [economic] growth," he added.

Bowie concluded that the diversification of Macau revolves around the ability to create "unique opportunities for consumers to [be involved in] a diversity of experiences in Macau."

Macau's single most sustainable advantage is being a part of China because the reality is China is the engine of growth of global development.

GRANT BOWIE
CEO, MGM CHINA

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Daniel Beittler

CULTURE

New exhibition seeks to encourage art and design graduates

A new exhibition opened yesterday at the Regency Art Hotel seeks, not only to showcase the works of recently graduated, local art and design students, but also to demonstrate the creativity of young, overseas artists. Organizers say that they want to establish Macau as the “Young Arts Capital,” or what they describe as “a center for the new generation of arts and culture in Asia.”

The “First Macau Art Graduates Joint Exhibition ‘Y Show,’” which will run until Friday, is co-organized by Chiu Yeng Culture Ltd. and Chiii Design Ltd, and aims to promote the cultural arts industry.

At yesterday’s opening, Mann Lao, a branding designer from Macau and co-founder of Chiii Design, and Sabrina Ho, the founder and managing director of Chiu Yeng Culture, discussed the exhibition in front of an audience of reporters.

Targeting primarily local students, Mann said that the exhibition will aid students in “absorbing and learning the trendiest creative ideas from all over the world.”

“Students, especially local students, should proactively take the responsibility for the future of Macau’s design environment and pay more attention to learn-



ning modern design techniques and skills in order to expand their vision,” he added.

The first edition of the exhibition has invited students from five local education institutions: the University of Macau, Macao Polytechnic Institute, Macau University of Science and Technology, University of Saint Joseph, and City University of Macau.

Additionally, several participants come from the Hong Kong Designers Association, National

Taiwan Normal University, China Academy of Art, Kuwasawa Design School and Berlin University of the Arts.

Organizers wrote in a statement that the purpose behind this collaboration is to “stimulate the exchange of knowledge and ideas between local higher education institutions and overseas design institutions [...] acting] as a medium through which the new generation of artists can interact.”

Additionally, the event also seeks to provide a platform for local businesses, including hotel and casino operators, to recruit sought after designers for their properties and the amenities inside them, according to Ho.

Ho said that she hopes the exhibition “inspires local fresh graduates [to consider a career in design] before they enter into the job market [...] to assist in discovering future paths for young people.”

“This exhibition enables commercial enterprises to have a different vision on the nurturing role of the market toward the development of the design industry,” added Mann yesterday, leading to “a better design environment [and the promotion of] better quality design in Macau.”

Organizers also announced that numerous world-famous designers have been invited to the exhibition, including Katsumi Asaba, a notable designer from Japan and the current president of the Japan Graphic Designers Association; Jianping He, whose works have been awarded the gold and silver prize at the International Poster Biennial in Warsaw; and Fons Matthias Hickmann, who is a graphic designer, author and professor at the Berlin University of the Arts.

Six design seminars will be held over the next few days on topics relating to the development of design art in Macau.

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MACAU STOPOVER

First homebuilt aircraft in Hong Kong takes off for a journey around the world



The team behind BK00 Inspiration, which will attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

HONG Kong's first homebuilt and locally registered aircraft took off on Sunday to complete a three-month 'Around the World Journey'. At 8:30 a.m., the aircraft revved up at the Hong Kong International Airport and headed off on the first leg of the trip to the Clark International Airport in the Philippines.

The aircraft, called Inspiration, will fly across all meridians and most latitudes outside the Arctic and Antarctic circles, covering

approximately 55,000 km. Inspiration will stop at around 50 airports in 25 regions, including Australia, United States, United Kingdom and Italy, returning to Hong Kong in November after a brief stop in Macau.

With pilot Hang Cheng at the controls, and with the support of flight engineer Gary Tat, the B-Koo Inspiration will travel through Southeast Asia, Australia, before crossing over the Pacific. The longest leg the aircraft will endure is the challenge

posed by the distance from Hawaii to San Jose, California, which will take about 13 to 14 hours. After crossing North America, Cheng will fly across Europe, before heading to Jordan, and then continuing on through Indonesia and Thailand, to finally land in Macau.

Before departing, Cheng exclaimed: "This is the day finally! [...] I hope Hong Kong's public will be inspired by our story - this is much more important than myself being the first in

Hong Kong [to do this]..." He also thanked his family for their unending and constant support.

Growing up in Hong Kong, Cheng had always dreamed of building his own aircraft locally and flying it around the world. For seven years, he worked closely with groups of secondary school students and with engineers from Hong Kong to construct the aircraft.

According to a report by the Standards, Inspiration, a kit-built, RV-8-single engine aircraft was built at a cost of HKD1.5 million, from the combined efforts of 500 students, pilots and engineers.

Originally designed in 1996, Inspiration was fully built and took flight for the first time on November 15, 2015 from the Hong Kong International Airport. It also went through 40 hours of flight tests in Australia before the beginning of this journey.

Boat sinks in the surroundings of Outer Harbor, ferries halted



A vessel used during construction work sank yesterday morning in the Outer Harbor channel, Radio Macau reported. Five workers that were on board

the vessel at the time were rescued and sent to the hospital as a precautionary measure, as only one worker suffered from minor injuries. The incident led to delays on ferry services throughout the morning due to speed restrictions and maritime traffic control imposed in the area by the maritime authorities.

Polytechnic Institute wins championship of regional debate contest

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) won the championship of a regional debate contest involving schools from Macau and Hong Kong over the weekend, according to a report by Macao Daily News. Organized by the Debating and Speech Culture Association of Macao, the final competition was disputed by the University of Macau (UM), IPM, Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSJU) and the City University of Hong Kong (CityU). The four universities debated around topics regarding both cities' development, such as the protection of cultural relics, as well as regarding the types of politics the two cities should promote. The jury, which included lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong and UM Assistant Professor Agnes Lam, gave 17, 14, 12 and seven votes to IPM, UM, HKSJU and CityU, respectively, after the respective debates.

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Daniel Beitler

WORLD-RENOWNED theatrical sensation, STOMP, an eight-person performance group that uses everyday items such as lighters, bin lids, plastic bags and brooms to hammer out a percussive rhythm, is coming to The Venetian Macao next month.

The performance, perhaps more than other recent shows, acutely embodies the vision that the local government has for Macau's art scene, which would see locals take up the arts and tap into their creative potential.

STOMP is more of a brand than a single show, with as many as five performance companies operating the show worldwide at any time. Having toured for more than 25 years since the production's inception, the show has been performed over 20,000 times to an audience of more than 12 million people across 53 countries.

Six performers, from the eight-person group, who will headline at the resort next month spoke to reporters at a promotional event yesterday afternoon, which included a preview performance of some of their routines.

"This is the first time that we, as a group, have performed together," explained Richard Young, one of the artists in the group. "So each of our characters comes out in that, and how you might [act] with one person in a performance changes when it is with another person."

Dominik Schad, another performing artist, explained that the show's organizers are "constantly looking for new people," adding that even people who have seen previous performances of STOMP are unlikely to have seen this particular group. "In our groups, there are usually people who have done [this] for 15 years and others who are new [...] and that makes it interesting as well."

The show is devoid of language, instead using rhythm, dance and comedy to convey their message.

"It's an international show: [even among the performers] we are from different parts of the world," described Young. "Because of that we don't use language in the show and so it's open to everybody to interpret [the performance]. We use rhythm as a language instead of actual words."

Asked by the Times how the show might be uniquely positioned to fulfill the MSAR government's objective of stimulating local artistic development – given its very nature of using household items to create an artistic experience – the performers remarked that STOMP was "perfectly" conducive to this end.

"I think that STOMP is the



STOMPing its way to Macau, percussion piece embodies gov't vision for local art scene



Six members of the STOMP group that will perform in Macau next month, including Dominik Schad (top left), Richard Young (bottom center) and Alexandria Bradley (bottom right)

perfect show to encourage people [to take up the arts] because everyone can find [at home] the objects that we use on stage," said Schad.

"So after seeing the show, whenever someone picks up a matchbox or broom or a basketball, they might think: oh shit! – we could make rhythm with that! So I think that STOMP is perfect for encouraging people to do something."

"We also have a wide variety of people in the show," added performer Alexandria Bradley,

making the case that the art form could appeal to people of many backgrounds and interests. "We have people from different backgrounds and body shapes, so not all of the [performers] are the same. We have a diversity and I think that also invites interest."

Asked whether there are differences in how audiences from various countries respond to the show, the artists affirmed that there were but that the differences were inexpressible or difficult to put into words.

However, given that their shows at The Venetian next month will mark all six artists' first foray into the greater China region (though not for the STOMP brand), the group admitted they did not know which elements of the show the local market would most appreciate.

"We are now very excited to find out how a Chinese audience will react – and how polite and excited they are," said Schad.

Having arrived in the city on

Sunday, the group had only limited impressions of Macau. The few words they selected to describe their initial impres-

“We don't use language in the show and so it's open to everybody to interpret... We use rhythm as a language instead of actual words.**”**

RICHARD YOUNG
PERFORMER

sions included "gigantic," "incredible" and "impressive."

"Everywhere you look, it's just wow," surmised Young.

A series of performances will be held at The Venetian's theater between September 23 and October 9, with an evening performance every day during that period except Mondays, and an additional matinee performance on Saturdays and Sundays.

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Yuan trades near five-week low as Fed signals renewed pressure

CHINA'S yuan traded near a five-week low, with the Federal Reserve's signals of a potential interest-rate increase putting renewed pressure on Asian currencies.

China's exchange rate fell as much as 0.24 percent as a gauge of dollar strength extended gains. The odds of a Fed rate increase in September shot up to 42 percent following comments from Chair Janet Yellen that the case to raise U.S. borrowing costs is getting stronger.

The yuan fell 0.15 percent to 6.6790 a dollar as of 5:57 p.m. in Shanghai, according to prices from the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. It dropped to 6.6850 earlier, the weakest since July 20. The offshore currency erased declines after the People's Bank of China released its daily fixing, and was last trading 0.07 percent stronger.

"In the medium-term, the yuan definitely faces depreciation pressure, but the Fed won't raise rates that aggressively," said Gao Qi, a strategist at Scotiabank in Singapore. "If U.S. inflation and non-farm payroll data are strong, then yuan depreciation pressures will increase next week."

The PBOC weakened its reference rate, which limits onshore moves to 2 percent on either side, by 0.55 percent yesterday. The cut was less than that predicted by both Scotiabank and Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. The fixing suggests that the central bank will defend the 6.7 psychological level, said Iris Pang, senior economist for Greater China at Natixis SA.

"There might be some PBOC support in the market to prevent the yuan from falling quickly against the dollar, but not strong intervention to prop up the exchange rate," said Kenix Lai, a Hong Kong-based foreign-exchange analyst at Bank of East Asia Ltd. "Policy makers will want to defend the yuan at 6.7 in the coming months for G-20 and SDR inclusion. It's not a good time to bet against the Chinese currency." **Bloomberg**

GAMING ALERT

Packer cuts Crown Resorts stake in USD338 million sale



James Packer

BILLIONAIRE James Packer sold a AUD448 million (USD338 million) stake in Crown Resorts, reducing his ownership of the Australian casino operator to less than 50 percent.

Packer's privately held investment vehicle, Consolidated Press Holdings Pty, agreed to sell 35 million shares - about 4.8 percent

of Crown - at AUD12.80 apiece, it said in a letter to Crown that was released to the stock exchange yesterday. Crown closed at AUD13.52 last week.

The shares fell 1.7 percent to AUD13.29 at 10:42 a.m. in Sydney trading. Consolidated Press will own about 48.2 percent of Crown after the sale and will remain the biggest shareholder.

The sale comes two months after Crown announced plans to spin off its international investments, including a \$2 billion stake in Macau casino operator Melco Crown Entertainment. Crown is also exploring an initial public offering of 49 percent of a property trust for some of its Australian hotels.

Consolidated Press said in

■ The sale comes two months after Crown announced plans to spin off its international investments, including a USD2b stake in Macau casino operator Melco

the letter that the sale forms part of its financial and capital management strategy, and the investment company supports Crown's proposed spin off and IPO. According to the Australian newspaper, the sale follows a review of Consolidated Press's finances after Packer's AUD1.25 billion settlement last year with his sister Gretel Packer.

Consolidated Press "remains deeply committed to Crown resorts and is excited about the future for the company," it said in the letter. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

THE PARISIAN CONDUCTS FIRE DRILL



The Parisian Macao completed a fire drill yesterday in preparation for its Sept. 13 opening. Around 600 Parisian team members participated in the 11

a.m. drill, demonstrating the emergency-response readiness of the 3,000-room integrated resort.

The emergency scenario si-

mulated an electrical fire in an 8th floor guest room and one guest injured during the subsequent evacuation, said Sands China in a statement. The Fire Services Department dispatched four fire brigades and two ambulances to the scene for the simulation.

Hotel rooms and other integrated resort facilities at soon-to-open resort are all equipped with sprinklers, the latest smoke detectors and fire-fighting equipment, in accordance with international standards and local requirements.

"Conducting successful fire response simulations is very important for Sands China whenever we open a new property, to ensure the safety of our staff, guests and visitors," said Brian Taylor, director of fire life safety for Sands China Ltd.

CEM ANNOUNCES ITS COOKING CONTEST WINNERS



The Fifth "Healthy Eating" Induction Cooking Contest rounded off successfully at the Catering Services & Cooking Training Centre of Macau Federation of Trade Unions Sunday.

The contest, co-organized by

CEM and the Catering Services & Cooking Training Centre, attracted twenty contestants who designed nutritious dishes and cooked with induction cookers on-site within 20 minutes.

In order to celebrate the fif-

th anniversary of the contest, CEM will print a cookbook that includes all dishes made by the finalists after the contest, in a bid to encourage the public to use induction cookers and attach importance to food nutrition.

The selected participants used induction cookers to prepare healthy family dishes on-site and the judging panel score the dishes according to a number of criteria, such as appearance, taste, eco-friendly ingredients selection and composition; nutritional value and as well as practicality.

The electric company said induction cookers boast one-third shorter cooking time than flame cooking, which contributes to an energy reduction of 30 percent to 45 percent.

CHINA'S regulators are intensifying scrutiny of unusual movements in stocks as they seek to damp speculation in the nation's financial markets.

Exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen have opened 774 investigations into wild price swings since the start of July and halted 38 investor accounts, according to the two bourses' official micro-blogs. They're also being more public about their campaign, publishing case studies of "abnormal trading" and challenging companies for extreme price movements. Liu Shiyu, who was appointed chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission in February, has emphasized the need for a tough stance on market excesses.

Investor concern that their trades could be swept up in the crackdown is curtailing activity in a market struggling to recover from last summer's USD5 trillion rout. While the attempts to curb speculation may improve the attractiveness of Chinese equities to global money managers, regulators risk alienating retail investors who account for about 80 percent of volume and are accustomed to quick profits or losses. The moves come amid signs China's policy makers are also looking to cool gains in the bond and real estate markets.

"Lots of active traders are on the sidelines now because of the exchanges' high-pressure policies," said Wang Zheng, Shanghai-based chief investment officer at Jingxi Investment Management Co., which oversees about \$300 million. "Regulators want to crack down on the speculative atmosphere. But there is a bunch of shares in China supported by speculators without which stocks have no momentum."

The crackdown has muted stock swings, with the number of shares that jumped by the 10 percent daily limit dropping by

Stock traders feel heat with 774 probes in two months



a third over the past month from the previous 60 days, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The Shanghai Composite Index has advanced 0.7 percent since July 26, compared with an increase of 8 percent in the preceding two months. The gauge was little changed yesterday, while 10-day volatility on the measure fell to the least since July 2014.

The increased scrutiny on stocks comes as Chinese authorities step up efforts to cool markets. The nation's leaders in July pledged to curb asset bubbles, while the central bank last week spurred speculation it was trying to cut down on the use of excessive leverage in the bond market after the 10-year yield fell to a decade low on Aug. 15. The government has also imposed limits on lending by peer-

to-peer platforms to individuals and companies in an effort to limit risks in the shadow-banking sector.

The argument for more focused regulatory efforts was bolstered recently by the case of Dandong Xintai Electric Co., the first company to be ordered to delist from the ChiNext board of smaller companies. Despite the July 8 announcement and repeated warnings from the Shenzhen exchange that the delisting is irreversible, traders bought a record number of Xintai shares on July 27 and pushed the stock price up by the 10 percent daily limit.

The bourse reacted quickly, sending written statements to member brokerages that had made large purchase of Xintai shares and asking them to take targeted measures. Securities

firms including Zhongtai Securities Co. responded by requiring investors to come to branches and sign risk documents before buying into the stock, according to a report in the Securities Daily. Trading in Xintai shares has now been halted.

"Chinese investors come to this market to do something like

Chinese investors come to this market to do something like gambling.

JINGXI INVESTMENT
WANG ZHENG

gambling," said Jingxi Investment's Wang. "They're here to make a fast buck, and not to buy something that has fixed returns."

The Shanghai bourse has strengthened rules as well, saying in a micro-blog post that it is extending its supervision to brokerage reports that have the potential to move share prices, while company executives and intermediary agencies that fail to make timely disclosures will be subject to more severe punishments.

The exchange also revealed seven examples of how manipulators use "spoofing," a practice where orders are placed to create the illusion of demand but canceled before they can be executed. This allows them to move markets by bidding for shares at prices significantly higher than or below prevalent rates.

Some brokerages including Citic Securities Co. and Industrial Securities Co. say the crackdown will squeeze out small-cap bubbles and guide funds into low-valuation, bigger companies.

"The pressure of the recent intensive supervision will start to shift the market style to focus on value stocks with low valuations and stable earnings," Industrial Securities analysts led by Wang Delun wrote in a report.

Zhang Haidong, chief strategist at Jinkuang Investment Management in Shanghai, said the crackdown will choke market moves. China has a strong atmosphere of speculative trading and the market relies on the wealth effect it creates to attract capital, he said. **Bloomberg**

Oil refining empire helps Sinopec beat energy rivals

CHINA Petroleum & Chemical Corp., the refining giant known as Sinopec, outshined its domestic state-run rivals in the first half of the year as its fuel-making business helped it weather the worst crude crash in a generation.

The world's biggest refiner reported 19.9 billion yuan (USD3 billion) in profit for the first half of the year, according to a filing this week with the Hong Kong stock exchange. While that's down 22 percent from the same period in 2015, it's more than double its net income in the second half of last year, when it posted



its weakest earnings since 2002. Shares yesterday closed 0.2 percent lower at HKD5.61, compared with a 0.4 percent decline in the city's benchmark Hang Seng Index.

"Sinopec continues to be a defensive play among China's Big Three oil companies as its huge refining exposure puts it in a good position to benefit from a low crude

price environment," Gordon Kwan, head of Asia oil and gas research at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Hong Kong, said by phone. "Sinopec's management deserves a lot of credit for maximizing refining incomes while containing crude losses."

The company's rival PetroChina Co., the country's biggest oil and gas producer, saw net income drop to 531 million yuan in the first half of the year, a 98 percent plunge even after booking a 24.5 billion yuan gain from selling a Central Asian gas pipeline network. Cnooc Ltd., China's largest offshore explorer, reported

a 7.74 billion yuan loss, mainly from a charge on the value of its Canadian oil sands assets.

A slump in crude prices benefits fuel makers like Sinopec as their supply costs fall, though the company is still vulnerable to the collapse as it's the country's third-biggest oil and gas producer. Brent crude, the global benchmark, averaged about USD41 a barrel during the first half of the year, down roughly 30 percent from the same period in 2015.

The company's refining margin, or the profit from turning crude into fuels, rose nearly 48 percent from same period last

year to 514.4 yuan a ton, it said in a separate statement on Sunday.

Sinopec processed 115.9 million tons of crude into fuels during the first half of the year. That's roughly equal to almost 4.67 million barrels a day, according to Bloomberg calculations. PetroChina refined the equivalent of nearly 2.66 million barrels a day, the company said in its release last week.

Sinopec will raise refining throughput in the second half of the year to 120 million tons, up 3.5 percent from the first six months, the company said. **Bloomberg**

Duterte to raise sea feud ruling against Chinese wishes

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte told China's ambassador yesterday that he will not immediately press Beijing to comply with an international tribunal's ruling that invalidated Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea, but would do so in the future.

Duterte made the comments in a speech marking Philippine heroes' day that was attended by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua and other diplomats. Zhao was apparently surprised by the remarks and just smiled in response.

China avoids discussion of its territorial disputes in the presence of other governments.

Duterte said pressing China to comply now might result in the suspension of talks between the two countries, which would not be good.

"I will not use the arbitral judgment now, but I would one day sit in front of your representative or you and then I will lay bare my position," Duterte said, addressing his remarks to Zhao.

Duterte has said he will also not raise the arbitration decision at an annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos next week, although he might discuss the issue if other leaders bring it up.

The tribunal ruled in July that China's extensive territorial claims, which overlap those of the Philippines and four other governments, are invalid under a 1982 U.N. treaty, in a major setback for Beijing. China has ignored the decision and refused to hold any talks with the Philippines based on the ruling.

Duterte added in jest that if the Philippines had as many ships as Beijing, he might consider a more forceful action.

Philippine acquiescence to talks that would not directly take up the arbitration decision would allow Duterte's government to discuss pressing issues such as asking China to allow Filipino fishermen to regain access to disputed Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing effectively seized in 2012. Chinese coast guard ships have been blocking Filipino fishermen from the rich fishing area.



President Rodrigo Duterte (left), talks with Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Zhao Jianhua (right), earlier this month

"I hope that you treat us as your brothers, not your enemies, and take note of the plight of our citizens," Duterte told Zhao.

NO GENOCIDE IN DRUG WAR

Meanwhile, at home, Duterte has enough to deal with.

The Philippine president defended his bloody anti-drug campaign, saying the nearly 1,800 deaths in two months didn't compare with brutality in Syria or atrocities committed by Islamic State group extremists.

"I did not kill any child. I did not drop barrel [bombs] like [Syrian President Bashar] Assad," Duterte said in a speech marking National Heroes' Day. "I'm fighting [...] criminals."

Referring to Islamic State group militants, whom he called "idiots," Duterte said, "I do not burn women because they refuse to have sex."

At least 1,779 drug suspects have been killed in Duterte's campaign, including 712 who were gunned down in clashes with police, with the rest being slain in still-unclear circum-

stances, the national police chief told a Senate inquiry last week.

Duterte said at least 3.7 million Filipinos have become addicted to methamphetamine, a stimulant known locally as shabu, with about 600,000 drug users and dealers surrendering to authorities.

Human rights groups have expressed alarm over the killings, and U.N.-appointed human rights experts have warned that steps should be taken to halt the violence, adding that the government and law enforcers could be held responsible.

"Claims to fight the illicit drug trade do not absolve the government from its international legal obligations and do not shield state actors or others from responsibility for illegal killings," U.N. Special Rapporteur on summary executions Agnes Callamard said in a statement this month.

Duterte, 71, who took office June 30, built a name with a deadly crime-busting style as the longtime mayor of southern Davao city. He described his campaign against drugs as a harsh war that would involve the military because the pro-

blem is now a crisis and claimed the lives of law enforcers.

"We might still end up like the South American countries and their fractured governments. I am declaring war," he told the audience that included ambassadors, war veterans and security officials. The drug menace, he said, "has infected every nook and corner of this country involving generals, mayors, governors, barangay [village] captains" and policemen.

Pressing his campaign, Duterte announced bounties of 2 million pesos (USD42,000) for information that would help the government identify any police officer protecting drugs

syndicates.

He repeated his pledge to defend the police and military, but warned law enforcers against conniving with criminals.

"In the pursuit of law and order, pursuant to my directions, you do not have to worry about criminal liability," he said. "I will go to the prison for you. I take full legal responsibility, you just do it according to the books."

"But for those in government, the police, the corrupt police and the corrupt judges and the

I hope that you [China] treat us as your brothers, not your enemies and take note of the plight of our citizens.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

corrupt prosecutors, there will be a day of comeuppance, there will always be a day of reckoning," Duterte said.

Yesterday, an unidentified gunman killed a suspected drug lord, Melvin Odicta Sr., and his wife after they got off an inter-island ferry in central Aklan province, police said. The killer escaped.

Odicta, a wealthy businessman who owned a fleet of taxis, a bar and a restaurant, denied involvement in the illegal drug trade when he and his wife met officials in Manila last week.

Asked about Odicta, Duterte told reporters the slain man was a leading suspected drug lord in the central Philippines. "He really got unlucky. Who wants to step in next after Odicta?" Duterte asked. **AP**

15 PHILIPPINE TROOPS KILLED IN CLASH WITH ABU SAYYAF REBELS

OFFICIALS SAY 15 army soldiers have been killed in a clash with Abu Sayyaf extremists in a major offensive in the south. Military officials said five other soldiers were wounded in fierce fighting yesterday that killed at least two militants in Sulu province's mountainous Patikul town, where the Abu Sayyaf have de-

tained many of their kidnapped victims.

It was the largest single-day combat loss under President Rodrigo Duterte, who ordered government troops to crush the Abu Sayyaf militants last week after they beheaded a kidnapped villager whose family was too poor to pay a ransom.

AUTHORITIES say 10 killed in southern China bus crash

In southern China say 10 people were killed and dozens injured when a bus overturned on a highway.

The government of the Guangxi Autonomous

Region said the accident occurred over the weekend when the bus flipped over as it was approaching its final

stop in the regional capital Nanning.

Another 32 people aboard the 47-seater bus were injured, five of

them seriously. The bus driver was among those killed and the cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Driver fatigue and poor vehicle maintenance are the usual causes of such accidents, although a greater

emphasis on safety has greatly reduced the death toll on China's roads.

Bordering on Vietnam, Guangxi is among China's poorer and less-developed regions. **AP**

Binaj Gurubacharya, Kathmandu

THE image of the teacher's body tied to a tree and riddled with bullets still haunts his son 14 years later. Communist militants allegedly dragged the Nepalese man from the class he was teaching and then killed him for refusing to give part of his salary to fund their bloody rebellion.

Suman Adhikari has little hope he will get justice for his father's death — not with the same Maoist fighters-turned-politicians controlling the Himalayan country's government.

Despite international pressure and government promises, including by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) themselves, Adhikari and thousands of other conflict victims are still waiting for information about loved ones who were among the 17,000 killed or hundreds who disappeared during the decade-long insurgency demanding an end to the country's now-defunct monarchy.

"The Maoists want everyone to forgive and forget whatever happened during the conflict, but that is not acceptable to us," said 40-year-old Adhikari, who works for a Kathmandu-based charity that works with the deaf.

Earlier this month, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal became Nepal's prime minister, leading the poor and politically fractious country's ninth coalition government in 10 years. His ascent to the top elected position completed the Maoist's political rehabilitation started in 2006 when they signed a U.N.-brokered peace accord to end their guerrilla campaign against authorities.

Meanwhile, Nepal is still beset by ethnic conflict and protests against its new constitution, and coping from widespread damage caused by earthquakes that killed thousands last year.

For victims of the old insurgency, the Maoists' rise was nothing to celebrate. Those hoping for resolution from a newly assembled Truth and Reconciliation Committee fear the Maoists will seek to sweep away post-conflict cases by delaying investigations, ignoring advice to prosecute or even legislating for a general amnesty that would absolve all crimes.

With the committee's mandate expiring in February next year, some of its 100 staff members admit they have neither the time nor the manpower to investigate the more than 53,000 complaints alleging human rights violations unless the government extends its mission. None of the cases have been resolved so far.

"In the time we have left, I don't think we will be able to deal with even a fraction of the number of cases we have in our hands," commissioner Madha-



Indira Adhikari (left), and Suman Adhikari are seen at their home in Kathmandu

NEPAL

Survivors of insurgency fear crimes will go unpunished

The Maoists want everyone to forgive and forget whatever happened during the conflict, but that is not acceptable to us.

SUMAN ADHIKARI

vi Bhatta told The Associated Press. They also have asked the government to revise the rules for investigating, for example, to include torture as a listed crime and to extend the six-month statute of limitations on rape so that decades-old assault allegations can be considered. The committee can only recommend prosecution for government lawyers to pursue; it cannot take such action on its own.

The Maoists have pledged they will not seek amnesty and would help bring justice for "victims

of crimes outside of war rules," according to spokeswoman Pampha Bhusal.

"We will not suppress these cases but will resolve them," she said. "We are going to resolve all these issues on the basis of international norms and human rights and the peace agreement we signed."

Victims and rights groups expressed doubt about the Maoists' sincerity.

In one of their recent pushes for a general amnesty, the Maoists in May forced then-Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli to sign an agreement saying the government would "immediately initiate the process to withdraw or give clemency on insurgency-era cases and other politically-motivated cases filed on various occasions"

And former Maoist parliament member Bal Krishna Dhugel was convicted in 2010 of a 1998 murder, but Maoist pressure and a pending clemency request have ensured he remains free despite a Supreme Court order this year not to grant him amnesty.

Analysts said the Maoists would have trouble pushing for a blanket amnesty. They do not have the necessary parliamentary majority to vote such

an amnesty into law, and even the suggestion could upset their coalition partners and undermine the stability of their government.

"What they [Maoists] have been saying in the past, that they will go for blanket amnesty, is not possible this time," said Deepak Prakash Bhatt, internal security professor at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. "There are checks and balances. Because they are not heading the defense ministry, home ministry and foreign ministry, it is not possible."

But delaying the investigations could leave them unfinished, rights activists said.

"The whole process has been prolonged so much that the proof and evidence we have is getting lost or disappearing," said Sudip Pathak of Nepal's National Human Rights Commission. "I don't believe the victims will get justice any time soon."

Analysts and rights groups have pressed the government to speed up reconciliation efforts or risk becoming even more unpopular in Nepal, where many people express frustration with widespread corruption and regret losing the monarchy.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch together warned Nepal not to bargain away justice while negotiating coalition government politics.

Nepal should "take immediate and effective steps to safeguard victims' rights to truth, justice and reparation through a credible transitional justice process that is free of any political interference or any forms of pressure or intimidation," the groups said in a joint statement issued in May.

To victims and their families, the prospect of resolving past crimes and healing old wounds looks bleak.

"We want to know why they were killed; they were unarmed and not part of the fighting," said Anita Jnawali, who said her father was a local politician in the western village of Kerunga when he was hacked to death inside his home for refusing to join the Maoists in their fight.

"We have almost lost hope," the 33-year-old drinking water consultant said. "The Maoists are always trying to suppress our cases, and now that they are in the government we are even more suspicious that they will bring new laws and make attempts to provide amnesty to their people." AP

MEDIA

Watchdog calls out India for failing to protect journalists

Ashok Sharma, New Delhi

INDIA is failing to help and protect journalists who are facing violent threats or attacks for their work, an international watchdog agency said yesterday, noting a pattern of resistance in investigating crimes targeting reporters.

The Committee to Protect Journalists counted 27 journalists killed for their work since 1992, and noted that it was still investigating more than two dozen cases to determine whether those journalists' deaths were also work-related. Most at risk are small-town journalists investigating corruption, rather than journalists in big cities like New Delhi or Mumbai.

The New York-based watchdog said in a report released yesterday that it could find only one case in 10 years in India in which a suspect was prosecuted and convicted for killing a journalist, but that the suspect was later released on appeal.

"Perpetrators are seldom arrested," said Sujata Madhok, a member of the watchdog. "The tortuously slow Indian judicial system, together with corruption in the police force and the criminalization of politics, makes it possible to literally get away with murder."

The watchdog's findings are supported by another report, released in 2015 by India's own media watchdog, the Press Council of India. That report found that even though the country's



Indian journalists hold placards during a protest against attack on journalists in Mumbai

democratic institutions and independent judiciary were strong, people who killed journalists were getting away with impunity.

"The situation is truly alarming," the Press Council said, warning that the trend could hurt India's democracy, and pressing Parliament to pass a nationwide law ensuring journalists' safety.

The Committee to Protect Journalists blamed successive Indian governments and local

officials for doing little to address a problem that has existed for decades.

It noted that while newspaper reports on corruption scandals made for attention-grabbing headlines, those same corruption investigations tended to end abruptly if an involved journalist was killed.

"No government in India has been an ardent champion of press freedom," the report said. "Small-town journalists, even if a handful work for big media,

will often find themselves alone and abandoned when trouble strikes."

The report focused on three cases of journalist killings in India, including the death in July 2015 of investigative reporter Akshay Singh, who was working on a story linked to an alleged USD1 billion racket for providing jobs and college admissions in the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

A month before that, freelance reporter Jagendra Singh died

after being set on fire while reporting on allegations of rape and land fraud leveled against a local minister in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

And in 2011 in the eastern state of Chattisgarh, journalist Umesh Rajput was shot dead while investigating alleged medical negligence as well as separate claims that a politician's son was involved in an illegal gambling business.

"I can think of several cases where the police's first response to a threat, attack or killing of a journalist was to claim that the victim was not a journalist, or that the attack was not work-related," the report quoted Mumbai-based editor Geeta Seshu of the media-themed website The Hoot as saying.

Indian journalists contacted by The Associated Press agreed that while journalists were key in exposing the country's widespread and endemic corruption, they were doing so despite inadequate safety guarantees.

Authorities need to take the risk more seriously or risk having reporters abandon their investigations, journalists said.

"Journalists have become vulnerable to pressure from local mafia, businesses, newspaper managements and the government," said Rahul Jalali, president of New Delhi's press club.

He and others noted, however, that while the press clubs scattered across the country were more focused on lobbying for labor rights and wage protections, they were also increasingly demanding better law and safety.

"We should try to compel governments and police to act more fairly, justly and quickly," veteran journalist and author Palagummi Sainath said. "We can also ask media owners to take the safety of their journalists more seriously." AP

Mike Corder, The Hague

EAST Timor and Australia opened conciliation talks yesterday in their bitter legal battle to set a permanent maritime boundary that will carve up billions of dollars in oil and gas reserves underneath the seabed.

East Timor, one of the world's most impoverished nations, is seeking to draw a border midway between the two countries that would give it more of the sea bed than under current agreements with its wealthy neighbor to the south.

Australia says the government in Dili should stick to treaties negotiated between the two countries that it says fairly carves up revenue and provides

resource companies a stable legal framework that gives them confidence to invest in exploiting the rich underground reserves.

The acrimonious dispute has long soured relations between East Timor and Australia, which played a pivotal role in helping East Timor gain independence after a long occupation by Indonesia.

The relationship plumbed new depths in 2013 amid allegations that Australian spies bugged the East Timorese Cabinet ahead of crucial revenue-sharing negotiations. Australia rejects the claim, which is the focus of a separate arbitration case between the two countries in which East Timor is seeking to inva-

East Timor, Australia open talks on maritime border dispute



A protester holds a poster during a rally outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta

lidate a Timor Sea treaty.

"We have not come to The Hague to ask for favors or special treatment. We have come to seek our rights under international law," Xanana Gusmao, a former guerrilla leader who became his country's first president when Indonesian rule ended in 2002, told a panel of five experts at a conciliation commission convened under an international treaty governing the laws of the seas.

It is not clear when the commission will issue its

non-binding ruling.

Australia argues that the Hague-based panel does not have jurisdiction to set the border and that Australia is committed to upholding existing treaties between the two countries, which comply with international law.

The treaties, "really are a model example of how two states can work together for mutual benefit despite different views on how to finalize boundaries," said Australian foreign ministry representative Gary Quinlan. AP

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Kerry urges Bangladesh to step up efforts against terrorism

Matthew Lee, Dhaka

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called yesterday for Bangladesh to step up efforts to fight extremist violence and protect and promote human rights amid increasing concern about terrorism in the South Asian nation in the wake of a series of militant attacks.

Kerry, on his first trip to Bangladesh as America's top diplomat, met in Dhaka with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdul Hasam Mahmood Ali, opposition officials and students. Bangladesh is struggling to deal with the rash of attacks, the most recent of which killed 20 people, including 17 foreigners, at a popular restaurant last month in Dhaka, the capital.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Bangladeshi authorities maintain that IS has no presence in the country and that a local banned group, Jumatul Mujahedein Bangladesh, or JMB, was behind it. Some have accused Bangladesh of turning a blind eye to the possibility of outsiders radicalizing elements of the Muslim-majority nation.

Kerry rejected that criticism, saying he does not believe that "the government of a Bangladesh has its head in the sand."

But, he spoke pointedly of the transnational threat posed by terrorism. The July 1 attack on Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry (left), poses with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during their meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Dhaka

"was an outrage clearly designed to divide Bangladesh, designed to try to cut off this welcoming society from the outside world," Kerry said.

"These heinous acts of violence - and too many others worldwide - are a stark, painful reminder that those who aid terrorist groups or perpetrate these acts have no respect for national boundaries, no concern for the rights of others, no

regard for the rule of law," he said. Kerry said a longstanding counterterrorism dialogue has intensified in recent months and work with the Bangladeshi police and military will continue with an eye toward further cooperation.

On Saturday, police said they had killed three suspected militants, including an alleged mastermind of the cafe attack. But many of the perpetrators

of a string of attacks over the past two years that have killed atheist bloggers, foreign aid workers and religious minorities remain at large.

Kerry urged the government of Bangladesh to resist the temptation to shut down public debate or stifle opposition groups as a way to combat the threat.

"Democracy," he said, "still provides the most resilient and

reliable platform we have for preventing and responding to violent extremism [...] to defeat terrorists, we must uphold, not betray, the democratic principles we cherish and they abhor."

Kerry also spoke of the need for authorities to protect the rights and safety of its workers, particularly those in the garment industry that earns the country more than USD20 billion a year from exports, mainly to the United States and Europe and employs about 4 million workers, mostly women, in 4,000 factories.

"Bangladesh cannot truly meet the aspirations of its people and share prosperity if its workers are not safe and their rights are not ensured," he said, referring to the 2013 collapse of a building that housed five garment factories and killed more than 1,100 people in the country's worst industrial disaster.

After his brief stop in Bangladesh, Kerry travels to India later for the seventh meeting of the U.S.-India strategic dialogue, which seeks to improve security and well as economic and development ties between the nations.

This year's discussions are taking place as tensions rise in the disputed region of Kashmir, scene of some of the largest protests against Indian rule in recent years. Since early July, at least 67 civilians have been killed and thousands injured, mostly by government forces firing bullets and shotguns at rock-throwing protesters. Two policemen have been killed and hundreds of government forces have been injured in the clashes. Yesterday, Indian authorities lifted a curfew in most parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir as part of a 52-day security lockdown but tensions persist. **AP**

BRAZIL

Rousseff faces senators, says accusations meritless



Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff

FIGHTING to save her job, suspended Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff told senators yesterday that the allegations against her have no merit

and that history would judge the country if she is removed from office.

"I know I will be judged, but my conscience is clear. I did not commit

a crime," Rousseff told senators at her impeachment trial.

Rousseff reminded senators that she was re-elected in 2014 by 54 million voters. She said that at every moment she has followed the constitution and done what was best for the country.

"I can't help but taste the bitterness of injustice" of this process, she said.

After her 30-minute speech, Rousseff was to take questions from senators. The showdown will include accusations that she hurt Brazil's economy with illegal budget manipulations and defenders arguing that she is being targeted by corrupt

lawmakers.

The impeachment process began late last year, when opponents in Congress presented a measure to remove her from office. Her appearance comes a day or two before the Senate votes on whether to oust her from the presidency.

Several hundred supporters demonstrated outside Congress, and cheered when she arrived. Outside Congress, a huge wall was put up to separate Rousseff supporters and pro-impeachment activists.

The Senate voted 55-22 in May to suspend Rousseff from office for up to 180 days while a trial was

prepared. Michel Temer, who was her vice president and turned into her nemesis, took over as interim president. If Rousseff is permanently removed, Temer will serve the rest of her term, which goes through 2018.

Rousseff's address comes on the fourth day of the trial which has seen name-calling, shouting and a declaration by the Senate President Renan Calheiros that "stupidity is limitless."

In the middle of her second term, the left-leaning leader is accused of breaking fiscal rules to hide problems in the federal budget. She denies wrongdoing and argues

that her enemies are carrying out a "coup d'état."

Opponents claim her maneuvers were an attempt to continue high spending and mask deficits, which ultimately exacerbated a severe recession in Latin America's largest economy.

According to the official close to Rousseff, she planned remarks that would be "firm, but not arrogant." The official agreed to discuss the speech only if not quoted by name because he wasn't authorized to divulge its details.

The trial is being presided over by Supreme Court Chief Justice Ricardo Lewandowski. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

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

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

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

THE EXHIBITION ARCHITECTS SKETCHES X 3: YOUNG ARCHITECTS SERIES
TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays) 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
UNTIL: September 15, 2016
VENUE: Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery, No. 8 Calçada da Igreja de Sao Lazaro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550 / (853) 2852 3205
Facebook: creativealbergue.scm

Offbeat

LIGHTNING STRIKE KILLS MORE THAN 300 REINDEER IN NORWAY



More than 300 wild reindeer have been killed by lightning in central Norway in what wildlife officials are calling an unusually large natural disaster.

The Norwegian Environment Agency has released eerie images showing a jumble of reindeer carcasses scattered across a small area on the Hardangervidda mountain plateau. The agency says 323 animals were killed, including 70 calves, in the lightning storm last week.

Agency spokesman Kjartan Knutsen told the AP it's not uncommon for reindeer or other wildlife to be killed by lightning strikes, "but we have not heard about such numbers before."

He said reindeer tend to stay very close to each other in bad weather, which could explain how so many were killed at once.

Thousands of reindeer migrate across the barren Hardangervidda plateau as the seasons change.

TV canal macau

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

cinema



CINETEATRO

25 Aug - 31 Aug



BEN-HUR
ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 7.15 pm
Director: Timur Bekmambetov
Starring: Morgan Freeman, Rodrigo Santoro, Jack Huston
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 124min

SHIN GODZILLA
ROOM 1
4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Hideaki Anno
Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min

TRAIN TO BUSAN
ROOM 2
2.30, 7.15, 9.30 pm
Director: Yeon Sang-ho
Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, ma Domng-Seok
Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 97min

CHIBI MARUKO CHAN- A BOY FROM ITALY
ROOM 2
4.45 pm
Director: Jun Takagi
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 120min



THE LETTERS
ROOM 3
2.30, 7.15 pm
Director: William Riead
Starring: Juliet Stevenson, Max Von Sydow, Rutger Hauer
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 114min

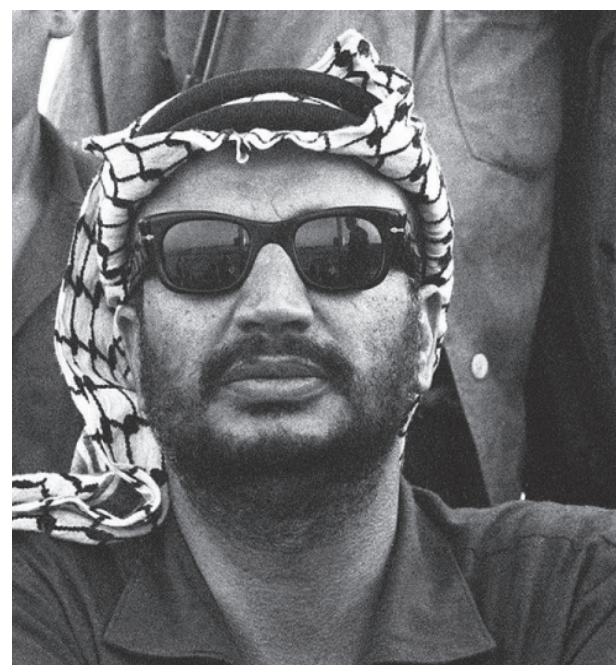
BFG
ROOM 3
4.45, 9.30 pm
Director: Syeven Spielberg
Starring: Mark Rylance, Ruby Barnhill, Penelope Wilton
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
Duration: 117min

MACAU TOWER

18 Aug - 31 Aug

HEARTFALL ARISES
2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Ng Ban Yu
Starring: Sixuan Chen, Babyjohn Choi, Mavis Fan
Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/ English)
Duration: 106min

this day in history



1982 PLO LEADER FORCED FROM BEIRUT

The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has left his Beirut headquarters after more than a decade.

Yasser Arafat has been forced out of Lebanon following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon some three months ago.

Israeli forces entered the country after an assassination attempt on their ambassador in London by Palestinian dissidents.

Their original aim was to wipe out Palestinian guerrilla bases near Israel's northern border but their forces pushed all the way to Beirut.

Mr Arafat's departure is the culmination of an agreed evacuation of the PLO from Beirut following what is widely regarded as a heavy defeat for the Palestinians.

Thousands of Palestinians who remain in Beirut cheered Mr Arafat as he left the former PLO offices for the port.

At the same time, more than 2,000 Syrian troops also began leaving the Lebanese capital.

They have occupied Beirut since 1976 when they arrived to protect Lebanese Christians in their civil war against left-wing Palestinians and Muslims. Syria has since become the PLO's ally in its fight against Israel.

It seems unlikely that Mr Arafat, now heading for Greece by ship, will find another Arab government willing to take him in after the calamitous effect of his stay in Lebanon.

Large areas of the once beautiful and prosperous city have been reduced to rubble by seven years of unrest and civil war sparked by Mr Arafat's presence.

His forced departure from Lebanon is a grave blow to Palestinian hopes of re-gaining their homeland, part of which is now occupied by Israel.

Mr Arafat's power base is now shattered with his men scattered about the Arab world.

Under the agreed evacuation plan most of the PLO fighters will go to Cyprus and then be dispersed to Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, North and South Yemen, Tunisia and Greece.

The new PLO headquarters will be in Tunisia.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 16 September 1982, Israeli-backed Christian militias entered two refugee camps in Beirut and massacred many hundreds of Palestinians over a period of three days. It was in revenge for the assassination of president-elect Bashir Gemayel four days earlier.

Estimates of the number killed range from 800 to 3,500 people.

The PLO established new headquarters in Tunis.

Years of violence followed before agreements on partial autonomy were signed in 1993 and 1995 between the PLO and Israel.

The Palestinian National Authority took control of the newly autonomous areas - Gaza and Jericho - with Yasser Arafat as its elected president from 1996.

The Palestinian Liberation Army replaced Israeli troops with in the authority's jurisdiction.

Yasser Arafat died in November 2004. Following elections, Mahmoud Abbas was sworn in as Palestinian president in January 2005 and called for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militants.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You could charm the birds from the trees today — and you may need to do something equally impressive if you want to make the most of this terrific energy. Don't be brash when you can be persuasive.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your reach may exceed your grasp today — but there's not much you can do about either! If someone accuses you of greed, just shrug and admit that you've got desires just like everyone else.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Great mental energy is yours today, so you should be able to dream up new ideas or convince skeptical minds that your way is the right one. Most tasks are much easier as a result.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You've got to be wary of other people today — not because they've got you in their sights, but just because they may have different agendas. If you're conscious of that, you should be fine.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It's all good for you today — your energy flows easily and you should have fun doing almost anything. Make sure that you're sharing! It doesn't cost you anything to brighten people's moods.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Someone needs to hear from you — and they need to be impressed. It's a good time for you to make a real splash. You may not feel totally comfortable with it, but you can tell that it's for the best.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Aesthetic issues are all-important today — but good luck convincing the philistines! Just do your best to make the world prettier, and see if you can encourage others to do the same.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Exercise patience and restraint today — as hard as that may be to accomplish. You need to let this situation play out organically, even if it feels like doing so could be catastrophic.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Can you bear to witness the latest example of deep unfairness in your world? It may take all you've got to make things right, but only you have the leverage needed to take care of this.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Get started on something new — especially if you're the first in your group to go for it! Your energy craves something totally novel, and your ego needs to be noticed for something big.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to branch out a bit — maybe try out a totally new restaurant or cuisine, maybe plan a big trip somewhere far away or maybe even pulling up your roots and moving somewhere totally different.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Balance is everything today. You've got to find a way to keep every part of your life stable and nurtured while still moving forward at the same pace. It's a challenge, but you can do it!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	18	30	clear
Harbin	15	27	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	21	30	clear
Urumqi	20	31	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	18	38	cloudy/overcast
Lhasa	12	22	cloudy
Chengdu	20	34	drizzle/moderate rain
Chongqing	23	38	cloudy
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	19	35	clear
Shanghai	22	35	cloudy
Wuhan	18	37	clear
Hangzhou	20	36	clear
Taipei	25	33	drizzle/cloudy
Guangzhou	26	31	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy

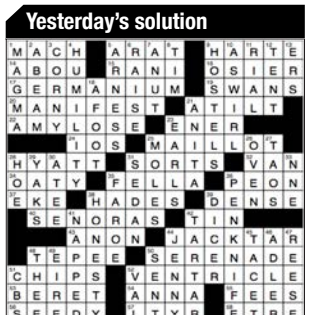
WORLD

Moscow	12	22	drizzle/rainstorm
Frankfurt	13	31	cloudy/clear
Paris	15	28	clear
London	13	21	cloudy
New York	26	30	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Teases; 6- Former Fords; 10- Periods of history; 14- Pianist Claudio; 15- Biblical birthright seller; 16- Dog; 17- Skin of the upper part of the head; 18- Without; 19- Air-filled rubber hoop, become fatigued; 20- Belonging to them; 22- Newsmen; 24- Make a mistake; 26- Composed; 27- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 31- Doze; 32- Way to go; 33- Boisterous; 36- Untrained; 39- "Cheers" regular; 40- Interlace; 41- Shakespearean villain; 42- Ending for legal or Japan; 43- Take care of; 44- Doorkeeper; 45- Legume; 46- Gave a new title; 48- 1998 Masters winner Mark; 51- Monetary unit of Japan; 52- Preserve; 54- Children of a God; 59- Org.; 60- Bric-a-brac; 62- Thick-skinned charger; 63- You've Made Very Happy; 64- Riga resident; 65- Home movie medium; 66- Strong ox; 67- Greek god of love; 68- Tennis champ Chris;

DOWN: 1- Strong woody fiber; 2- St. Louis landmark; 3- Dies; 4- Anklebones; 5- Paramount; 6- Misables; 7- Former Russian ruler; 8- Borge's countrymen; 9- State of mental uncertainty; 10- Snare; 11- Singer Bonnie; 12- Up (trapped); 13- Prophet; 21- Lady of Sp.; 23- Jazz singer Anita; 25- Actress Taylor; 27- Sea eagle; 28- "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" author; 29- Decoy; 30- PIN requester; 34- Muesli bit; 35- Creamy white; 36- Chicago mayor Emanuel; 37- "A Death in the Family" author; 38- Unit of language; 40- Suitable for wearing; 41- This test; 43- Chair; 44- Rattle; 45- Tapered flag; 47- Sniggler's catch; 48- Desert havens; 49- Beethoven's "Solemnis"; 50- Broadcaster; 52- Baby's cry; 53- Defense grp. since 1949; 55- Switchblade; 56- Pro or con; 57- Cabinet dept.; 58- Carrot or turnip; 61- Short change?;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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CRICKET

Australia wins third ODI to lead series 2-1

GEORGE Bailey hit 70 and shared two crucial partnerships to help Australia beat Sri Lanka by two wickets in their third one-day international (ODI) on Sunday and take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Sri Lanka batted after winning the toss and was bowled out for 226 in the final over. Dinesh Chandimal hit his fourth one-day century and held the Sri Lanka innings together amid a flurry of wickets.

Australia faced some early setbacks in the run chase, losing three wickets for 44 runs. But Bailey shared 62 for the fourth wicket with Travis Head (36) and 81 for the fifth wicket with Matthew Wade (42) to steer the tourists to win. Bailey was named man of the match.

David Warner led Australia for the first time with Steve Smith having gone



Australia's Nathan Lyon (right) celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews with teammates during the third test cricket match between in Colombo, Sri Lanka

home to rest. But Warner's poor form continued as he was brilliantly caught by Tillakaratne Dilshan at point for 10 runs with Australia's total on 31.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews, Aponso and Dilruwan Perera all took two wickets each.

"To be brutally honest, we should have probably won that five wickets down," Australia captain Warner said. "For us, our top order probably hasn't been going as well as I would have liked. I put my hand up as well - I haven't been in the form I would have liked."

"We should have got big

partnerships earlier in the innings, we have not done that so far," added Warner. "But good to cross the line 2-1."

Sri Lanka captain Mathews said his team was 20-30 runs short.

"Bit disappointing, because we have so many bowlers who can bat. But unfortunately, we didn't end up having a partner for Chandimal," Mathews said.

Earlier, Chandimal held Sri Lanka's innings together, helping his team to a modest 226.

Coming in to bat when Sri Lanka was 23 for two, Chandimal hit seven boundaries in his 130-ball innings of 102 before being out as the last batsman with four deliveries left in the innings.

The fourth match will also be played in Dambulla, tomorrow. **MDT/AP**

CYCLING | SPANISH VUELTA

David de la Cruz wins ninth stage, now leader

SPANIARD David de la Cruz took the lead of the Spanish Vuelta from Nairo Quintana after completing a successful breakaway to win the mountainous ninth stage on Sunday.

The Etixx-Quick Step rider earned his first win at a grand tour after he pulled away from a small escape group, dropping runner-up Dries Devenyns with 600 meters left on the last of five ascents in the northern mountains.

The 27-year-old De la Cruz finished the route from Cistierna to the Alto del Naranjo in three hours, 47 minutes, 56 seconds.

"I won the double prize!" said De la Cruz. "I had never won a stage at a major race, and to become the leader is incredible. Let's see how long I can hold onto it, but nobody is taking it away from me today."

De la Cruz entered the stage in 15th place, 2 minutes, 46 seconds behind Quintana's overnight lead. His attack from distance took him to the top of the overall classification with a 22-second advantage over Quintana.

Quintana's Movistar teammate Alejandro Valverde is in third place at 41 seconds back, followed by Tour de France winner Chris Froome at :49 off the pace. The rest of the field trails by more than a minute, including three-time Vuelta winner Alberto Contador at over 2 minutes behind. **MDT/AP**

AD

SUNDAY TO THURSDAY
星期日~四



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Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

Rakitic scores to give Barcelona 1-0 win at Bilbao in Liga

IVAN Rakitic scored in the first half to help Barcelona win 1-0 at Athletic Bilbao on Sunday for a second straight victory at the start of the Spanish league season.

The Croatia midfielder headed in a well-placed cross by Arda Turan to cap a quick attack that broke down Bilbao's high defensive line in the 21st minute.

Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez were both off-target with a handful of opportunities to seal the victory at San Mames Stadium, but Barcelona's dominant possession game never let Bilbao mount a serious challenge.

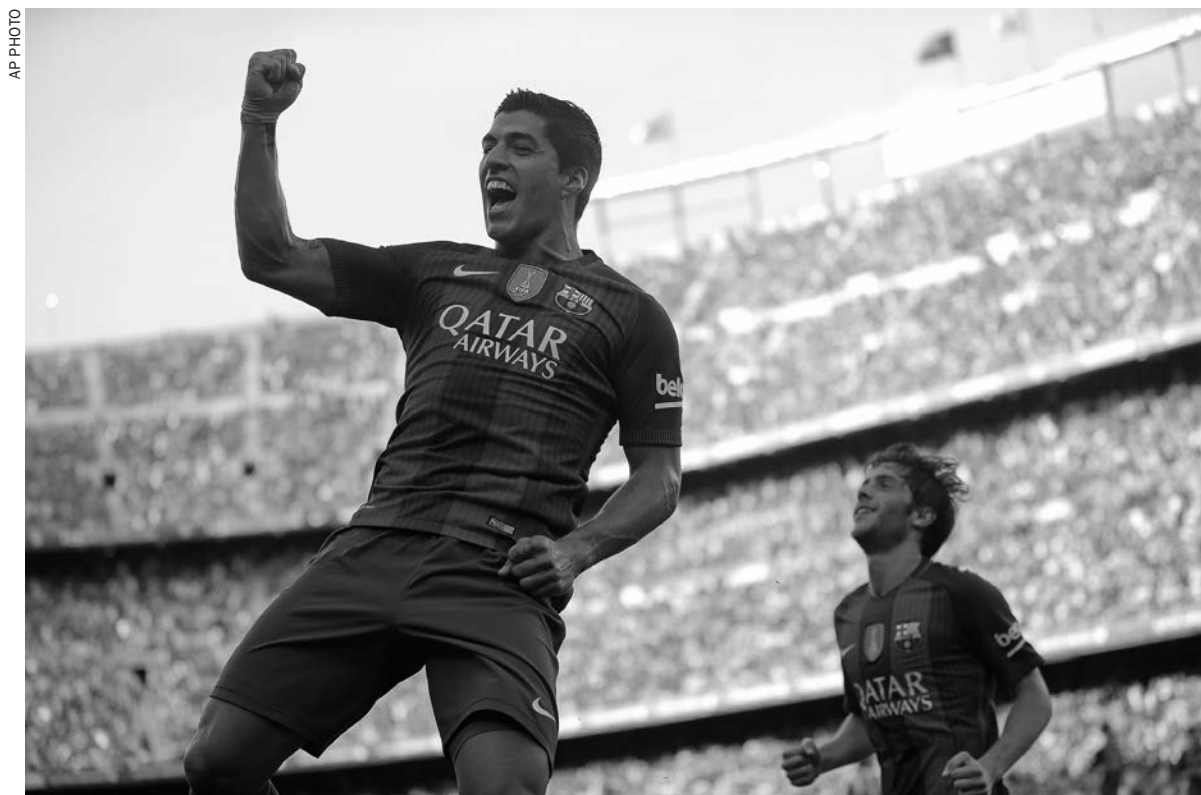
"The matches here are always like this, intense and attractive. We played a good match," Rakitic said. "This shows that we are already in form even at this stage of the season."

The defending Liga champions joined Real Madrid and the surprising Las Palmas, which routed Granada 5-1 also on Sunday, as the only teams to have taken all six points. Elsewhere, Sevilla drew 0-0 at Villarreal, while Sporting Gijon drew 0-0 at Alaves.

Barcelona's win was its 100th in 126 league matches under coach Luis Enrique, who is starting his third season after winning the last two leagues, along with several other titles including a Champions League crown.

"It's tough to play here and we go home happy," Luis Enrique said. "These three points have a lot of merit. The pace was frenetic, and Athletic makes it complicated. We were facing a great rival and we could have put the result beyond doubt early on."

As usual, the match at San Mames was an entertaining,



FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring during the Spanish La Liga soccer match at the Camp Nou in Barcelona on August 20

up-tempo contest of two contrasting styles.

The visitors fared just fine without the injured Andres Iniesta and Neymar, who won't start his season with Barcelona until after Brazil's upcoming World Cup qualifiers.

Once Rakitic, Messi and the rest of Luis Enrique's side got their collective passing game going, they had little trouble

transforming Bilbao's pressure into a fruitless pursuit of the ball.

"They knew we were going to pressure them. At the start, we had a couple of good chances, but as the game went on we wore down," said Bilbao manager Ernesto Valverde. "We had trouble playing from behind."

Barcelona's biggest scare came from a poor pass by goalkeeper

Marc-Andre ter Stegen, who took over as first-choice in the league after Claudio Bravo moved to Manchester City.

Ter Stegen made up for his pass directly to Benat Etxebarria by blocking his resulting shot with his face. Other than that mistake, the German was poised and precise with his passes from the back. The league said Ter Stegen's 46 comple-

ted passes were the most by a goalkeeper since the 2005-06 season.

Besides Rakitic's excellent overall performance, coach Luis Enrique can also be pleased with new centerback Samuel Umtiti, as well as the continued form of Turan and Sergi Roberto.

Turan had another convincing match in place of Neymar, delivering the pin-point pass for what proved to be Rakitic's winner.

Roberto, besides being solid in defense at right back, led a rapid counterattack that was spoiled when Suarez volleyed Rakitic's cross wide in the 57th.

Suarez had a golden chance to grab a goal in the dying seconds of the match when Messi laid the ball off for him with goalkeeper Gorka Iraizoz off his line, but the striker's shot was cleared by Eneko Boveda.

In the Canary Islands, Nabil El Zhar scored two goals and set up another to lead Las Palmas' destruction of Granada.

Kevin-Prince Boateng also scored his second goal since joining for Las Palmas before leaving the match because of injury.

Las Palmas has started the season in fine fashion with a league-leading nine goals in two victories. **AP**

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

City beats West Ham 3-1 to keep pace with United, Chelsea

Steve Douglas, Manchester

MANCHESTER City kept pace with likely title rivals Manchester United and Chelsea by beating West Ham 3-1 on Sunday for a third straight victory in the early stages of the English Premier League season.

However, what started as a lesson in pass-and-move, attacking football by City under new coach Pep Guardiola turned into a nervy finish at Etihad Stadium.

Raheem Sterling and Fernandinho scored in the opening 18 minutes for City, which carved West Ham open at will in a do-



Chelsea's goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois (center) jumps for the ball during the EPL match between Chelsea and West Ham at Stamford Bridge on August 15

minant first-half display that showed Guardiola's influence is already rubbing off on his players.

Injury-hit West Ham improved in the second half and Michail Antonio's 58th-minute header made City work for its win, which was sealed by another goal by Sterling in injury

time when he rounded the goalkeeper and scored from a narrow angle.

At least one perfect record will go when United plays City at Old Trafford in the first round of games after the international break.

It's early days, but it could well be a shootout for

the title between the three teams already at the top of the standings. City currently is ahead of United and Chelsea on goal difference — and Guardiola said there plenty more to come.

"Of course, there is still room for improvement," Guardiola said, "but we have been playing well and hopefully we can continue doing that."

"We have to make an amazing performance to win at Old Trafford. I can imagine the atmosphere. I am looking forward to live that experience."

Arguably Guardiola's biggest achievement in his first few months at Etihad Stadium is getting the best

out of Sterling, who lost his place in the team at the end of last season — his first at City — and then had a poor European Championship campaign with England.

Now, he is showing the kind of form that persuaded City to spend 49 million pounds (then USD76 million) to sign him from Liverpool last year. Creating more space for him to run at defenders seems to be the key difference in Sterling this season.

"We try to help him to say, 'If you stay in that position, you receive the ball quicker,'" Guardiola said. "After, when he receives the ball, it is completely his talent. Man City bought this player because they believe."

City has won all five of its competitive matches under Guardiola, including two victories over Steaua Bucharest in Champions League qualifying. **AP**

Sporting beats Porto 2-1 to take the lead

SPORTING Lisbon fought back to beat fellow title hopeful FC Porto 2-1 on Sunday and go top of the Portuguese league.

Sporting, last season's runner-up to Benfica, became the only team to win its first three league matches of the season. It leads Benfica by two points, while Porto trails by three.

Felipe put Porto ahead in the eighth minute. But Islam Slimani leveled in the 14th before Gelson Martins scored the winner in the 26th.

Elsewhere, Chaves drew 2-2 at Boavista, Maritimo won 1-0 at Moreirense, Rio Ave beat Feirense 1-0, and Setubal defeated Arouca 2-0.

On Saturday, Benfica won 3-1 at Nacional. **AP**

opinion

Our desk

Lynzy Valles



ALTERNATIVES TO UBER, ANYBODY?

After Uber announced in a statement that it will halt its operations in the city from September 9 - citing hefty fines amounting to some MOP10 million - netizens took to social media, particularly on Facebook, to criticize the decision.

The decision, of course, had much to do with the government, which has not reached any agreement regarding the legalization of ride hailing apps, despite supposed negotiations with the relevant government bodies.

Just last month, Uber Macau appealed for service legalization by delivering numerous letters to the office of the Secretary of Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, all written by members of the public who support Uber's services.

The letters, which reporters had access to, strongly called for the secretary to deliberate "consumer-friendly regulations," as there is no jurisdiction to regulate the car-sharing industry.

Obviously, the car hailing app did not receive the green light to operate its service in the peninsula, despite its continuing efforts in making the MSAR realize that their service could be, or already is, a solution to the citizens' dilemma on the region's taxi services. (Did I just imply that local cabs offer "services"?)

The government's crackdown on the operator has rallied a substantial number of Uber supporters. Organizers behind a Facebook page called "撐Uber 澳門需要你 Support Uber Macau" launched a petition, calling for the public to back the continued operation of the "illegal" service.

The page has attracted some 11,700 likes as of writing, with netizens describing the service - that will soon exit the region - as "hope" for Macau's transportation system.

"The issues of our terrible transportation system have never been resolved, yet this government is expelling Uber out of the city with unexpected efficiency. Our rights are being deprived, and we cannot just sit there like what we [have done] in the past when facing injustices!" organizers wrote on iPetitions.

Its thousands of supporters must have experienced the terrible service of cabs in Macau.

I rarely take a taxi because I refuse to be in an environment where drivers would argue and practice their arrogant behavior when I try to say, "Soi Hang Mei, si gei," and they'd reply, "insert looong Cantonese sentences (in an angry manner) that I don't understand as it surpasses my survival Cantonese."

Anyway, the Macao Community Development Initiative has also organized a protest against the halt of the service, calling for supporters of Uber to take to the streets on Sunday.

Surprisingly, as cited in the Times' report yesterday, the president of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, said it "can think of changing the law to allow ride-hailing services," when questioned by reporters about the ongoing issue.

Ho said that if the public is "favorable to that idea," chances are the government could adjust the current law, so as to legalize such services.

Right after Uber announced its service suspension? Quite ironic, eh?

I'm not sure if it was a "coincidence" that such statements were made at this time, or if it was a hint that similar mobile applications could be introduced soon.

I reckon the public is fighting for more than just the convenience of getting from one place to another with a "proper service". They are also fighting because there is a great absence of alternative ways for some to get to their destinations.

If authorities fail to solve these transportation issues, I assume the public will continually criticize the region's overall conveyance system (not to mention the recent New Era bus that hit bamboo scaffolds) and will continually stress and put pressure on the fact that their "rights are being deprived" and "injustices" are prevailing.

THE BUZZ ATTACKERS SET FIRE TO BELGIAN CRIME LAB, SPARKING BOMB SCARE

Attackers rammed a car through the gates of Belgium's crime institute early yesterday and set fire to a lab containing crime scene samples, apparently in an effort to destroy evidence, Brussels prosecutors said.

As the blaze in the north Brussels suburb erupted, residents heard at least one explosion and Belgian

media reported a bomb attack, but investigators said the noise was probably materials going up in flames.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombings at the Brussels airport and subway killed 32 people on March 22, and security forces remain on standby for another attack.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	100-130 Bad
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

Beyonce proves she's in a lane of her own

AP PHOTO



Mesfin Fekadu, New York

Beyonce proved once again she is the contemporary rock star, and she used the MTV Video Music Awards stage to showcase her skills and outshine her peers, from Rihanna to Britney Spears.

Beyonce won eight awards, including video of the year, and performed five songs from her visual album "Lemonade" in an epic 16-minute concert Sunday [yesterday, Macau time] that had the audience at Madison Square Garden in awe.

She sang live, danced heavily and worked the crowd as she ran through "Pray You Catch Me," "Hold Up," "Sorry," "Don't Hurt Yourself" and "Formation," which won the top prize over Adele, Drake, Justin Bieber and Kanye West.

"First of all, I'd like to thank my beautiful daughter and my incredible husband for all of their support," said Beyonce, who walked the carpet with daughter Blue Ivy and the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner - who all appeared in "Lemonade" movie.

It was reminiscent of the 2014 VMAs, when Beyonce also performed for 16 minutes and accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award. This year it was awarded to Rihanna, who split up her performances throughout the night, singing hits such as "Work," "We Found Love" and "Love on the Brain."

But the biggest moment for Rihanna came when Drake - in a tuxedo - presented the award to his former girlfriend. He said he met Rihanna in 2005 on the set of her first music video for "Pon de Replay."

"She's someone I've been in love with since I was 22 years old," Drake said as Rihanna blushed and the audience cheered loudly. "She's one of my best friends in the world. All of my adult life I've looked up to her even though she's younger than me."

Rihanna, 28, thanked her family, friends and hometown of Saint Michael, Barbados, for helping her succeed in her 11-year-career.

"My success started as my dream, but now my success is not my own. It's my family, my fans, my country ... it's women, it's black women," she said.

Beyonce's top-notch performance starkly contrasted with that of Spears, who returned to the VMA stage after 10 years. Not only did she lip sync, in typical fashion, but she did so badly. Spears performed her hit "Make Me..." and danced slickly, but she didn't actually sing a word of the song live. She was joined by rapper G-Eazy - and she lip synched the hook to his hit song, "Me, Myself and I."

In true Kanye fashion, the rapper ranted on-stage, touching on subjects from music to his beef with Taylor Swift to violence in his hometown Chicago before he debuted his music

video for "Fade," which starred Teyana Taylor. He talked about his "Famous" video, which features what appear to be naked images of himself, his wife Kim Kardashian, Swift, Donald Trump and others. He even pointed to former girlfriend Amber Rose, who was in the audience and is also in the video.

Drake won best hip hop video for "Hotline Bling" and Calvin Harris won best male video for "This is What You Came For." David Bowie - who died from cancer earlier this year - received four nominations for "Lazarus" and won best art direction. The music video, which shows him looking frail in bed with bandaged eyes, was released just days before the icon's Jan. 10 death.

Performers included Nick Jonas, The Chainsmokers, Ty Dolla \$ign and Ariana Grande, who brought spin class to the VMA stage when she sang the reggae-tinged "Side to Side" with Nicki Minaj.

In one of several odes to the recent Olympic Games, Michael Phelps said he's been inspired by hip-hop music before introducing Future, who Phelps said he listened to before swimming and making the grimace that went viral. The rapper-singer-producer performed his hit "[Expletive] Up Some Commas."

Jimmy Fallon, who presented video of the year, dressed as Ryan Lochte and even sported the platinum blonde hair. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA is failing to help and protect journalists who are facing violent threats or attacks for their work, an international watchdog agency says, noting a pattern of resistance in investigating crimes targeting reporters. [More on p13](#)

AP PHOTO



AFGHANISTAN Two roadside bombs have killed at least nine Afghan civilians, officials said yesterday. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Taliban insurgents frequently target security forces with homemade bombs placed along roads and footpaths.

LIBYA At least 38 Libyan forces were killed as the Islamic State group dispatched a dozen suicide bombers to stop their final push to drive the extremists out of their last major bastion in the country, officials said yesterday.

POLAND says German Chancellor Angela Merkel is wrong to criticize European Union partners who are refusing to give refugee protection to Muslims. Deputy foreign minister, Konrad Szymanski, said in an interview yesterday that countries such as Poland, which reject EU-negotiated refugee quotas, are in line with the public mood.

AP PHOTO



BRAZIL Fighting to save her job, suspended Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff told senators on yesterday that the allegations against her have no merit and that history would judge the country if she is removed from office. "I know I will be judged, but my conscience is clear. I did not commit a crime," Rousseff told senators at her impeachment trial. [More on p15](#)