

## 50-YEAR-OLD MAN KILLED DURING ARGUMENT

A 50-year-old Macau resident was killed in the early hours of yesterday morning in a restaurant at Bairro Horta da Mitra in central Macau

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## RAZON PLANS NEW CASINO IN MANILA

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On China's economy, Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz doesn't expect a hard landing, though he's concerned about the use of credit to fuel growth

P11 INTERVIEW

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### WORLD BRIEFS



**US** Police arrested a 28-year-old immigrant yesterday in relation to the bombing that rocked a Manhattan neighborhood, and the governor and mayor said the blast is looking increasingly like an act of terrorism with a foreign connection. More on p15

**RUSSIA** Vladimir Putin secured a crushing victory in parliamentary elections that gave the United Russia party its biggest-ever majority - enough to change the constitution at will - as international observers criticized political restrictions on the campaign.

**THAILAND** Searchers have recovered 18 bodies and are continuing to look for 12 people missing from a heavily loaded boat that sank in a river. More on p20

**AUSTRALIA** The government has reached an USD29.6 million settlement with the owners of a Chinese coal carrier to pay for environmental damage caused when the ship ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef six years ago. More on p13



**PAKISTAN** has called on the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to press India to halt more than two months of violence in Kashmir. The appeal comes a day after suspected rebels attacked an Indian army base in Kashmir, killing 17 soldiers.

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### ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

# Local economy to contract by 5.9 percent in 2016

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## Plight of SE Asian domestic workers highlighted at United Nations summit

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Renato Marques

CRIME

# Casino loser threatened other gamblers with syringes

A male (27) tourist from mainland China threatened several casino gamblers using syringes and a fake report that stated he was HIV positive. His stated purpose was to coerce the gamblers to place bets for him at the casino tables, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said at a press conference yesterday.

According to the police report, the suspect was finally taken into custody after reportedly threatening at least three men between September 8 and Sep-

tember 13. He was finally caught with the help of the security staff of a casino in ZAPE area.

The victims stated that the man, who allegedly struck in the ZAPE area, was targeting

casino gamblers who had won large sums, threatening them with used syringes filled with a red liquid that resembled blood and showing them a medical report which stated that he was infected with the HIV virus.

The suspect allegedly had no intention of stealing from the victims, but was attempting to coerce them to place bets on his behalf at the casino tables in order to recover a large sum that he had previously lost.

According to the statements of the suspect, he was targeting those men for being winners, believing that they were luckier than him.

As for the syringes and the red liquid contained inside, the man admitted to use "fake blood" similar to the type used in movies and decorations, saying that he bought it in his native Hebei province.

He also admitted that the medical report which stated that he was infected with HIV was fake, but did not state where he sourced it from.

As far as the PSP is aware, the suspects' attempts to force gamblers to help him had failed, as none of the gamblers who filed complaints against him were convinced by his story.

After the questioning, the sus-

pect was sent to the public hospital for a toxicological exam, which the result was negative. The man has also been tested for HIV but the results have not yet been released.

He has been presented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) under the charges of threat and attempted coercion, possession of forbidden weapons and offenses to physical integrity.

## 50-year-old man killed during argument

A 50-year-old Macau resident was killed in the early hours of yesterday morning in a restaurant at Bairro Horta da Mitra in central Macau, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported. The case reportedly occurred around 2:44 a.m. following a long argument between the victim and another man over an undisclosed matter. According to the PJ report, during the argument, the suspect allegedly hit the victim in the neck with a broken glass bottle, causing a serious wound and heavy bleeding. The victim was transported to the public hospital (CHCSJ), where he died 10 minutes later. Following the attack, the suspect fled the scene and is still at large. The PJ is still investigating the case and is searching for the suspect.

## TIS launches 'Early Childhood Education Academy'

THE International School of Macao (TIS) will be offering a series of educational workshops for teachers through its new Early Childhood Education Academy.

According to a TIS press release, the academy was created to share best practices in early childhood education. The program also provides modular based, hands-on learning that focuses on relevant topics to help educators meet the diverse learning needs of children in their early years.

"We are very excited to be launching this important new initiative and believe the Early Childhood Education Academy will provide teachers and teacher assistants working in Macau with an opportunity to meet face-to-face to learn and share ideas for engaging children in meaningful learning experiences," said school head Howard Stribbell.

The first module to be offered,

"Play-Based Learning – Creating Reggio Emilia-inspired Classrooms", will take place over three days starting tomorrow. TIS said participants will gain a clearer understanding of play-based learning and will be presented with several practical ideas to help them create a classroom conducive for learning through play.

The second workshop in the series, "Play-Based Learning - Creating Thoughtful and Productive Learning Activities," will be offered November 30 and December 3 and 7. TIS said additional sessions for 2017 will be announced in the fall.

Workshop facilitator Karen Holmes has more than twenty years of teaching experience. She began her career in Canada as a kindergarten teacher and was an early literacy and numeracy specialist, hosting many workshops for teachers in the region.

## Survey shows growing participation in cultural activities

A survey conducted by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) for the second quarter of 2016, showed that local residents participating in cultural activities totaled 257,900, with a participation rate of 59.2 percent, up slightly year-on-year.

According to the results of the "Survey on Participation of Residents in Cultural Activities," total participants (including non-residents) in cultural activities rose by 2.1 percent year-on-year to 302,300.

In its statement, DSEC outlined that cultural activities include going to the cinema, a library, visiting a museum or World Heritage site, and attending a performance or art exhibition.

When analyzed by type of cultural activity, going to the cinema remained the most popular activity for local residents with 169,800 participants, up by

### ROAD ACCIDENTS IN COLOANE LEAVE THREE SERIOUSLY INJURED

FOLLOWING THE two road accidents in the Coloane area Sunday morning, which were reported yesterday by the Times, the PSP said three of the victims are still under medical care in hospitals around the territory. The most critical case is one of the motorcycle riders, who has been hospital-

ized and is in a serious condition with several internal injuries. The other two victims are still in the hospital due to several bone fractures, but are in stable conditions. The other three reported victims had no serious injuries and have already been released from the hospital.



7.6 percent year-on-year. As the government organized a number of film screenings to support local films, the amount of residents watching locally produced films rose 58.5 percent to 35,100.

Local residents going to libraries increased by 3.1 percent year-on-year to 114,400; the activity participation rate was 26.3 percent, up by 0.5 percentage points. Students had a higher participation rate than non-students, at 68 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

Residents visiting museums or World Heritage sites in-

creased by 19.1 percent year-on-year to 113,900. The average visit per participant was 2.8, the same as a year earlier. More specifically, 82,500 local citizens visited World Heritage sites and 75,100 visited museums.

The survey also showed that there were 90,500 local residents attending performances, down by 0.7 percent year-on-year. The average attendance per participant remained unchanged from a year earlier, coming to 2.3. Music and dance performances were more popular amongst local residents, with 65,500 participants (72.3 percent), while theatre performances had 45,200 participants (50 percent).

There were 38,300 local residents attending art exhibitions, up by 5.2 percent year-on-year; 95.7 percent of them also participated in other types of cultural activities, and 51.6 percent took part in four or more types of activities, up by 3 percentage points.

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR\_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

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UN SUMMIT ON REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

# HK-based advocate reminds world leaders of worker plight



Eni Lestari



The UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants

Daniel Beittler

**H**ONG Kong-based Indonesian domestic worker, Eni Lestari, took the stage at the United Nations Summit on Refugees and Migrants in New York yesterday to remind world leaders of the plight faced by many migrant workers worldwide.

During her speech, Lestari highlighted some of the difficulties that migrant workers face in their host countries, describing them as nightmarish.

Speaking as a migrant worker herself, Lestari said: "Like many others, I did not have the choice but to work abroad in a foreign country [so that I could help my family]."

"But like many others, I found that the choice of a better future is a lie," she decried, "we migrants are denied the future [...] that we imagined when we arrived [in our host country]. Our dream has become a nightmare."

Lestari also pointed out what

she regards as paradoxes in the treatment of migrant workers by the host society, which involve the widespread suspicion of them and a general lack of respect from the country's nationals.

"We expect protection and services [like nationals], but we are left alone; [...] we are perceived as a security threat yet we [are part of] an industry that generates billions," she said, pleading for migrant workers to be "seen and heard, not marginalized and excluded."

Migrant workers account for some 150 million people worldwide, according to the International Labour Organization, accounting for more than 60 percent of the global migrant population.

Lestari, who argues that migrants are often overlooked by state and local governments, wants these workers to be included in policymaking on a regional, national and international level.

"I don't expect that I will change the whole situation of

**Like many others, I found that the choice of a better future is a lie.**

ENI LESTARI

migrants with a three-minute speech," she told the Sunday Morning Post in Hong Kong. "But I hope it will remind world leaders about the reality that migrant workers face on the ground and that they should involve migrant workers when they make policies."

However, yesterday's summit saw world leaders and foreign ministers from 193 countries approve a document aimed at providing a more humane and coordinated response to the refugee crisis.

The 22-page "New York Declaration for Refugees and Mi-

grants," is not legally binding and lacks concrete commitments but calls on countries to protect refugees' human rights, boost humanitarian aid and increase resettlement of refugees.

According to the website of yesterday's one-day summit, the gathering "is a historic opportunity to come up with a blueprint for a better international response [to migrant workers]. It is a watershed moment to strengthen governance of international migration and a unique opportunity for creating a more responsible, predictable system for responding to large movements of refugees and migrants."

The summit will be composed of several plenary sessions and six roundtables discussing topics such as the root causes of large movements of refugees, vulnerabilities of migrants traveling from their place of origin to countries of arrival, and international cooperation for the protection of displaced people.

Eni Lestari arrived in Hong Kong back in 2000 after the Asian financial crisis struck. Today she chairs the International Migrants Alliance – a grouping of grassroots organizations consisting of migrants, refugees and displaced peoples. The entity claims to be the first ever global alliance of migrants, refugees, displaced peoples and their families.

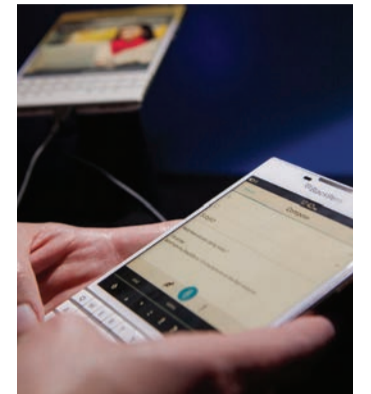
In Hong Kong, she is known for campaigning for equal rights for migrants and for advocating greater protection against exploitative employers. Lestari also wants regulations drawn up on the working hours of migrants and a minimum wage increase from HKD4,210 per month to HKD5,000.

The community leader says that, since she first arrived in Hong Kong, the working conditions of domestic helpers have marginally improved, but there is still a lot more work to be done.

A Justice Center survey earlier this year found that at least one in six such workers in Hong Kong are subject to forced labor, working an average of over 70 hours per week. The problem is far less prevalent in Macau because, unlike in Hong Kong, domestic helpers in the MSAR do not usually live-in with their employers, thus reducing the prospect of exploitation.

Contrarily, Hong Kong's Labor Law regulations stipulate that migrant workers should live in their employers' residences.

## 80pct of students have phone overuse issues



The General Association of Chinese Students of Macao has released the results of a survey conducted recently, showing that over 80 percent of more than 1,300 interviewed students have a habit of overusing their phones, according to a report by Jornal Va Kio. About 95 percent of those surveyed use mobile phones and close to 60 percent were said to display signs of anxiety caused by overusing mobile phones. Some 47 percent of the students chose to chat with people via mobile phone rather than face-to-face. Twelve percent of the students admitted to feeling lonely when not in possession of their phones, and that they would try to get their phones back.

## Locals file complaint against Lisboa Palace

Around ten residents visited the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday to report their former employer, the Lisboa Palace, for having unreasonably fired them. Lawmaker Lei Cheng I accompanied the group of self-proclaimed construction workers to the DSAL, according to a report by TDM. Lei said that approximately 90 local workers had been fired, all of whom were members of the cleaning staff at the Lisboa Palace construction site, with most having been employed on or after September 12. After only two or three days, they were told to stop working. Some of the complainants believe that the employer fired local workers to reduce costs.

## 73 year-old HK man found dead in casino

A 73 year-old Hong Kong man was found dead at the Casino Kam Pek Paradise early yesterday morning. The man was discovered in the resting lounge by one of the casino employees, who then reported the incident to the police. The employee first noticed an abnormal odor, and then realized that one customer had been in the resting lounge for a while. The Fire Services Bureau arrived to the scene and confirmed the death. The case has been forwarded to the Judiciary Police for further investigation.

## Today's follow-up summit to be led by Obama

**M**ORE concrete progress on the issue is expected at a follow-up summit later today called by President Barack Obama, where at least 45 countries are expected to make pledges that are in line with U.S. goals of increasing humanitarian aid by USD3 billion, doubling resettlement and increasing access to education for 1 million youngsters and access to employment for another million of the displaced.

"You hear all around the world the U.N. hasn't handled the refugee crisis. The way the U.N. will handle the refugee crisis is if all of us countries within the U.N. step up and dig deep and face those political headwinds that we all face, to do more, to give more, to take on a greater share of the resettlement challenge," said Samantha

Power, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

Prior to the pledging summit with world leaders, Obama will host a meeting with top executives from 50 companies to discuss what the private sector can do to help address the problem, Power said.

According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, an "unprecedented" 65.3 million people were displaced at the end of 2015, an increase of more than 5 million from a year earlier. They include 21.3 million refugees, 3.2 million asylum seekers, and 40.8 million migrants.

According to the U.N. Refugee Agency, refugees are people forced to flee due to armed conflict or persecution, while migrants chose to move in search of a better life. **AP**

# Former Sports Bureau president pushes Macau to join Olympic Games

MACAU must continue to strive to join the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said former Sports Bureau (ID) president Manuel Silvério in an interview with Lusa news agency.

"Macau should continue to strive to join this big Olympic family. Membership of the IOC is a right and it is the duty of the people of Macau to fight for it," he said.

Silvério thinks that the territory should receive the same treatment as the neighboring region of Hong Kong, which has been a formal member of the IOC since 1952.

Silvério, who was in charge of the ID from 1996 to 2008, said Macau's application for formal membership "has never been formally or informally refused", highlighting that membership of the IOC – together with membership of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) – is very important, as is the fact that Macau is able to participate in the



A Macau swimmer (left) recently represented the region in the Paralympic Games in Rio

Asian Games.

Since 1996, the IOC rules have stated that only independent states can be members, and have excluded Macau as a region under mainland Chinese influence.

The Chief Executive raised this issue, highlighting past efforts undertaken to achieve this goal. Although Macau has never been able to bring

## Membership in the IOC is a right.

MANUEL SILVÉRIO

any athletes to the Olympics, it has participated in the Paralympics since 1988.

## GAMING

# Market ready to bounce back, says 'Mad Money' host

JIM Cramer, the host of CNBC's "Mad Money" television show, has claimed that Macau's gaming market could grow further, after a 1.1 percent increase in the city's gambling revenue last month.

After the market's two-year downturn, the slight growth has fueled casino stock gains. Cramer said the ideal time to buy these stocks was early this year, highlighting that Steve Wynn had made some "incredibly aggressive" insider buys of Wynn Resort's stocks in December and January.

"If you're looking for a singular moment to call the bottom of Macau, it wasn't the recent pickup in August numbers. It was on January 19 when Wynn disclosed that he bought a million shares of his own stock," he explained.

The expert said that the stock purchase by Wynn's CEO was the green light to invest in the region's gaming stocks.

"The stock market is basi-

cally a prediction machine that forecasts what is going to happen roughly six months into the future, and it predicted this pickup in Macau," he said.

Meanwhile, the TV host noted that the recent openings of Wynn Palace and The Parisian Macao were "very well timed."

Gambling tycoon Lui Che-woo previously stated that it is too early to call the growth a recovery, but added that mass market is currently a better way to play than VIP gambling.

Cramer then pointed to Las Vegas Sands as the safer option because of its mass-market exposure. For investors who prefer long odds with higher payoffs, he noted that Wynn could make a significant profit, should rich VIP gamblers return to the peninsula.

"If, like me, you believe that Macau is ready to bounce back, then both stocks have more room to run," Cramer said.

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# Economy to contract by 5.9pct in 2016, EIU says

**T**HE fall in Macau's gaming services exports is expected to reach its lowest point this year, and the economy as a whole will contract 5.9 percent, in real terms, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

The growth rate of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017 will reverse the downward trend registered since 2014, the year in which the economy contracted by 0.4 percent, with the EIU estimating an increase of more than 11 percentage points over the

current year to 5.3 percent.

Most of the indicators included in the forecast summary will remain virtually unchanged, with the exceptions of gross fixed capital formation or investment, which is expected to improve from minus 19.7 percent this year to minus 3.3 percent in 2017 and government budget balance as a percentage of GDP, which will continue on the downward trend seen since 2014 to 7 percent.

In 2016 and 2017 new tourist and gambling facilities are due to

open in the Cotai area, a landfill located between the islands of Coloane and Taipa, with no news of further projects of the size of those already opened, after 2017.

Last week, for example, Sands China opened The Parisian resort, an investment of USD2.9 billion, which includes a replica of the Eiffel Tower at half the height of the original, 3,000 rooms, 150 stores, ten restaurants and a casino with 410 gaming tables and 1,600 slot machines.

In the report issued on Macau,



the EIU says that the "most dramatic" effects of the anti-corruption campaign launched by the Chinese government have been overcome, and in August the amount of gross revenue reversed the year-on-year downward trend that occurred for 26 consecutive months.

Overcoming the "darkest period," according to the EIU, will

allow the Macau economy to return to growth and record a year on year decline of just 5.9 percent, despite a contraction of 10.3 percent recorded in the first half.

Finally, public expenditure will continue to grow, remaining robust in 2016/2017, in that the government will tend to spend more to act as a buffer to the economic downturn. **MDT/Macauhub**

**T**HE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced that it will carry out an inspection of the roof of St. Anthony's Church between September 26 and October 13.

Back in May, the roof of the Saint Augustine Church had partially collapsed after heavy rain. The main cause of the damage was reportedly "the impact caused

## HERITAGE

### Cultural Affairs Bureau to inspect St. Anthony's Church



Back in May, the roof of the Saint Augustine Church partially collapsed

by heavy rain", as well as the building's age.


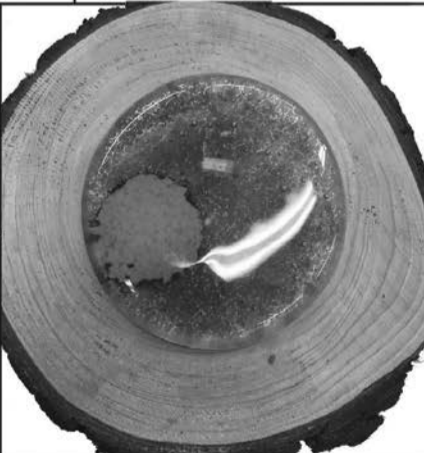
The incident caused the bureau to form a team to inspect and evaluate other sites, and found another four to be at risk, namely Saint Anthony's Church, Saint Joseph's Seminary

Church, Our Lady of Penha Chapel and the Ox Warehouse.

The IC's Department of Cultural Heritage head Leong Wai Man previously said that the IC conducts regular inspections of all heritage-listed sites twice a year but stressed

that the partial collapse of the St. Augustine Church roof was "a lesson" for the IC. Leong said the inspection to the St. Augustine Church aimed to ensure that "all structures are secure and there is no risk of a similar event occurring again."

During the inspection period next week, scaffolding will be installed in certain areas inside St. Anthony's Church. The opening hours of the UNESCO-listed church will not be affected and the church will remain open to the public. **LV**

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# Razon plans casino amid Duterte's gambling crackdown

**P**HILIPPINE casino mogul Enrique Razon is pushing ahead with plans to build a 20 billion peso (USD418 million) resort in Manila, undeterred by President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on gambling.

The chairman and founder of Bloomberry Resorts Corp. said construction of the company's second casino, in Quezon City in the northern part of metropolitan Manila, may start mid-next year and could be finished in 2019. Duterte's campaign is focused on electronic gaming parlors that have been loosely regulated and could actually help companies like Bloomberry, Razon said in an interview in Manila on Friday.

"I think cracking down on this, looking at it from our perspective, helps the licensed casinos," Razon said. Bloomberry's Solaire Resort and Casino on Manila Bay is operating at "full capacity" and there's been an increase in visitors from China since Duterte was elected in May as the new president seeks to improve relations between the two countries, he said.

Manila is aspiring to become the next Asian casino hub as high-stakes Chinese gamblers increasingly abandon Macau amid their government's crackdown on corruption. Chinese and South Koreans are the two biggest groups of foreign visitors at Solaire, and Duterte's plans to upgrade the airport and open a new toll road to the area where Solaire is should be good for business, the billionaire said.

"Razon is making a bet that President Duterte will deliver on his promises on infrastructure," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist at BDO Unibank Inc. in Manila. "Tourism has far more to go if only we have the right infrastructure."

Tourist arrivals rose 14 percent to 2.98 million in the first six months of 2016 from a



Enrique Razon

year earlier, with South Korea, U.S. and China the three largest sources, government data show.

Bloomberry's gross gaming revenues climbed 17 percent in the first half to a record from a year earlier, while net income swung to a profit from a loss. The company's share price surged 52 percent this year through July 11 before declining 23 percent as Philippine stocks retreated amid high valuations and a broader emerging-market selloff.

Bloomberry shares closed up 5.5 percent yesterday, compared with a 0.3 percent advance in the Philippine Stock Exchange Index. Other local

casino companies also rallied, with Melco Crown Philippines Resorts Co. up 2.4 percent and Travellers International Hotel Group Inc. rising 1.2 percent. Total gaming revenue in the nation increased 24 percent in the first half of 2016 from a year earlier, according to data from the industry regulator.

"The prospects for the gaming industry are improving," said Richard Laneda, an analyst at COL Financial Group Inc. in Manila. "The improvement in Chinese traffic is driving sentiment, for it accounts for 30 percent to 40 percent of the VIP market."

Razon is opting to expand domestically after dropping a bid

for a gaming license in Cyprus and as he pulls out of a casino investment in South Korea. Local volumes have grown "quite strongly" and this trend should continue due to the attractiveness of the local economy and rising tourist numbers, he said. Quezon City has the biggest po-

**Construction of the company's second casino could be finished in 2019**

pulation of the 17 jurisdictions that make up metro Manila.

"This expansion will give Razon two properties that he can position for specific markets," said Rommel Rodrigo, a gaming analyst at Maybank ATR Kim Eng in Manila. "Solaire will probably focus on foreigners and higher-end individuals, while this expansion could be more for locals."

The gambling tycoon, who has a net worth of \$3 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, banned 18 Chinese gamblers from Solaire in June over their involvement in a \$81 million cyber-heist from Bangladesh's central bank. The audacious theft put the spotlight on the Southeast Asian nation after it was revealed the money had been routed through a Philippines' bank and then to local casinos.

Duterte, who took office June 30, has vowed to "destroy" online gambling. The campaign has already harmed Roberto Ongpin and his company PhilWeb Corp., a gaming technology provider that saw its shares plummet after it lost a contract to supply the industry regulator and Duterte said Ongpin was among businessmen that have an undue influence on the government.

Razon's planned resort will also include shops, a convention center and a hotel. He joins other investors building new casinos in the Philippines, including Universal Entertainment Corp. Chairman Kazuo Okada, who will open a resort in Manila in November, and Andrew Tan and Lim Kok Thay, Philippine and Malaysian billionaires, who are also building a casino in the city. **Bloomberg**

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# Samsung's Note 7 battery problem expands to China

AP PHOTO



Youkyung Lee, Joe McDonald, Seoul

**S**AMSUNG'S smartphone problems expanded yesterday to China's populous market, where the South Korean tech giant was looking into reports two Galaxy Note 7 handsets exploded in a country where it earlier said its units were safe and didn't need to be included in a global recall.

The reports in the biggest mobile phone market were a new setback for Samsung Electronics, which is struggling to restore consumer trust after dozens of reports of batteries that overheated or caught fire in other nations.

In the latest incidents, two people posted accounts on Chinese social media saying their Galaxy Note 7 handsets exploded over the weekend.

Samsung has faced criticism it has failed to coordinate with American and other safety regulators and failed to give clear information to consumers.

U.S. regulators ordered a recall on Thursday. Aviation authorities in the United States, Australia and Europe have urged passengers not to use or charge Note 7s while flying and not to put them in checked baggage.

The Note 7 debuted to rave reviews in August thanks to its

speed, new software features and longer time between charges, which requires a more powerful battery. Users report phones have caught fire or exploded, in one case causing a blaze that destroyed an SUV.

Samsung had earlier excluded China from its global Note 7 recall. It said handsets sold in China were safe because they used different batteries from those linked to problems elsewhere.

The Chinese battery supplier for Note 7 phones sold in China said yesterday fires there appeared to be different from cases in other countries, where Samsung has blamed a manufacturing error in rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. In the United States, there have been 92 reports of Galaxy Note 7 battery fires.

Amperex Technology Ltd., which supplies lithium polymer batteries, said the fires in China appeared to be caused by unspecified factors "outside the battery."

"We believe the heat problem comes from outside the battery. A very large likelihood exists that other factors gave rise to the heat problem," it said in a statement.

ATL gave no indication of what may have caused the problems. Samsung did not respond to questions.

In the first incident reported in

China, a social media user posted messages Sunday saying a friend's Galaxy Note 7 caught fire over the weekend. It included photos of the damaged phone.

The user, contacted by phone, told The Associated Press the Note 7 was bought Sept. 1 through the JD.com e-commerce site. The man, who asked not to be identified by name, said the phone started to heat up and vibrate late Saturday night, then exploded and emitted black smoke.

A second report on a separate social media account said an owner's phone exploded Sunday while the person was playing a game on it. That account gave no contact information for the user or details of where the person lives but showed photos of the damaged phone and its serial number.

The incidents, widely reported in Chinese media, are a "big blow" to Samsung in China, where consumers expect global brands to be better quality, said Nicole Peng of research firm Canalys.

"This is a very big incident that Samsung will find hard to defend," said Peng.

"Previously, they promised the China unit was fine and was using a different battery," she said. "So it seems like this is causing more trust issues and hurting consumer confidence in their brand."

The incidents could set back Samsung's effort to stage a comeback in China, where it has slipped to No. 6 in a crowded market behind ambitious local brands, Peng said.

Samsung accounted for 8 percent of smartphone sales in China in the three months ending June 30, down slightly from the previous quarter's 9 percent, according to Canalys. Huawei was in first place in both quarters with 16 percent, followed by Vivo and Xiaomi at 13 percent. **AP**

# Yuan interbank rate surges in HK in sign of intervention

**T**HE overnight interbank yuan rate surged the most since January in Hong Kong amid speculation China's central bank is intervening to fend off bearish bets on the currency.

The offshore yuan funding cost, known as Hibor, jumped 15.7 percentage points in its second-biggest gain on record to 23.7 percent, according to a fixing from the Treasury Markets Association. That's the highest since January, when the People's Bank of China was also suspected to be mopping up liquidity to boost the exchange rate. Funding conditions tightened yesterday even after the Hong Kong Monetary Authority said last week banks in the city had tapped its liquidity facilities.

The yuan stabilized this month as offshore funding costs climbed ahead of last week's holidays and amid speculation the PBOC was engineering a squeeze. Such a crunch would help discourage short positions on the currency before the Federal Reserve's review of monetary policy this week and the yuan's entry into the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies next month.

"The result is to support the currency at a time when 6.70 suddenly seems a very important line in the sand," said Michael Every, Hong Kong-based head of financial markets research for Asia-Pacific at Rabobank Group. "You'd almost think it was a pegged currency."

The currency weakened 0.24 percent to 6.6696 a dollar at 4:58 p.m. in Hong Kong, while in Shanghai the yuan gained 0.02 percent. The offshore rate fell due to the dollar's recent strength, said Eddie Cheung, a foreign-exchange strategist at Standard Chartered Plc. A gauge of the greenback reached the highest since July on Friday as



U.S. inflation quickened more than forecast, supporting the case for an interest-rate hike. Trading of the offshore yuan was less active on Friday as Hong Kong's markets were shut for a holiday.

The PBOC strengthened the yuan's fixing by 0.16 percent yesterday even despite the dollar's gains - another sign stability is preferred before the U.S. and Japan both deliberate monetary policy this week.

A jump in yuan Hibor hurts bears in two ways: by increasing the cost to borrow the currency and sell it, and also by prompting lenders that want to avoid paying the higher rates to buy the yuan they need in the spot market instead, bolstering the exchange rate. The rate surged to a record 66.8 percent in January, prompting turmoil in local and global financial markets.

The three-month yuan interbank rate climbed 81 basis points in Hong Kong to 5.86 percent, the highest since February, while the one-month rate increased to an eight-month high.

The recent crunch was partly caused by the PBOC not rolling over its forward positions from last year, said Sue Trinh, Royal Bank of Canada's Hong Kong-based head of Asian foreign-exchange strategy. Chinese banks were suspected to have sold dollar-yuan forwards last year at the PBOC's behest, and now that these positions aren't being extended, the lenders have to settle the contracts by delivering yuan. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MERCEDES HIGHLIGHTS ELECTRIC MOBILITY AT PARIS MOTOR SHOW



This year's Paris Motor Show by Mercedes-Benz is characterized by change: celebrating their world premieres in Hall 5.2 will be the electric drive versions of the new smart fortwo, the smart fortwo cabrio and, for the first time, the smart four.

A new member of the E-Class family will also be on show for the first time. Alongside the Saloon and Estate variants, the

E-Class All-Terrain vehicle is a new, lifestyle-oriented addition to the model range, said the automobile company in a press release.

Running centrally from the front edge through to the large LED panel on the rear building is the E-Mobility Lane, where the electric vehicles from Mercedes-Benz Cars are positioned on black, backlit glass.

### CEM LAUNCHES 'POWER ELITES' PROGRAM

CEM has launched the "Power Elites" training program to help youth cultivate good habits when it comes to power consumption and resource conservation.

Open to Form 1 and Form 2 Macau full-time secondary school students, the one-year program includes activities such as visiting the electrical company to learn about the power generation process, its infrastructure and facilities; as well as deepen their understanding of local power generation methods and the daily tasks of engineers.

All participants are re-

quired to submit a report summarizing their knowledge and experience gained over the year at the end of the program. Entrants whose reports attain a passing grade will receive a Completion Certificate.

The program features several awards, including a trophy, cash prizes of up to MOP2,000 and one-day tickets to Hong Kong Disneyland with round-trip jetfoil tickets.

According to CEM, final participants will be selected via drawing lots if there are more than 40 nominations on the shortlist. The deadline for nomination is October 13.

### SOFITEL TO START 'WINE DAYS' TOMORROW



Sofitel has launched its 2016 "Sofitel Wine Days", a global brand promotion taking place from tomorrow until October 31. During this time, Sofitel hotels will celebrate French wine and 'art de vivre.'

This fifth edition is an opportunity to illustrate Sofitel's commitment to wine through a va-

riety of events, enabling guests to increase their knowledge of the world of wine, according to the hotel's statement.

In greater China, the 2016 edition will offer diverse wine-oriented experiences to guests, including wine tastings, events, discoveries and meetings.



MOZAMBIQUE

## IMF mission due to arrive this week



Christine Lagarde

A mission from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is due to arrive tomorrow in Maputo to assess what measures Mozambique should take to regain the confidence of both investors and donors, said the IMF's Communication Department director.

Gerry Rice said in a statement the director-general of the IMF, Christine Lagarde, had met with the President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi and welcomed the initial steps adopted by the Mozambican authorities on reforms and agreed policies.

Lagarde stressed the need for further measures to stabilize the economy and more decisive efforts to improve transparency, through an international and independent audit of the companies that were financed under the loans disclosed in April 2016.

The director-general also welcomed the willingness of the Mozambique government to work with the IMF in defining the terms of reference for this process – to be released by the Attorney General's Office – and put it into practice.

Cooperation between the Mozambican authorities and the IMF and the World Bank deteriorated in April, following the discovery of debts of over 1 billion euros that the previous government had taken on between 2013 and 2014, without the involvement of parliament and the international financial institutions.

Following the disclosure of the loans, the IMF suspended the disbursement of a loan of more than USD150 million in favor of Mozambique and called for an international audit for financial aid to resume.

Mozambique still faces a complex economic crisis affected by the decline commodity prices, strong devaluation of the metical, a rise in inflation, natural disasters and military conflict in the center of the country. **MDT/Macauhub**

## BCP negotiates sale of stake with Chinese group Fosun

THE process of Chinese group Fosun taking a stake in Portuguese bank Banco Comercial Português (BCP) is expected to be completed by the end of September, according to a statement issued by the Portuguese Securities Market Commission (CMVM).

BCP's board of directors, which met last week instructed the bank's executive commission to "deepen the negotiations" with Fosun to set the conditions of entry of the Chinese group in the capital of the financial group.

"BCP's Board of Directors welcomed the interest shown by Fosun [which in Portugal already owns healthcare company Luz Saúde and insurance company Fidelidade] and discussed general lines of what may turn out to be the terms of the investment," said the statement released by the market regulator.

This information follows the expression of interest by the Fosun Group to acquire 16.7 percent of the share capital of



BCP. This would be achieved through a reserved capital increase in the amount of 236 million euros, which would help improve the bank's solvency levels.

At the end of July, the Chinese group laid out conditions for investing in BCP including a reverse stock split and places

on the board and executive commission, among others.

The major shareholders of BCP are Angolan oil company Sonangol with 17.84 percent, Banco Sabadell with 5.07 percent, Energias de Portugal group with 2.71 percent and the Interoceanico group with 2.05 percent. **MDT/Macauhub**

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**Tong Jia de Ramirez**  
Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

## opinion

## Views on China

Christopher Balding, Bloomberg

## HOUSING GETS SCARILY EXPENSIVE

For many years, China's authorities took a Goldilocks approach to housing prices: They wanted a market that was neither too hot nor too cold, and took measures as needed to control prices. Although an explicit asset-price target was never announced, it was widely assumed that the government wanted home prices to grow in line with the rate of economic growth.

To accomplish this, technocrats in Beijing deployed a combination of monetary stimulus and regulatory measures. When prices overheated, they put the brakes on credit growth, required higher down payments for mortgages and placed administrative restrictions on who could buy in which cities. When prices started to drop, they tried loosening credit and boosting the number of units people could own.

But in the past few years, with economic growth sluggish, the planners became much more tolerant of rising prices, even as signs of a bubble emerged. Official data shows the price-to-income-ratio hitting 9.2 at the end of 2015; housing prices have continued to rise significantly since. All this has led to some widespread distortions.

China's homeowners have come to see near double-digit real-estate returns as a birthright, a bet on par with death and taxes. According to one study, more than 70 percent of Chinese household wealth is in housing. Investors believe there's an implicit guarantee that the government won't let home prices drop, even as many buildings sit empty.

Meanwhile, banks have gone on a lending spree: Total outstanding mortgage loans rose more than 30 percent and new mortgage growth clocked in at 111 percent in the past year. Since June 2012, outstanding mortgage loans have grown at an annualized rate of 30 percent. Predictably, that's pushed prices higher and higher.

In urban China, the average price per square foot of a home has risen to USD171, compared to \$132 in the U.S. In first-tier cities such as Beijing and Shenzhen, prices have increased by about 25 percent in the past year. A 100-city index compiled by SouFun Holdings Ltd. surged by a worrisome 14 percent in the last year. Developers are buying up land in some prime areas that would need to sell for \$15,000 per square meter just to break even.

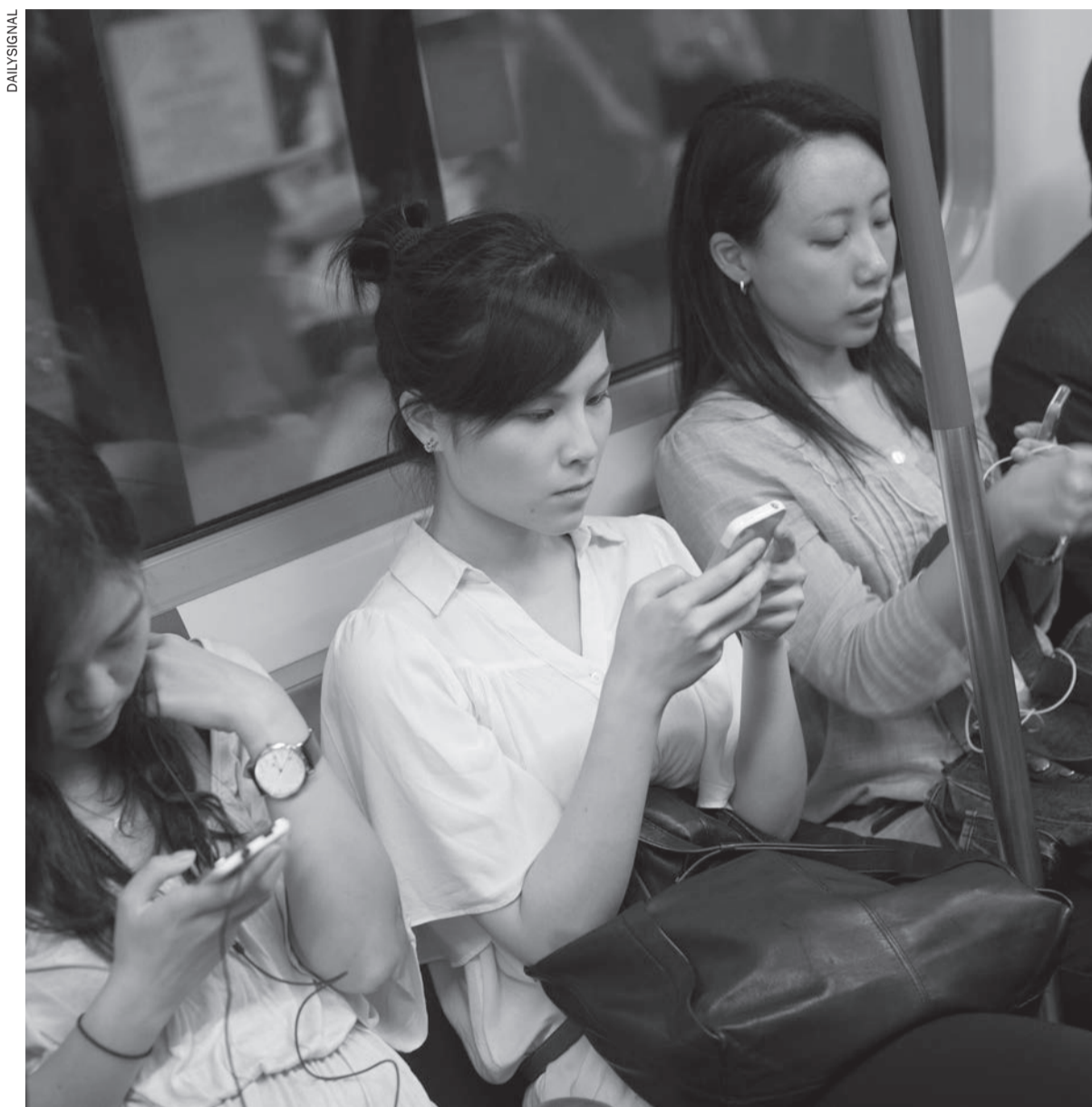
When the government has half-heartedly tried to apply the brakes, efforts to game the system have only intensified. Shanghai recently had to put down rumors that it was planning to tighten ownership restrictions for married couples after city offices were crammed with couples seeking a "divorce" so they could continue buying property. An entire industry has evolved to help people prove they have the required amount of financial assets needed to obtain a mortgage.

The People's Bank of China surely doesn't want people to think of housing as a one-way bet. Ma Jun, the chief economist of the PBOC's research bureau, was recently quite explicit in warning of a bubble. But right now, no one believes that prices will be allowed to fall significantly.

The first step, as with any addiction, is for Chinese leaders to admit there's a problem and formally move away from the implicit asset-price growth target. Just as the government has embraced a so-called new normal of lower economic growth, it should recognize a new normal in housing prices that doesn't force tightening or loosening measures every few months to hit an unsustainable growth target. Leaders have to accept that allowing asset prices to fall can sometimes be healthy, and attempting to prop them up can often be counterproductive. A burst bubble would be a disaster: Bailing out the real estate market would dwarf the few hundred billion dollars used to prop up the stock market in 2015.

In consistently allowing home prices to rise so dramatically, the PBOC is significantly increasing risks of just such a brutal correction. Though it may be difficult for investors to profit from slower growth in real-estate prices, that's far preferable to the alternative. Asset-price targeting in China has run its course.

# Voyeurism makes the transition to cell phones



Narae Kim

**F**AME may last a mere 15 minutes, but the tools democratizing it are here to stay.

That's the call Credit Suisse Group AG analysts make in a note initiating coverage on YY Inc and Momo Inc; two Chinese live streaming companies they say will outperform in an otherwise fractured market. Platforms that help you peer into the lives of ordinary people doing ordinary things had a rocky transition to mobile — hampered, according to Credit Suisse, by poor infrastructure. Still, since the start of 2016, the market's grown at a pace that has them predicting it will reach USD5 billion by the end of next year. That's hardly much smaller than the Chinese cinema industry, whose box office receipts amount to \$7 billion.

Live video isn't just growing in parallel with cinema: it's growing at the expense of other kinds of cultural consumption: "Demand has been surging from young users who lack the alternatives and budget for entertainment," wrote analysts Zoe Zhao, Evan Zhou and Angela Zhou, who attribute streaming's revival as much to this

evolution in user behavior as to the development of back-end infrastructure. On the supply side, a large number of internet celebrities "de-bottlenecks" supply, with higher smartphone penetration, cheaper bandwi-

■ **Live video isn't just growing in parallel with cinema: it's growing at the expense of other kinds of cultural consumption**

dth cost, and primary-market funding facilitating the migration from laptop to mobile.

Having witnessed a steep growth of 175 percent year-on-year to \$4 billion this year, Credit Suisse expects the market's revenue to reach around 33 billion yuan (\$5 billion) by 2017. That's no small chan-

ge, argues the bank, considering the more mature mobile-gaming market is only twice that size.

Live streamers are more affluent than average internet users, tend to spend more time online, and have mature payment habits. Still, a marketplace currently split between 150 platforms is due a consolidation, the analysts say, as the pace of its growth slows: "With a relatively low ceiling, fewer than ten players will dominate and most will be wiped out."

Even while the live streaming market expands at a slower pace, the phenomenon of nude selfies as loan collateral show the impulse to share is extending beyond entertainment and into the fabric of Chinese finance. That's just one sign that in life, as in your portfolio, indiscriminate exposure can be a dangerous thing. In a crowded field Credit Suisse's recommends YY, which boasts a loyal user base and a mature ecosystem, and Momo, whose existing products work well in sync with the expansion of live streaming. They predict the two companies will account for just over a third of a \$5.4 billion market by 2018. **Bloomberg**



Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University professor

BLOOMBERG INTERVIEW

# Stiglitz grades Trump F on economics, cites China trade risk

Enda Curran and Angie Lau

**T**HE U.S. economy would be a big loser if Donald Trump wins the presidential election and imposes new tariffs on imports from China, according to Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz.

The end result would be a trade war, a correction in U.S. living standards and a net loss of American jobs, Stiglitz said yesterday in an interview with Bloomberg News in Hong Kong. Stiglitz, 73, was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers from 1995 to 1997, making him a member of cabinet when Bill Clinton was president.

On China's economy, the Columbia University professor doesn't expect a hard landing, though he's concerned about the use of credit to fuel growth. And ahead of this week's keenly anticipated Bank of Japan meeting, he isn't expecting any fireworks.

The following are edited extracts from the interview:

**- If Trump wins the election and implements new tariffs on China, what would the economic impact be?**  
**Joseph Stiglitz** - Tariffs on

**What [Trump] is identifying is a standard naive concern, when I say naive, I mean wrong, that foreigners can undersell us.**

China would have two immediate consequences. One, American workers who depend on low-cost Chinese goods would see their standard of living fall immediately. The likelihood that these industries will return to the U.S. is very low. On the other side, there would be retaliation. China would have within the World Trade Organization the right to impose retaliation against buying all the things they buy from the U.S. It would be a trade war. China would only do it selectively and the probability is that there

would be more jobs destroyed than would be created. The net effect on employment would be negative. I think the U.S. would find itself the big loser.

**- Is Trump raising any valid concerns about trading with China, or is he exaggerating?**

**Stiglitz** - What he is identifying is a standard naive concern, when I say naive, I mean wrong, that foreigners can undersell us. Would he be any happier if they had a different exchange rate and lower wages? No, they would be selling their goods into the U.S. Trade is based on comparative advantage, we have lost comparative advantage partly because we didn't have a good manufacturing policy. We still have a comparative advantage for high tech. No economist would ever say you look at bilateral trade. This is a global trade system, we might buy manufactured goods and have a trade deficit with China but then we sell goods elsewhere, you can't look at it in a bilateral way. The whole framework in which he looks at it is something that would be given a

student in a principles course in economics an F.

**- So you would grade him F?**

**Stiglitz** - F. He just doesn't understand much about economics.

**- If Trump is elected, could he push through the kind of promises he has made, such as tariffs on China?**

**Stiglitz** - Everyone is talking about how much would he would be constrained by existing rules and our democratic process. We've never had it tried by someone who is that far out of the mainstream. The honest answer is nobody really knows. The president has a lot of authority and a lot of influence.

**- On China's economy, do you believe that growth is on track?**

**Stiglitz** - I certainly don't think a hard landing is inevitable. They have done another impressive job. They have managed to keep the economy going on a reasonably even keel. On the other hand, the way they have done it has added another dose of risk through credit.

**- Away from China, the Bank of Japan meets this week, you aren't expecting any rabbits to be pulled from the hat. Can you explain?**

**Stiglitz** - We have just reached the limits of monetary policy. Where monetary policy could have the biggest effect would be active policies to expand credit to some groups who haven't had it before, like small businesses. I don't think Japan is doing as badly as conventional wisdom says simply because they don't correct for the size of the labor force in terms of growth of output per working age population. I look at standards of living and they are not doing that badly, you visit Japan you feel that you don't feel a country in depression.

**- You also say that the U.S. labor market isn't as strong as the headlines suggest. Can you elaborate on why you think the jobless rate is between 9 percent and 12 percent?**

**Stiglitz** - You have to look at people who are involuntarily working part time. There are people who are not searching who would normally be searching, then there are even those in disability roles who would normally not be disabled. Somewhere around 9 percent to 12 percent. There is no precision here. There is no significant inflation pressure, that's a sign the labor market is not tight.

Satoshi Sugiyama, Tokyo

JAPAN

**L**AUGHTER and lively chatter filled a room at a modest apartment in Tokyo one recent Thursday night as more than two dozen kids and volunteers gathered around tables laden with curry, rice, salad and fruits.

Misako Omura's weekly dinner is one of a growing number of "kodomo shokudo," or "children's cafeterias," that are springing up across Japan. The mostly grassroots efforts seek to address a range of child-related issues, from poverty to ensuring that those with late-working parents get a proper dinner. A tally by the national Asahi newspaper found 319 such places serving free or low-cost meals across Japan as of May, up from 21 in 2013.

Over the past 70 years, Japan's rising affluence has banished most of the penury of the lean years during and after World War II, when children sometimes starved and many families went hungry. But despite its ultra-modern conveniences, Japan had the 10th-highest child poverty rate among 31 relatively well-off countries in a 2013 UNICEF report.

Poverty in Japan is largely hidden, as it can lead to public shame and discrimination. Families often skimp on food and other necessities to ensure chil-



Volunteers cook at a "children's cafeteria" in Tokyo

dren are dressed well enough to avoid being seen as disadvantaged. Such children might have smartphones but not the money to buy a 100-yen (USD1) box of juice or participate in a school field trip, said Setsuko Ito, who heads the child-rearing-support division in Tokyo's working-class Arakawa district.

Omura started her weekly dinner in Arakawa in 2014 to cre-

ate a space to welcome area children who might not get enough support from their families, schools and communities. Her initiative, supported by donations and a grant from the district office, is meant to counter a void left as communities hollow out and family ties unravel, leaving many parents and children isolated and struggling to cope. The kids and volunteers pay 300 yen (\$3) for dinner.

AP PHOTO

"I hope everyone can develop a sense that each child is our child and understand that we are raising the children who will be supporting us as the next generation," she said.

Omura emphasized that the children who come to her weekly dinners are not necessarily living in poverty. In some cases, they just have to dine alone because their parents are working late. She asked the Associated Press not to interview the children, out of concern that public exposure might lead to harassment at school and in their neighborhood, or even when applying for jobs in the future.

Just over half of all Japanese single-parent households are considered to be under the poverty line. Single mothers, who make on average 150,000 yen (\$1,490) a month, get limited support from welfare programs.

Though a 2013 law aims to coordinate national and local government efforts to provide

educational, living and economic support, many local officials are struggling with the issue, said Kaori Suetomi, a professor specializing in education administration and finance at Nihon University in Tokyo.

"Until now, Japan hasn't really dealt with child poverty, and officials are not sure what to do," said Suetomi, co-author of a recent report on policies devised by local governments across Japan to address the issue.

The problem, she said, is budgets for those programs are not guaranteed, so some local governments have had to abandon programs. In addition, Suetomi said that child poverty issues overlap between the education and welfare ministries. That makes securing funds difficult as the ministries shuffle the responsibility of which should bear the cost, she said.

The "children's cafeterias" are an attempt to fill that void.

Kazuma Omoto, a former participant and aspiring teacher who volunteers at Omura's dinners, said he attends to find himself and learn how to interact with younger children.

"It's a wonderful place for that," the high school junior said. "I come here every week. Going forward I hope I can study and learn many different things myself." AP

AD

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Tel.: (853) 2822 1341

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Stephen Wright, Jakarta

INDONESIA

# Study estimates 100,000 deaths from forest fires' haze

**I**NDONESIAN forest fires that choked a swath of Southeast Asia with a smoky haze for weeks last year may have caused more than 100,000 deaths, according to new research that will add to pressure on Indonesia's government to tackle the annual crisis.

The study by scientists from Harvard University and Columbia University to be published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* is being welcomed by other researchers and Indonesia's medical profession as an advance in quantifying the suspected serious public health effects of the fires, which are set to clear land for agriculture and forestry. The number of deaths is an estimate derived from a complex analysis that has not yet been validated by analysis of official data on mortality.

The research has implications for land-use practices and Indonesia's vast pulp and paper industry. The researchers showed that peatlands within timber concessions, and peatlands overall, were a much bigger proportion of the fires observed by satellite than in 2006, which was another particularly bad year for haze. The researchers surmise that draining of the peatlands to prepare them for pulpwood plantations and other uses made them more vulnerable to fires.

The estimate of early deaths linked to respiratory illness and other causes covers Indonesia and its neighbors Singapore and Malaysia. It dwarfs Indonesia's official toll of 19 that included deaths from illness and the deaths of firefighters. However, the possible scale of serious health consequences was indicated by a statement from the country's disaster management agency in October that said more than 43 million Indonesians were exposed to smoke from the fires and half a million suffered acute respiratory infections.

The study considered only the health impact on adults and



A fireman sprays water to extinguish wildfire on a peatland field in Ogan Ilir, South Sumatra

restricts itself to the effects of health-threatening fine particulate matter, often referred to as PM2.5, rather than all toxins that would be in the smoke from burning peatlands and forests. The bulk of the estimated deaths are in Indonesia, by far the most populous of the three countries and the country with the biggest land area affected by haze.

The fires from July to October last year in southern Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo were the worst since 1997 and exacerbated by El Nino dry conditions. About 261,000 hectares of land burned. Some of the fires started accidentally, but many were deliberately set by companies and villagers to clear land for plantations and agriculture.

Rajasekhar Bala, an environmental engineering expert at the National University of

Singapore, one of five experts who reviewed the paper for The Associated Press and were not involved in the research, said the study is preliminary and involved a "very challenging" task of analyzing the sources and spread of fine particulate matter over several countries and a lengthy time frame.

Even with caveats, it should serve as a "wake-up call" for firm action in Indonesia to curb peatland and forest fires and for regional cooperation to deal with the fallout on public health, he said.

"Air pollution, especially that caused by atmospheric fine particles, has grave implications for human health," he said.

Frank Murray, an associate professor of environment science at Australia's Murdoch University, said the death estimates are not "precise health outcomes" but their overall sca-

le should trigger intensified efforts to deal with the crisis. The study is a major contribution to addressing an international problem, he said.

The study finds there is a high statistical probability that early deaths ranged between 26,300 and 174,300. Its main estimate of 100,300 deaths is the average of those two figures. It predicts 91,600 deaths in Indonesia, another 6,500 in Malaysia and 2,200 in Singapore.

The researchers involved in the study say the model they developed can be combined with satellite and ground station observations to analyze the haze in close to real time. That gives it the potential to be used to direct firefighting efforts in a way that reduces the amount of illness caused, they say.

The annual fires have strained relations between Indonesia and its wealthier neighbors Singapore and Malaysia, who are at the mercy of winds that carry the haze into their terri-

tory from Sumatra.

But the brunt of the crisis is faced by millions of Indonesians in Sumatra and Kalimantan, many of them poor and with little or no means to protect themselves from the blanket of smoke.

"Particles penetrate indoors, and housing in Indonesia is very well ventilated, so I don't think there is any avertive behavior that people there could have taken that would have been effective," said Joel Schwartz, an air pollution epidemiologist at Harvard who co-authored the study. "In Singapore, if you close all the windows and turn on the air conditioning you get some protection, which may have happened."

The Indonesian Medical Association's West Kalimantan chapter said Indonesia faces an overall decline in the health of future generations with social and economic consequences if the situation is not tackled.

"We are the doctors who care for the vulnerable groups exposed to toxic smoke," said Nursyam Ibrahim, deputy head of the West Kalimantan chapter of the association. "And we know how awful it is to see the disease symptoms experienced by babies and children in our care."

Howard Frumpkin, dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Washington, said it is possible the health consequences are greater than indicated by the study because higher incidence of certain health problems in developing countries could make populations more susceptible to the effects of fine particulate matter. **AP**

**■ The number of deaths is an estimate derived from a complex analysis that has not yet been validated by analysis of official data on mortality**

AUSTRALIA

# Damage to Great Barrier Reef costs ship owner USD30 million

**T**HE Australian government reached a 39.3 million Australian dollar (USD29.6 million) settlement with the owners of a Chinese coal carrier to pay for environmental damage caused when the ship ran aground on the Great Barrier Reef six years ago, the environment minister said yesterday.

The government had sued Shenzhen Energy Transport

for at least AUD120 million in Australian Federal Court after the fully laden ship Shen Neng1 went off course in April 2010 and grounded on Douglas Shoal, 100 kilometers east of the town of Rockhampton, among the chain of World Heritage-listed coral reefs.

Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg said Shenzhen Energy Transport has agreed to the out-

of-court-settlement after refusing to accept responsibility for restitution for more than six years.

"Our ongoing actions to pursue funds to clean up the pollution sends an unambiguous signal that damage to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is unacceptable and that we will use every available means to pursue ship owners who are negligent

in causing damage to the reef," Frydenberg said in a statement.

The crash site was contaminated with hundreds of kilograms of paint particles tainted with the highly toxic anti-fouling agent tributyltin.

Tributyltin slows the growth of aquatic organisms on ship hulls, and marine biologists say the particles need to be removed



GETTY IMAGES

from the 40-hectare (100-acre) crash site to allow the area to recover.

Shenzhen Energy Transport had said in court the reef is already healing and the company should not have to pay for a cleanup that is not needed.

Shenzhen Energy Transport's maritime insurer, London P&I Club, has said the government's estima-

ted costs of fixing the reef were unrealistic.

Frydenberg said the cleanup is likely to begin in mid 2017. Of the total, AUD35 million is to be paid to the government to cover the cost of removing polluted rubble. The remaining AUD4.3 million is to cover government costs incurred in the immediate aftermath of the grounding. **AP**

**SYRIA'S** week-long cease-fire, brokered by the United States and Russia, was in doubt yesterday amid repeated violations and with no aid deliveries to the besieged rebel-held part of the northern city of Aleppo, a key point in the truce agreement.

The uncertainty cast doubts on a U.S.-Russian plan to set up a coordination center that would plan strikes against militants in the country.

The two sides, which brokered the truce earlier this month, had said that if it holds for seven days, it would be followed by the establishment of a Joint Implementation Center for both countries to coordinate the targeting of Islamic State and al-Qaida-linked militants.

As violations mount, a senior Syrian opposition official declared the cease-fire "clinically dead," adding that government forces have violated the truce all over the country.

For its part, the Syrian army, which endorsed the U.S.-Russia deal, had said in a statement that the cease-fire would end at midnight Sunday. There have been remarks from the Syrian military in Damascus that the truce might be extended by 72 hours.

A Syrian activist group said 92 people have been killed in Syria since the start of the cease-fire.

SYRIA

# Truce hangs in the balance amid attacks, lack of aid



Activists in Syria's besieged Aleppo protest against the United Nations for what they say is its failure to lift the siege off their rebel-held area

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 29 children and teenagers were among those killed, as well as 17 women.

The figure does not include dozens of Syrian soldiers and

Islamic State militants killed in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour, the Observatory said yesterday.

Yesterday, the opposition reported 254 violations by government forces and their allies

since the truce started on Sept. 12. Syrian state media said there were 32 violations by rebels on Sunday alone.

George Sabra, of the opposition High Negotiations Committee, told The Associated Press that the truce has been repeatedly violated and did not succeed in its main objective — opening roads for aid to enter besieged rebel-held areas.

"Hundreds of thousands of people in Aleppo are waiting for this truce to allow aid to enter the city," he said, adding that there are aid trucks still waiting on the Turkey-Syria border. "I believe that the truce is clinically dead."

Meanwhile, Syrian state TV reported that government warplanes attacked positions of the Islamic State group in eastern Deir el-Zour province yesterday. The station said the airstrikes targeted IS positions in areas such as the Tharda Mountain, which overlooks the air-

port of the city of Deir el-Zour.

The areas hit are close to Syrian army positions that were targeted on Saturday by the U.S.-led coalition. Australian, British and Danish warplanes were involved in that attack on Syrian army positions.

Russia's military has said that it was told by the Syrian army that at least 62 Syrian soldiers were killed in the Deir el-Zour air raid and more than 100 wounded. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights gave a different death toll, saying 90 troops were killed in the strikes. Syria and Russia blasted Washington over the attack.

Syria's Foreign Ministry said Sunday that "American" warplanes repeatedly attacked Syrian army positions the previous afternoon. It said the airstrikes were "on purpose and planned in advance," and killed dozens of Syrian soldiers. **MDT/AP**

AD

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NYC BLAST

# Naturalized US citizen from Afghanistan arrested

**P**OLICE released a photo of a 28-year-old Afghan immigrant that they took into custody late last night in connection to explosions in New York City and New Jersey, following a shootout with officers. Senior government officials have revised their stance from Sunday, now saying that the attacks are looking increasingly like an act of terrorism.

AP PHOTO



This undated photo provided by the FBI shows Ahmad Khan Rahami. The New York Police Department said it is looking for Rahami for questioning in the New York City explosion on Saturday

Ahmad Khan Rahami, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Afghanistan with an address in Elizabeth, New Jersey, should be considered armed and dangerous, Mayor Bill de Blasio said in one of a series of TV appearances just minutes after the photo was released.

In addition to the blast in Chelsea on Saturday, a pipe bomb exploded in a New Jersey shore town before a charity 5K race and an unexploded

pressure cooker device was found blocks away from the explosion site in Chelsea. On Sunday, five explosive devices were discovered at a New Jersey train station.

Authorities are investigating

whether the bombings and explosive devices were related.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said as investigators gathered information they learned there were "certain commonalities among the bombs," leading authorities to believe "that there was a common group behind the bombs."

"We want to get this guy in for questioning," de Blasio said on CNN. "We need the facts to be able to piece all this together. [...] I think we're going to know a lot more in the course of the day. Things are moving very quickly."

Early yesterday, FBI agents swarmed an apartment above a fried chicken restaurant in Elizabeth that's tied to Rahami. The activity came hours after one of five devices found at the nearby Elizabeth train station exploded while a bomb squad robot attempt-

ed to disarm it. No one was injured.

Saturday night's blast in the bustling Chelsea neighborhood in Manhattan injured 29 people, and another unexploded device made out of pressure cooker was found several blocks away. In the immediate aftermath of that bombing, de Blasio and Cuomo were careful to say there was no evidence of a link to international terrorism. Both are now saying that appears to be changing.

"The more we learn with each passing hour is it looks more like terrorism," de Blasio said in a later interview on NY1 News.

Cuomo, in a separate interview on MSNBC, said: "Today's information suggests it may be foreign related but we'll see where it goes. [...] My operating premise is anytime, anywhere, seven days a

week you could have an incident like this."

On Sunday, a federal law enforcement official said the Chelsea bomb contained a residue of Tannerite, an explosive often used for target practice that can be picked up in many sporting goods stores. The discovery of Tannerite may be important as authorities probe whether the two New York City devices and the pipe bomb at the Jersey shore are connected.

Cellphones were discovered at the site of both bombings, but no Tannerite residue was identified in the New Jersey bomb remnants, in which a black powder was detected, said the official, who wasn't authorized to comment on an ongoing investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The bombings in New York City and New Jersey happened the same day that a man stabbed and injured nine people at a Minnesota mall before an off-duty police officer fatally shot him. The St. Cloud police chief said the man reportedly made at least one reference to Allah and asked a victim if he or she was Muslim before attacking. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility. **MDT/AP**

AD

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**星期日~四**



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## what's ON



**FISHERMEN FASHION DESIGN AWARDS EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 11am-5pm (closed on Tuesdays)  
**UNTIL:** September 24  
**ADMISSION:** free  
**VENUE:** The esplanade of Maritime Museum, 1 Largo do Pagode da Barra  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 6375 3464

**EXHIBITION "INNOVATIVE INSPIRATION – PAINTING OF MAK KUONG WENG"**  
**TIME:** 9am-7pm  
**UNTIL:** October 16, 2016  
**VENUE:** Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc Garden, located at No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4100

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

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

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

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

## Offbeat

## OLIVE OIL HELPS FREE MAN STUCK IN JETTY WHILE FETCHING PHONE

A man who got stuck head-first between two rocks on a Rhode Island jetty while trying to retrieve his cellphone has been rescued with the help of olive oil.

WJAR-TV reports (bit.ly/2cmW89E) it happened Saturday afternoon near a fishing area in Point Judith.

Authorities say the man dropped his phone and got stuck up to his chest when he bent down to retrieve it.

Narragansett firefighters and environmental police spent most of the afternoon trying to free him before the tide came in. After about 2 1/2 hours, they were able to remove him with the help of olive oil.

The man went to a hospital to be treated for hypothermia and a small injury to his foot.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:45	RTPi Live
18:00	Precious Pearl (Repetição)
18:50	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S1
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

15 SEP - 21 SEP

## S STORM

ROOM 1

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.45 pm

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, vic Chou, Ada Choi

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

## TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 1

7.30 pm

Director: Yeon Sang-ho

Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, ma Domng-Seok

Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min



## SULLY

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.00, 5.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood, Aaron Eckhart

Starring: Tom Hanks

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

## AT CAFE 6

ROOM 2

7.30 pm

Director: Neal Wu

Starring: Zijian Dong, Cherry Ngan, lin Bohong, Ouyang Nini

Language: Mandarin (Cantonese/ English)

Duration: 103min

## NINE LIVES

ROOM 3

2.15, 6.00, 7.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Barry Sonnenfeld

Starring: Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Garner, Christopher Walken

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

## TRAIN TO BUSAN

ROOM 3

3.50 pm

Director: Yeon Sang-ho

Starring: Gong Yoo, Jung Tu-mi, ma Domng-Seok

Language: Korean (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 97min

## MACAU TOWER

15 SEP - 28 SEP

## SULLY

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Clint Eastwood, Aaron Eckhart

Starring: Tom Hanks

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 96min

## this day in history



## 1967: QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 TAKES TO THE WAVES

The Queen has launched the new Cunard cruise liner named after her, the Queen Elizabeth 2, at a ceremony on the Clydebank.

Tens of thousands of people crowded the river's banks as the Queen appeared on a platform high against the bow of the 963 ft (293.5 metres) long liner, with Prince Philip and Princess Margaret by her side.

In clear tones, she pronounced: "I name this ship Queen Elizabeth the Second. May God bless her and all who sail in her."

She then pressed the launching button, and a bottle of champagne shattered against the huge bows of the ship.

After a pause, the ship began her journey down into the water. She began slowly, but soon gathered speed, hitting 22mph (34.4 kph) before she entered the water stern-first.

A two-foot (0.6m) high wave rose up and travelled across the Clyde, announcing the arrival of Cunard's latest - and probably last - great luxury cruise ship to be built here.

Her launch comes just a few days after Cunard's other great liner, the Queen Mary, made her last transatlantic crossing to New York.

The 58,000-ton QE2 is now Cunard's only big cruise ship.

Since the early 1950s, when cruise liners carried over a million passengers a year across the Atlantic, sea traffic has almost halved to around 600,000 journeys.

By contrast, the airlines are now carrying over five million people each year.

Shipping companies like Cunard are increasingly turning to the pleasure cruise market as their main source of income.

The new QE2 will be fitted out with just this market in mind, with big deck spaces and four swimming pools.

There are nearly 1,000 cabins, restaurants on the upper decks with sea views, cocktail bars, night clubs and a theatre.

The mammoth liners, like the original Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary, were built for speed rather than luxury, and in using them for long, leisurely cruises Cunard has been losing money fast.

The company is hoping to reverse that trend with its first giant cruise ship to be targeted exclusively at the leisure market.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The QE2 made her maiden voyage to New York on 2 May 1969.

She became the company's flagship, and one of the most famous cruise liners in the world. After extensive refits over the years she is now a byword for the ultimate in luxury at sea.

In 1982, she was requisitioned by the British government as a troop transport vessel during the Falklands War.

She was eventually the only ship offering a regularly scheduled transatlantic service.

She began her last season of sailings to New York in 2003 and was replaced in 2004 by Cunard's biggest passenger liner, the Queen Mary 2. The QM2 has also replaced the QE2 as flagship of the British merchant fleet.

The leisure cruise market is now big business, and after 40 years in the doldrums, shipyards are again building massive 50,000- to 80,000- tonne ships.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's all about your love life today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Someone is stepping up and trying to take what's yours...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your big brain is a wonder to behold today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You are feeling quite extravagant today...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Everything is lined up perfectly for you today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's vital that you remain flexible today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your friends need you more than ever today...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You need a greater challenge today...

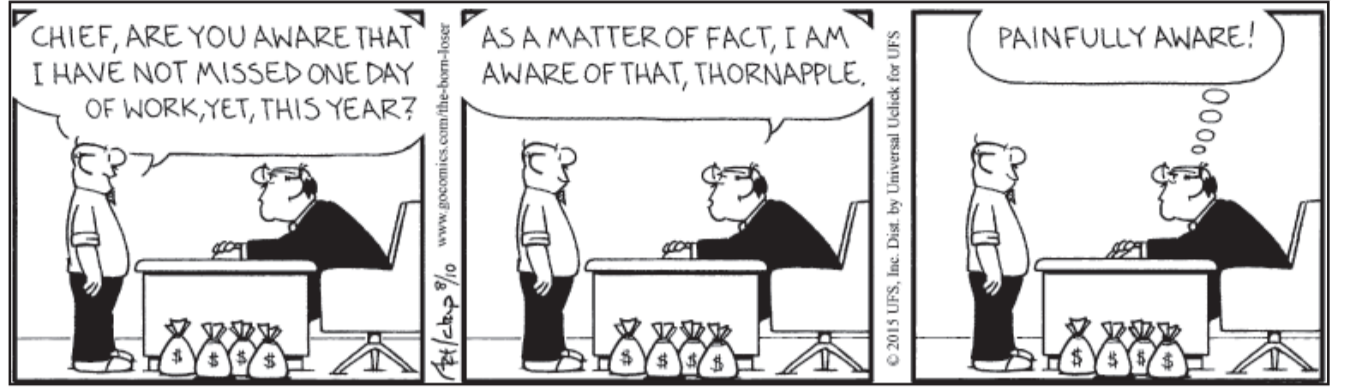
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You may find yourself wishing to be far away...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Things are harder than you want them to be today...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's essential that you find a way to reach a compromise...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your health is making life weird today...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

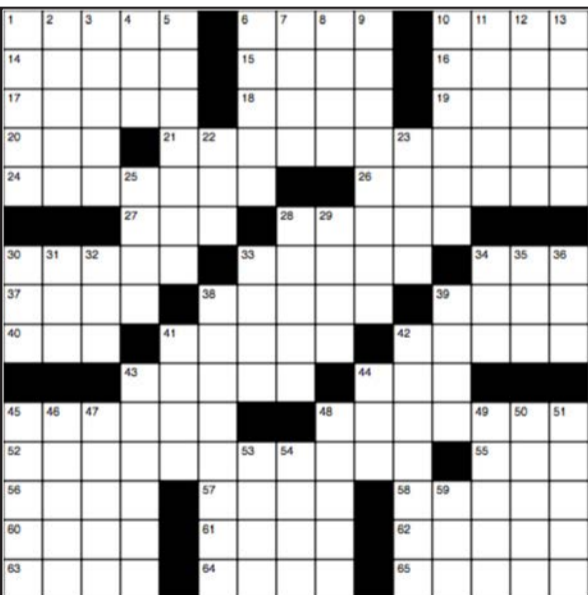
WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, WORLD, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather for various cities like Beijing, Harbin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Street show; 6- Auntie of Broadway; 10- PC alternatives; 14- This is only...; 15- Not closed; 16- Asian inland sea; 17- Move rhythmically; 18- fact; 19- Grandma; 20- Grand \_\_\_ Opry; 21- The act of restoring; 24- Is unobliged to; 26- Hammerlike tool; 27- Campaigned; 28- Worship; 30- Humped ruminant; 33- Freeze over; 34- KGB counterpart; 37- Melt; 38- Smidgens; 39- Singer k.d.; 40- Inexperienced; 41- Comic DeGeneres; 42- Not as many; 43- Cobb, e.g.; 44- Electrically charged atom; 45- Birthplace of St. Francis; 48- Normally; 52- Having existed 100 years; 55- NATO member; 56- Coup d'\_\_\_; 57- Lena of "Havana"; 58- Sticker; 60- Ripped; 61- Let's just leave \_\_\_ that; 62- Cream of the crop; 63- Lulu; 64- Room in a casa; 65- Like non-oyster months;

DOWN: 1- Radioactive gas; 2- \_\_\_ of Two Cities; 3- Actress Zellweger; 4- Corner key; 5- Endless; 6- Damp; 7- PDA entry; 8- You've Made \_\_\_ Very Happy; 9- Immense; 10- Sleeveless cloak; 11- Thin as \_\_\_; 12- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 13- Slope; 22- Ages; 23- Over-50 org.; 25- Sketched; 28- Behaved; 29- Faculty head; 30- Geom. point; 31- I get it!; 32- Mouth; 33- Kansas city; 34- Crow call; 35- Serpent's tail?; 36- Cabinet dept.; 38- State in the central United States; 39- Tuneful Horne; 41- Comfort; 42- One who establishes; 43- Brooding hen; 44- This \_\_\_ test...; 45- Vinegary prefix; 46- Attack; 47- Entrap; 48- Utah's \_\_\_ Mountains; 49- Desi's daughter; 50- Atty.-to-be exams; 51- Some locks; 53- Neighbor of Sask.; 54- Iranian coin; 59- Building add-on;



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Coloane Village Coloane 2 Bedroom Apartment Beautiful Furnished HKD 11,000 / 800 sq ft Ref: 16060593

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One Central, Tower 7 Macau 2 Bedroom Apartment Great location HKD 17,800 / 1,292 sq ft Ref: 16070598



Rob Harris, London

FOOTBALL | EPL

# Mourinho fears United succumbing to pressure after third loss

THE footballing divide in Manchester is becoming clearer a month into the season. On the blue side, Pep Guardiola is thriving at the start of his Manchester City career with five wins out of five in the Premier League.

On the red side, Jose Mourinho is discovering the toils David Moyes and Louis van Gaal endured trying to live up to Alex Ferguson's high achievements during his 26-year reign at United.

After opening the campaign with three successive wins, the record 20-time English champions have now lost three games in around a week.

United's 3-1 loss at Watford yesterday — ending a 30-year unbeaten run against the club based north of London — followed a losing start to the Europa League on Thursday at Feyenoord in the Netherlands. The miserable sequence started last Saturday by losing the first Manchester derby of the season to Guardiola's City.

"I feel that some individuals probably feel the pressure and responsibility too much," Mourinho said at Vicarage Road. "We started the season very well with [winning] the Community Shield and three victories in a row in the Premier League, the



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic looks dejected after Watford's third goal

best start that a new manager has had at Manchester United I think.

"But was I thinking that my team was ready, perfect, unbeatable? Not at all. I was completely aware that we were not

perfect, with lots of players who are not end products and can make their own mistakes."

Although 18-year-old Marcus Rashford marked his first start of the season for Mourinho by canceling out Etienne Capoue's

opener, Watford surged back in front in the 83rd minute at Vicarage Road. Substitute Camilo Zuniga scored within a minute of coming off the bench and Troy Deeney netted a penalty in the fifth minute of stoppage time.

It's only five games into the Premier League season but United is already six points behind the leaders — Guardiola's City.

"We have to improve, no doubt, individually and collectively," Mourinho said. "And that's my job."

If not Manchester United could be missing out on the top-four again and face another season out of the Champions League. But there's a long way to go in the season.

Moyes is trying to revive a reputation tarnished by his time at United at a club renowned for its struggle to stay in the Premier League. Five games into the season, Sunderland only has one point after this

fourth loss (1-0) against Tottenham.

It was a mixed day for Tottenham. Harry Kane scored in consecutive league games for the first time since March by tapping into Sunderland's goal in the second half. But the league's top scorer in the last campaign was stretched off toward the end the fixture at White Hart Lane with an ankle injury.

Kane left the stadium on crutches and Tottenham is waiting to discover the extent of the injury after scans yesterday.

There was an element of mystery over why Sunderland defender Patrick van Aanholt never even started the game, having been removed from the starting lineup during the warm-up and replaced by Jason Deeney.

Moyes cited "medical reasons" but, when pressed on detail, responded: "I would always like to be straight but I'm giving what the best answer is." AP

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# After 1,192 days, Brazil mega-event run ends at Paralympics

Stephen Wade, Rio de Janeiro

**A**FTER 1,192 days, Brazil's run of hosting mega-sports events came to an end on Sunday [yesterday, Macau time] at the Paralympic Games.

It began with soccer's Confederations Cup in 2013, extended to the 2014 World Cup, ran through IOC President Thomas Bach's goodbye speech last month at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, and finished with the closing ceremony of the Paralympics before 45,000 spectators at Rio's Maracana stadium.

Awarded when Brazil was a rising economic power, the sports pageants focused unprecedented attention on the country — much of it unwanted.

As the shows went on, Brazil plunged into a deep recession. A billion-dollar corruption scandal buffeted state-run oil company Petrobras, and President Dilma Rousseff was removed from office in an impeachment trial just days after the Olympics closed.

"This all left a very mixed legacy," Mauricio Santoro, an international relations expert at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, told The Associated Press. "We are going to need some years to evaluate what was the impact, the worth of these events for Brazil."

By a conservative estimate, Brazil spent about USD30 billion organizing the events with a mix of public and private money that included the construction of four white-hippo soccer stadiums for the World Cup. All four are in cities without major teams.

Rio fared better with the Olympics, getting a metro line extension, bus lines, and light-rail. But much of the investment was aimed at Rio's ups-



In this photo released by the IOC, a sign reading "See you in Tokyo" can be seen during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

cale suburb of Barra da Tijuca — not at the city's sprawling favelas, or slums. The Olympic Park and Athletes Village there will be molded into high-priced commercial and residential properties now that the games are done.

"I think the Olympics and Paralympics were a boost to the self-esteem of Brazil," Santoro said. "They happened when everything was going so bad in Brazil. The mere fact they happened without serious problems, without an infrastructure disaster, without a terrorist attack, made Brazil feel better about itself."

Brazil's reputation away from home is another matter. Only a handful of foreign leaders attended the Olympics — compared to about 100 four years ago in London.

The state of Rio de Janeiro is broke and defaulting on bond payments. Some schools have suspended classes, and hospitals are understaffed. Only a last-minute bailout of about 250 million reals (\$76.5

million) from the federal and local governments saved the Paralympics from a shortfall in the organizing committee's privately funded operating budget.

"There was a feeling that Brazil is such a big mess," Santoro said. "How could you have a good opinion of this country?"

Organizers bragged about legacy, but failed to deliver on a big promise made to secure the bid: the clean-up of Guanabara Bay, an open sewer that receives much of the city's untreated raw waste.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes acknowledged the clean-up was a "missed opportunity," one the International Olympic Committee overlooked and often defended.

The Olympics endured some rough going, plagued by empty seats, organizational glitches and scandals — one involving American swimmer Ryan Lochte and another in which high-ranking IOC member Patrick Hickey was arrested for scalping tickets. Hickey is still in Brazil awaiting trial and de-

nies any wrongdoing.

Bach also skipped the opening of the Paralympics to attend a mourning ceremony for former West Germany president and foreign minister Walter Scheel. His office said he missed Sunday's closing ceremony to be in New York to take part in the United Nations Refugee Summit.

Police investigators in Brazil want to question Bach about email exchanges he had with Hickey related to Ireland's ticket allocation. He's not accused of wrongdoing, but he could be held if he arrives in Brazil.

Against most predictions, the Paralympics were a smoother ride with grassroots support. Arenas were packed with many tickets selling at just \$3 apiece, in contrast to the Olympics, where many tickets were sold as part of high-end hospitality packages and often went unused.

The Paralympics also topped the Olympics in compelling stories, and in some performances.

No story was more moving than that of 37-year-old Belgian Marieke Vervoort, who won a silver medal in wheelchair racing. She has a degenerative spine disease and talked of plans to end her life by euthanasia when she can no longer endure the pain.

"For me, I think death is something like they operate on you, you go to sleep and you never wake up," Vervoort said. "For me, it's something peaceful."

The top four finishers in the

## China topped the medal table at the Paralympics, followed by Britain, Ukraine and the US

men's 1,500 — in the T13 class for visually impaired runners — all had better times than the Olympic champion in Rio, American Matthew Centrowitz. Abdellatif Baka of Algeria won in 3 minutes, 48.29 seconds. Centrowitz ran 3:50.00 in an admittedly slow, tactical race.

German amputee long-jumper Marcus Rehm, who jumps with a carbon fiber blade and won gold in Rio, also holds the long jump world record of 8.40 meters. This is better than the winning jump in the Rio Olympics at 8.38 meters.

There was tragedy, too, when Iranian Bahman Golbarnezhad, 48, died Saturday after crashing in a road-cycling race.

China topped the medal table at the Paralympics, which is increasingly driven by nationalism — much like the Olympics. Britain, Ukraine and the United States were next on the table.

"The Paralympics are a high-performance sporting event between countries," IPC spokesman Craig Spence said. "The goal is to win the most gold medals here. That's what every sport is about. It's about winning."

**U.S.** Open quarterfinalist Ana Konjuh continued her impressive run of form with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Tatjana Maria in the opening round of the Guangzhou Open yesterday.

The 18-year-old Konjuh, who upset No. 4 seed Agnieszka Radwanska in New York before falling to eventual finalist Karolina Pliskova, defeated Ma-

### TENNIS

## Konjuh advances to second round of Guangzhou Open

ria in just under one hour despite double-faulting seven times and converting on less than half of her first serves.

The third-seeded Konjuh also beat Maria in the first round at the U.S. Open.

Fifth-seeded Alison

Riske of the United States also advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 win over China's Xun Fangying and sixth-seeded Danka Kovinic of Montenegro defeated China's Wang Yafan 6-3, 6-4.

The Guangzhou International Women's Open is a tennis tour-

namment held in the provincial capital annually since 2004. Last year's singles winner was Serbian Jelena Janković, while India's Sania Mirza and Switzerland's Martina Hingis were jointly crowned doubles champions. **MDT/AP**



Ana Konjuh of Croatia during the U.S. Open tennis tournament on September 5

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



THE CHOICE OF ENGLISH

I often hear people complaining how terribly Macau ranks in terms of English language usage. "Hong Kong speaks English, here [in Macau] no one does."

Does this criticism sound familiar to you? You may even be one of those who have resorted to this comparison. Of course, other people argue that "if they don't even need to use English, why should they have to speak a language which is not their own?"

So here are my questions.

First, does Macau really need to speak English well? Second, if Macau does need to speak English well, then why? And finally, are there any groups who should speak English as opposed to everyone speaking it?

My answer to the first question is: yes, Macau does need a proficient level of English.

My answer to the second question is: yes, especially when Macau claims to be international. That is:

- Even if Macau is fluent in ten languages derived from Chinese ethnicities (no need to argue whether a dialect is a language or not), Macau will not be considered international. Solely speaking one language wherein characters are similar does not make it international. Only when a culture is mixed with several different types of languages does it become international.

- Macau still has nationalities from other parts of the world coming to and staying in the territory.

- Realistically, if Macau is mainly a service industry city and wants to make money from its clients, then it should be able to speak its clients' native languages.

This situation differs, however, for those who come to Macau to work (for better pay), a group in which I myself am included. For people like me, who are service providers, we are expected to speak several languages, and not to complain that people who come to me and ask for service don't speak English.

Well, you know what? We are the ones who want our clients' money. That is life in Macau: it wants its clients' money.

Lastly, my answer to the third question is: yes, there are only certain groups who "should" speak English, while the rest should make the decision based on their personal interests.

For me, language is a kind of colonization.

Think about it: one day, dogs start meowing and cats start barking. How would you react? For me, I might view it in a humorous way because, after all, I will never see animals in the same way that some people in this world think and talk about them. As the Chinese saying goes, "you are not the fish, so how do you understand the fish's happiness? You are not [me], so how do you know that I don't understand the fish's happiness?"

Macau is a city dominated by Cantonese speakers. However, in general, people here don't ask "invaders" to speak Cantonese. Obviously, the reasons behind this stance are open for discussion.

Instead of asking people like me, a temporary passenger, to speak their language, they resort to Mandarin. Some of them do not understand Mandarin, to which they reply "I don't understand you," which in fact is a subtle way of saying, "please go away, I am not going to explain that to you." Some understand, upon which they give you instructions and provide you with information. Same goes for English.

English is never a 'must' for everyone. It's a personal choice.

THE BUZZ PUERTO RICO TO INSTALL 200 SLOT MACHINES AT AIRPORT

Puerto Rico's government says it plans to install 200 slot machines at the island's main international airport to boost revenues amid a dire economic crisis.

Tourism officials said that the machines are expected to generate USD1.8 million a year and create 23 jobs.

The first 120 machines have been installed in

Terminals A and B. The remainder will be installed in October in Terminals A and C.

The \$125,000 project comes amid an increase in the closure of casinos across the U.S. territory.

Puerto Rico is mired in a decade-long economic crisis and seeking to restructure nearly \$70b in public debt that the governor has said is unpayable.



AP PHOTO

Death toll rises to 18 in Thai boat sinking, others missing

Natnicha Chuwiruch, Bangkok

SEARCHERS in Thailand have recovered 18 bodies and are continuing to look for at least 12 people missing from a heavily loaded boat that sank in a river over the weekend, officials said.

The two-deck boat was carrying more than 100 Muslims on a holiday excursion when it sank Sunday afternoon on the Chao Phraya river 80 kilometers north of Bangkok. The boat evidently ran up in shallows then took on water, sinking in less than two minutes just a few me-

ters from the riverbank.

The upper deck — its open railings brightly painting in red with white trim — remained visible above the muddy water as rescuers worked to stabilize the boat to be searched.

Bodies were still being retrieved yesterday afternoon, with 18 recovered so far, a Marine Department official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to release information. Some bodies were found in the boat, while others had drifted downstream.

In addition to the dead and missing, 44 people

were injured. Twelve people are unaccounted for, though others may still be missing.

A Harbor Department official, Surasak Sansombat, was quoted earlier by Thai-PBS television as saying that the boat's listed capacity was 50 passengers and it probably sank from overloading.

"Many passengers tried to jump out of the boat and scrambled toward the shore, which was about three to five meters away," Annop Kudephan, a 50-year-old survivor, was quoted as saying in The Nation newspaper. AP

John Lewis to receive Liberty Medal for civil rights work



Rep. John Lewis

U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia will be honored today [Macau time] with Philadelphia's Liberty Medal for his dedication to civil rights.

In announcing the award in June, Natio-

nal Constitution Center CEO Jeffrey Rosen says Lewis' leadership "helped to extend the blessings of liberty and equality to all Americans."

Lewis is a civil rights veteran who was repeatedly threatened with violence while working for voting rights in the Jim Crow South. He was also the youngest speaker at the 1963 March on Washington. He has represented Georgia in the U.S. House since 1987.

The medal is given annually to those who strive to secure liberty for people worldwide.

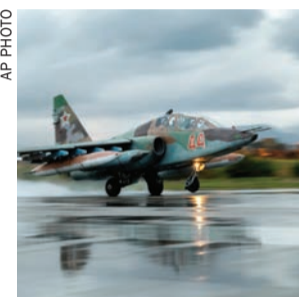
Previous Liberty Medal winners include the Dalai Lama, Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai and rock singer Bono. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**SOUTH AFRICA's** government says universities in the country can increase fees by no more than 8 percent next year, despite student warnings that they would protest against any new hikes.



AP PHOTO

**SYRIA** State TV is quoting President Bashar Assad as saying that the airstrike of the U.S.-led coalition against his troops was meant to support the Islamic State group. He described the attack as a "blatant American aggression." More on p14

**GERMANY** Chancellor Angela Merkel says she takes responsibility for her party's poor showing in Berlin state elections on the weekend. Speaking yesterday, Merkel called the election result "bitter."



AP PHOTO

**SWITZERLAND** Swiss commodity traders accused of deliberately blending toxic fuel and dumping it in West Africa are blaming African governments for failing to invest in refineries and newer vehicles. A Geneva-based association says "the role of improving fuel quality in Africa clearly rests with African governments, not with the fuel suppliers."

**SLOVENIA** Several dozen refugees have staged a protest in an asylum center in Slovenia, complaining that the EU nation is slow in processing their asylum requests. The refugees have also complained over what they described as bad living conditions in the center.