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The average daily wage of construction workers decreased by 2.5 percent in the third quarter of 2016

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The Court of Second Instance has recently ruled that a HKD2.5 million investment in a VIP gambling promoter should be considered a loan. The Times spoke with legal experts who have mixed views about the verdict

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WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ's special forces entered the outskirts of Mosul yesterday, taking the state television building and advancing despite fierce resistance by Islamic State group fighters who hold the city, an Iraqi general said. More on p13

PHILIPPINES The military said yesterday it has killed 70 Abu Sayyaf militants and captured 32 others in an offensive that began in July against the group, which is accused of kidnapping sailors from neighboring countries for ransom. More on p11

INDONESIA Four bodies were recovered yesterday from the wreckage of a cargo plane that crashed in Indonesia's remote, mountainous Papua province a day earlier, Indonesia's search and rescue agency said.



KOREA North Korea is joyfully jumping into a bizarre political scandal rocking Seoul, calling it the inevitable result of a corrupt regime and saying the administration is "the most deformed, abnormal and stupid in contemporary society." More on p11

NEPAL Army soldiers and local villagers have finished digging through rocks and boulders to drain a glacial lake just south of Mount Everest, bringing the water to a safe level and possibly preventing an outburst that could have flooded several villages, officials said yesterday.

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UP 8.8 PERCENT

Gaming revenue gains for third month.

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Central hospital accredited by Australian health care organization

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LEGAL WISE BY MdME



João Benazra Faria*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AVIATION INDUSTRY AND BEYOND

The Macau International Airport (MIA) has recently passed 20 years since its official opening in November 1995. Since then it has experienced remarkable growth until today, with a couple of exceptions, achieving a volume of 630,000 passengers last August. The Macau aviation industry is expected to grow even further with the development of new transportation infrastructure in and around Macau. However, it is crucial to promote synergies between the air transportation services and the other means of transport, otherwise value will likely be lost.

As a matter of fact, with the exception of the year of 2003 (due to being affected by the SARS crisis), which registered a drop in passenger traffic of about 30 percent compared with 2002, and of the period from 2008 until 2011 (commencement of direct flights between the Mainland and Taiwan), during which the drop reached 17 percent in 2009, the MIA has consistently registered two-digit year-on-year growth in passenger traffic, despite being in competition with four international airports within a 150 km radius. Only in 2014 and 2015 did passenger traffic growth remain below that threshold, at 9 percent and 6 percent respectively.

Considering that passenger traffic keeps growing steadily, but it only represents a

fraction of the total visits to Macau, great opportunities for the economy as a whole and for the aviation industry in particular lie ahead. This is especially so since Macau is about to witness one of the biggest revamps of its transportation network in its history, as local and Macau related landmark infrastructures are (hopefully) to be completed in the near future, including the new maritime ferry terminal, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the Taipa section of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, not to mention the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge in project phase and the Guangzhou-Zhuhai Intercity High Speed Railway Gongbei Station already completed.

The benefits of the aforementioned infrastructure to the economy as a whole are considerable, but I would emphasize those in connection with helping Macau position itself as a world tourism and leisure center and as a service platform for economic and trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. This is in line with the MSAR's first Five Year Development Plan, as such infrastructure will greatly improve people's mobility inside the territory and further integrate Macau in the pearl delta region, therefore creating conditions for a tourism sector not so dependent on gaming and for other industries and activities, such as those related with

conventions and exhibitions and logistics, as people and cargo may move and be moved in, out and around Macau, in a much more efficient manner.

As far as the aviation industry is concerned, I would particularly find it productive to ensure that the Taipa section of LRT system be integrated with the corresponding system on the Macau peninsula, ensuring that the LRT system is connected to the new point of entry of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and to the Gongbei border, so that the MIA has the actual possibility of serving not only the people of Macau, but also those of the adjacent regions.

Both the regulator and the MIA concessionaire have been preparing for such a scenario (based on a plan covering the airport's development needs for 20 years, released in 2011 and updated in 2015). They have been negotiating agreements aimed at developing new routes and various forms of cooperation, opening the MIA to new operators, modernizing and expanding its facilities and services, continuously attracting new airlines, creating innovative mechanisms such as the Express Link Service (which enables passengers to cross two customs, with one check point only), and so forth.

Recently, however, three lawmakers reportedly urged the Macau government to consider not building the LRT section in

the Macau peninsula, but rather extend it from Taipa to the Barra district only and replacing the remainder by a monorail and by a new road along the coastline of the peninsula, as the works of the LRT would cause severe traffic jams and other inconveniences.

Although I might understand that the implementation of such project will certainly involve a significant disruption to people's daily lives, it will be for a greater good. In my perspective, the Macau peninsula should have its own section of the LRT system, duly integrated with the respective Taipa section of the LRT, creating a unified LRT system that would connect Taipa island and the Macau peninsula with all the points of entry of the above mentioned infrastructures, creating a dynamic that will likely pay off in the future.

In conclusion, although the aforesaid infrastructures present great opportunities for the Macau economy in general and for the aviation industry in particular, they must be developed in an integrated manner, otherwise the whole will not be greater than the sum of the parts, and Macau might well miss a good occasion to do something that not only improves the quality of life of the people, but actually contributes to the much-vaunted diversification of the economy.

* Senior Associate, MdME

Contemporary 'Carmen' dance show to play CCM this week



Daniel Beitler

A dance adaptation of George Bizet's celebrated "Carmen", created by Swedish choreographer Johan Inger and performed by the National Dance Company of Spain (CND), will be held at the Macau Cultural Center (CCM) on the evenings of November 3 and 4.

The performance will blend the original score of Bizet's operatic masterpiece with additional contemporary music and culture, all designed by Inger to be observed through the "innocent eyes" of a young boy.

The plot revolves around a love triangle composed by Don José, the main prison guard, the very beautiful Carmen and the Toreador, who in this ver-

sion is portrayed more as a pop star. The story is famously filled with "intense lust and violent moments", reads a statement from CCM, that ultimately leads to the heroin's death.

Combining Southern European passion with Nordic charm, the performance presents the familiar legend of the fiery character in a refreshing light, according to CCM. "Re-

moved from the usual stereotypes associated with the story, Johan Inger's 'Carmen' stages a sober, contemporary version with a subtle proximity to the [performances of the] 1960s," the statement continued.

Speaking to the media ahead of the performances later this week, the CND's artistic director, Jose Carlos Martinez, explained that in their adapted

version, the part of a young boy has been introduced to allow the audience to understand the story through his "innocent eyes".

The young boy, however, will in fact be portrayed by a young woman, Martinez explained, who is a talented dancer from the company.

"With the boy's presence here, we can imagine the whole piece. Without the boy, it will be a performance of Carmen with nothing interesting other than the choreography. So instead of having just two people on stage [Carmen and Don José], we will have three people," he explained. "The energy is different."

"What I wanted to do was create a classical piece but put some fresh air inside. Even if it [uses] a classical choreography, I thought it was more interesting to try something contemporary," added Martinez.

Founded in 1979, the CND is a world-renowned dance company with a history of cooperation with famous artistic directors and choreographers, including Nacho Duato, who took over its directorship for more than 20 years.

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MACAU'S gaming revenue grew for a third straight month in October as China's Golden Week holidays brought in more visitors to the city's new family-friendly projects.

Gross gaming revenue rose 8.8 percent to 21.8 billion patacas (USD2.73 billion), according to Macau's Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. That compares with the median estimate for a 5.5 percent advance in a Bloomberg survey of seven analysts.

The results from October appear to show the sector growing strongly, following 7.4 percent and 1.1 percent year-on-year gains in September and August respectively.

The growth girds momentum in reversing a 26-month slump as the world's biggest casino hub transforms itself into a tourist destination.

Macau, the only place in China where casinos are legal, has opened new billion-dollar resorts that target recreational gamblers instead of the high rollers that form the bulk of its gambling customers. Almost a million Chinese tourists visited the former Portuguese enclave in the first seven days of October for Golden Week, the most in at least a decade.

"The strong beat of the monthly gaming revenue is very likely due to the decent performance of both the mass market and the VIP business, and it will improve market sentiment," said Richard Huang, a gaming analyst from Nomura International. The new casinos will continue to boost the market for the rest of the year, he said.

GAMING

Macau revenue gains for third month on tourism boost



Macau casino shares extended gains after the data was released. MGM China Holdings Ltd. advanced as much as five percent while Sands China Ltd. gained as much as 4.3 percent. The Bloomberg Intelligence Macau Gaming Index gained as much as 2.4 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng index rose 1.2 percent at 3:38 p.m.

The better-than-expected results show Macau is at a turning point, wrote Union Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen in a note yesterday. He forecasts the city's gaming revenue will grow 11 percent in November.

If Govertsen is correct, next month will mark the

strongest year-on-year growth since March 2014, about three months before the gaming downturn began.

With the addition of the October results, Macau's gross gaming revenue for the first 10 months of 2016 now stands just 5.8 percent lower than in the same period last year.

Angela Han, an analyst with China Merchant Securities, told the South China Morning Post that they "think Macau's fundamental will continue improving and [...] the city's estimated gross gaming revenue next year to record two percent year-on-year growth after a four percent estimated decline for 2016."

The gains also suggest the impact of last month's detention of 18 Crown Resorts Ltd employees in China is "non-existent" for Macau casinos, wrote Govertsen. Chinese

authorities detained the Crown employees for gambling-related crimes following warnings to the Australia casino operator last year to halt efforts to attract high rollers from

the mainland to gamble overseas.

After the detentions, the head of the Macau gaming regulator Paulo Chan said the arrests won't affect Macau's casinos after he met with the city's six casino operators.

Operators based in Macau have not been investigated so far as they have "closer communication ties" with Chinese government officials and a better understanding of how to conduct business in mainland China, said Sudhir Kalé, founder of GamePlan Consultants, which has worked with Crown and other large casinos.

"As non-Macau companies shy away from VIP activities in China, albeit perhaps temporarily, this should generally accrue to Macau's benefit," Govertsen wrote. **MDT/Bloomberg**

MONTHLY GROSS GAMING REVENUE IN 2016 AND 2015

	Monthly Gross Revenue			Accumulated Gross Revenue		
	2016	2015	Variance	2016	2015	Variance
Jan	18,674	23,748	-21.4%	18,674	23,748	-21.4%
Feb	19,521	19,542	-0.1%	38,195	43,290	-11.8%
Mar	17,981	21,487	-16.3%	56,176	64,777	-13.3%
Apr	17,341	19,167	-9.5%	73,517	83,944	-12.4%
May	18,389	20,346	-9.6%	91,906	104,289	-11.9%
Jun	15,881	17,355	-8.5%	107,787	121,645	-11.4%
Jul	17,774	18,615	-4.5%	125,560	140,259	-10.5%
Aug	18,836	18,623	+1.1%	144,396	158,882	-9.1%
Sept	18,396	17,133	+7.4%	162,792	176,015	-7.5%
Oct	21,815	20,059	+8.8%	184,607	196,074	-5.8%

New arrests for domestic violence

A 53-year-old local man, surnamed Un, was arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) for alleged domestic violence, it was announced on Monday.

The incident marks the second domestic violence case arrest since the city's domestic violence law made such abuse a crime last month.

According to the 42-year-old victim, she and Un, who was the owner of a renovation construction company, have been married since 1997, and have one kid. The victim was a mainland resident who immigrated to Macau after her marriage.

MOTHER ARRESTED FOR PHYSICALLY ABUSING SIX-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER

YESTERDAY, A 41-year-old local woman was arrested by the Judiciary Police for abusing her six-year-old daughter. The abuse was reported by the school where the girl is studying. The mother beat her daughter with a clothing hanger because she did not take a shower on time. The forensics team found several bruises on the victim's body, which are believed to have been caused

over multiple occasions. The suspect was unemployed at the time, and all her income relied on the help of her friends and on her previous savings. She is single and has seven children aged between two to 15 years old. The authority stated that she had a record of physical abuse, relating to offences committed against another child of hers back in January this year

In 2004, Un's wife found out that he was having an affair with another woman, but did not leave him because she was an immigrant and had no relatives in Macau.

In 2005, Un, partly as a consequence of his alcohol abuse, allegedly started to beat his wife frequently. The victim, afraid she might be beaten again if she reported it to the police, did not ask for assistance from anyone.

It is alleged that on the days of October 10 and 24, Un physically abused his wife, after which the victim headed to the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) seeking help.

IAS arranged temporary accommodation for her as to keep her away from her husband. After moving out, the victim received messages from Un, who pledged to kill her. The victim then reported the abuse to the police on October 25. Un was arrested last Sunday.

According to a talk between elements of the PJ and Un's 20-year-old daughter, the victim had been suffering from Un's long-term mental and physical abuse.

Last month, a 39-year-old local man, surnamed Wong, was arrested by the PJ for alleged domestic violence. It marked the first domestic violence case arrest since the city's domestic laws came into effect. Wong had been abusing his wife for 10 years.

Construction wages down as Cotai projects finish

THE average daily wage of construction workers decreased by 2.5 percent in the third quarter of 2016 when compared to the previous quarter, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The decline, which saw average daily wages fall to MOP768, is being attributed by DSEC to a reduction in overtime following the completion of large-scale construction projects in Cotai.

In the same period, resident construction workers saw their average daily wage drop by 2.1 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP961, while that of their non-resident counterparts rose by 2.2 percent to MOP687.

Analyzed by job role, the average daily wage of skilled and semi-skilled workers was MOP773, down by 3.5 percent quarter-to-quarter. Among them, the average daily wages of structural iron erectors (MOP790),



painters (MOP719), bricklayers and plasterers (MOP651) and concrete formwork carpenters (MOP820) decreased by 12 percent, 10.8 percent, 10.6 percent and 7.8 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, the wages of air-conditioning mechanics (MOP849) and carpenters (MOP1,142) increased by 3.2 percent and 2.9 percent respectively.

After discounting the effect of inflation, the wage index of construction workers

(100) for the third quarter of 2016 decreased by three percent quarter-to-quarter in real terms, and that of local construction workers (125.1) dropped by 1.7 percent.

As for construction materials, the average price of concrete fell by 3.5 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP797 per cubic meter in the third quarter of 2016, while the average price of spiral and round reinforcing steel bars edged down by 0.2 percent to MOP4,410 per ton.

GAMING

Wynn settles dispute with general contractor

GAMING subsidiary Wynn Macau has announced that it has settled its disputes with one of the general contractors of the entity's latest Macau resort – the Wynn Palace.

The two parties had been in a dispute regarding the scope of the project agreed and the cost and timeliness regarding its completion. Wynn Macau had accused Leighton Contractors (Asia) Ltd of failing to deliver as per the contractual agreement of the parties.

The casino operator had attributed delays in the construction of the Wynn Palace to the contractor. However, Leighton Contractors (Asia) refuted the allegations, insisting that the scope of the project had been amended and therefore previous estimations of cost and time were no longer valid.

Wynn Macau reached an agreement with Leighton Contractors (Asia) Ltd that the former will increase the total guaranteed maximum price payable to the latter by USD390 million (about MOP3.12 billion), and also to pay an additional fee of nearly USD200 million (about MOP1.6 billion).

The initial total guaranteed maxi-

imum price payable had been set at USD2.57 billion, and the updated figure of USD2.96 billion marks an increase of around 15 percent.

Wynn Macau said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Sunday evening that it would "forego pursuing Leighton Asia for any claim for liquidated damages or monetary claims."

The agreement, which was reached on Friday according to Wynn, will put aside "differing views" and avoid the "potential for protracted dispute resolution proceedings that could require substantial time commitments of senior management associated with such proceedings, as well as the inherent uncertainties as to [their] outcome," read the statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. It will also terminate the bilateral cross-claims of the parties; that the other was responsible for the delay and for over-budget expenses.

Wynn Macau's latest resort opened to the public on August 22, roughly coinciding with the first positive gaming revenue figures for the territory in about two years. It had initially been scheduled to open some five months earlier, on March 25. **DB**

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Dore group investors stage a protest

Paulo Barbosa

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has recently ruled that a HKD2.5 million investment in a VIP gambling promoter should be considered a loan. The Times spoke with legal experts who have mixed views about the verdict, which public broadcaster TDM says “could have a huge impact in several high-profile cases, even those involving junkets that went bankrupt.”

Cases of junkets who offer locals investment schemes in return for huge interest rates are usual in Macau. Those unregulated investments are informally seen as deposits and some of them recently went bust. The most high profile case that went wrong was the Dore Entertainment theft, with many small local investors unable to withdraw the money they “deposited” in the junket group.

There are others, such as the one which led to the TSI verdict in September, that happened back in 2009.

The complainant knew a junket operator, Cheong Wai Leng, who proposed a deal to her. Shortly after, they signed several contracts in accordance with which the plaintiff “financed” the VIP club operating in a local casino in return for a three percent monthly interest rate. The total investment made was HKD2.5 million.

Two months after the last deposit was made, the plaintiff stopped receiving interest and the VIP club closed. Efforts were unsuccessfully made to have the total amount invested returned. The accuser went to court in order to get

Mixed views on junket investment verdict

the investment made back, plus interest.

TSI cites the Civil Code to note that within the limits defined by law, there is a right to freely formulate a contract between parties. In this case, TSI stated that the contract is apparently a deposit. However, it is noted that “those contracts require that the deposit holder must be a bank, something that doesn’t occur in the case trialed.” The appeal court also ruled that the contract couldn’t be considered as a participation in the junket company, since the complainant didn’t have a share of profits (or eventually incur losses), receiving instead interest for the investment made.

Hence, TSI says that the investment made by the plaintiff should be considered a loan

While casinos are governed by detailed sets of rules, the same cannot be said about gaming promoters.

JORGE MENEZES
LAWYER

and be repaid with interest. But the three percent interest per month, which corresponds to 36 percent a year, is above the maximum allowed by law.

The court ruled that the interest rate could not be higher than three times the legal interest rate, which is equivalent to an annual interest rate of 29.25 percent.

Asked to comment on TSI’s ruling, José Espírito Santo Leitão, a partner at MdME law firm, told the Times that the verdict “opens good prospects for the rights of other persons injured by these arrangements as it is likely that local courts will also recognize their rights to repayment and will refuse to treat the amounts as losses arising from investment.”

“The decision is based on the position – with which we agree – that a contract providing for a temporary disbursement of money (one year term), with a fixed interest rate (three percent over the loaned amount), detached from any consideration of profit or loss of the investment and ability for the creditor to recover the money with two month’s notice, falls within the concept of a loan resulting from Macau law, and not of an investment,” José Espírito Santo Leitão complemented.

Macau-based lawyer Jorge Menezes told the Times that underlying the case are the consequences of a lack of re-

gulations for gaming promoter activities, namely the way they finance themselves and operate.

“There are rules on credit granted for gaming activities. But these rules cover essentially credit granted to gamblers by casinos or gaming promoters. DICJ has recently issued measures aiming at tightening supervision and control over gaming promoters accounting and a new instruction on anti-money laundering measures, which increase their reporting obligations. However, as this recent judgment exemplifies, the financing of gaming promoters is essentially governed by the general law,” he told the Times.

That is the reason that leads TSI to quote the Civil Code and state that any agreement that is not forbidden by law, is lawful and should be fulfilled by the parties.

“The court found that this was a valid loan. Had it found otherwise we would be facing similar troubles. The problem is that the main goal of the general rules applied by the court lies in protecting and furthering the private parties’ interests and adjudicating fairly. Yet, the public interest should be addressed by the government. While casinos are governed by detailed sets of rules, the same cannot be said about gaming promoters,” Menezes argues.

According to the lawyer, financial institutions, investment funds, casinos and others are subject to stringent financial procedures and constraints, partly because they deal with huge amounts of money. Inversely, junkets are left “nearly untouched by the law.”

“The truth is that gaming promoters have been living in a sort of no one’s land, a rather convenient limbo that has been extremely profitable in the last few decades. This should be tackled. This is a matter of obvious political relevance.

Another concern is lack of transparency. Prevention depends on transparency. There is way too much protection of confidentiality as if there was something magical about what they do. There should be more reporting and more disclosure,” Menezes continued. “Journalists, politicians, non-profit organizations, and the community in general should have access to more information. We do not even know which gaming promoters are registered with each concessionaires or sub-concessionaires. This is just an example among many. It is puzzling.”

Claiming that gaming promoters “are pivotal for money laundering and terrorism financing concerns,” Menezes thinks that “the integrity of Macau’s economy can be shaken by unregulated entities dealing with millions or billions as the recent past has shown.”

It is still not clear if TSI’s decision validates the popular practice in Macau of trusting junkets with savings money, as if they were banks or benefactors.

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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

CHCSJ accredited by Australian health care organization

Julie Zhu

THE Hospital Conde de Sao Januário (CHCSJ) held a ceremony yesterday at its facilities in order to celebrate having passed the accreditation test by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) in recognition of CHCSJ's international standardized medical technologies and health care services.

Alexis Tam, the Secretary for Culture and Social Affairs, told visitors at the ceremony that CHCSJ was rated excellent in four (out of 47) criteria, specifically for patients' participation, prevention of healthcare users' falls, provision of public information, and for security management.

"We are indeed very proud of it," said Tam.

CHCSJ is the first medical service provider in town to be accredited by the ACHS. In the neighboring region, Hong Kong, 26 healthcare institutions are accredited by the organization. In mainland China only one is.

"Since the new government of Macau came into the office, we did a lot to improve people's livelihood and healthcare standards," Tam claims. "The government's first goal is [to] provide first class healthcare to the citizens of Macau."

Last year, the ACHS conferred three excellent ratings to the CHCSJ. Tam pledges that, from now on, more review sessions on the hospital's hardware and services will be ar-



ranged in order to keep ensuring that a good service is provided.

CHCSJ passed the test after a five-day assessment period. Desmond Yen, executive director of international business at ACHS, told the media that before the association came to CHCSJ to undertake the evaluation, ACHS informed the hospital that a test would be conducted imminently.

Yen believes that the time given to the hospital to prepare for the test was quite short, because not doing so could allow the hospital to present an abnormally perfect situation to the evaluators. That the CHCSJ still passed indicated that they had passed the test under normal conditions and thus met the ACHS's requirements.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Kuok Cheong U, director of CHCSJ, reaffirmed to the media that the ACHS sent medical professionals from Hong Kong, from the Middle East and from Australia to CHCSJ for four

days in order to evaluate their practical work.

Kuok stated to the media that the accreditation is reviewed every four years. In order to obtain the next accreditation, three self-reviews have been planned to be conducted in the three years before the Australians' next evaluation. One self-review was already conducted on October 24.

The three self-reviews are planned for October of 2018, 2019 and 2020, carrying a budget of MOP48,800, MOP290,280, and MOP48,800, respectively. "The Health Bureau and the CHCSJ are considering whether or not, after the review in 2019, we will participate in the next accreditation evaluation. Maybe it could be possible for ourselves to develop a medical improvement plan," said Kuok.

The ACHS is an authorized accreditation agency with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The ACHS is authorized to accredit healthcare organizations to the National Safety and Quality Health Services Standards (NSQHSS).

ACHS has been developing standards for health care organizations, and in partnership with government and other health care stakeholders, since its inception in 1974. The ACHS was the first organization in Australia to develop standards that applied across the entire health care sector. Its standards are recognized and implemented worldwide.

UM student wins 14th Portuguese Speech Contest



University of Macau (UM) student Leong Kin Man won the championship of the 14th Portuguese Speech Contest held yesterday. The theme of this year's competition was 'the art of life'. In his speech, Leong discussed the joy and challenges of learning Portuguese, how his study trip in Portugal improved his spoken Portuguese, and interesting anecdotes about local culture. Leong, from the Faculty of Law, enrolled in the five-year Bachelor of Law program (conducted in Chinese and Portuguese). "During my first year at UM, I went to Portugal to study as an exchange student, which gave me a good grounding in the language," he said. Organized by UM's Department of Portuguese, the Portuguese Speech Contest is an annual event that aims to provide a platform for local college students enrolled in Portuguese programs to showcase their language skills.

AD



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Uber's India rival said in talks to raise about USD600m

Saritha Rai

INDIA'S largest ride-hailing startup, Ola, is in talks to raise about USD600 million and may close the deal by year end, as it seeks to counter an increasingly aggressive Uber Technologies Inc in the coveted India market, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The funds are coming from new and existing investors and would give six-year old Ola enough capital for at least 18 months, said the person, asking not to be named because the talks are private. Negotiations are ongoing and the amount raised or timing may still change. SoftBank Group Corp., a current investor, plans to participate and may lead the funding round, the person said.

The fundraising would be a record for India this year and intensify the fight between ANI Technologies Pvt's Ola, last valued at \$5 billion, and Uber, the world's best-funded technology startup with a valuation of \$69 billion. Ola, backed by SoftBank and Tiger Global Management, could use the funds to speed up its spending on recruiting drivers and helping them lease vehicles. It would also allow Ola to expand geographically as it tries to maintain its lead over Uber, which has increased investments in India after agreeing to sell its money-lo-



Ola's founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal

sing China operation.

"Funding is critical for Ola to keep its momentum and maintain its market leadership in the \$10 billion ride-hailing market which is readying for its next phase of expansion," said Jaspal Singh, a partner at Delhi-based transportation consultancy, Valouriser Consultants. "Uber has even deeper pockets now that it is out of China, which was a big drain on its resources, and it will now focus on India in a big way," he said.

The funding round come during a long dry spell in the world's third-largest startup market. India's technology startups raised \$4.23 billion in the first three quarters of this year, less than half the total for the same period of 2015, according to researcher Prequin. Ola's other investors include DST Global, Accel Partners and Sequoia Capital.

Dilapidated public transport infrastructure in Indian cities and the lack of convenient transport options has helped on-demand ride-summoning

startup Ola and its San Francisco-based competitor to expand at a rapid pace. They are now vying with each other to woo customers like government departments and train passengers, as well as make it easier to bring new drivers on to their platforms. For instance, Ola and Uber have tied up with automakers like BMW, Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki to lease cars with attractive and affordable financing options.

As smartphone usage soars in India, both are burning cash to attract drivers and riders with incentives - making funding a key component in the battle.

Ola's founder and CEO Bhavish Aggarwal said in an interview this summer that Ola with a million rides daily is ahead of its competitor and is rolling out innovations at a rapid clip. It recently allowed customers to book Ola rides offline, a boon in a country with poor wi-fi connectivity and expensive data plans.

Bloomberg

Asian indexes lifted by strong China manufacturing report

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

STOCKS indexes in Asia were mostly higher yesterday after surveys showed China's factory activity rose to a two-year high last month, suggesting the world's No. 2 economy is stabilizing.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's Hang Seng index jumped 1.3 percent to 23,237.93 and the Shanghai Composite index added 0.2 percent to 3,106.74. South Korea's KOSPI was a smidgen higher at 2,008.55. Japan's Nikkei 225 edged 0.2 percent lower to 17,399.30 and the S&P ASX/200 of Australia lost 0.6 percent to 5,286.60. Shares in Southeast Asia were mostly higher.

CHINA DATA: Caixin's monthly purchasing managers' index rose to 51.2 in October from 50.1 the previous month as production grew at its fastest in more than five years on strong domestic demand. A similar index by the official Chinese Federation of Logistics & Purchasing rose to 51.2 from 50.4 in September. Both are at their highest level since July 2014. They are based on 100-point scales on which the 50 mark separates expansion from contraction.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "Overall, today's data are unambiguously upbeat and consistent with broader evidence that the economy is currently in the midst of a cyclical recovery. Given the continued feed through from earlier policy easing, we expect activity to hold up well until early next year," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a commentary.

U.S. TRADING: Market players are cautiously watching day-to-day developments of the U.S. presidential campaign, with just over a week to the election. The Dow Jones in-

dustrial average lost 0.1 percent to 18,142.42. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down less than 0.1 percent at 2,126.15 and the Nasdaq composite also lost less than 0.1 percent, to 5,189.13.

THIS WEEK: Also overhanging the markets are a Federal Reserve policy meeting and the October jobs report. Fed policymakers are not expected to raise interest rates so close to the election. However, investors are watching for comments on the economy. The jobs report will be the last major piece of economic data out before the Nov. 8 election. It's also a busy week for corporate earnings, with more than one-fifth of S&P 500 companies reporting their quarterly results.

JAPAN: The Bank of Japan wrapped up a two-day policy meeting without any changes to its minus 0.1 policy rate or other moves. The central bank did downgrade its inflation outlook, saying it expects to achieve a 1.5 percent inflation rate, rather than 1.7 percent, in the fiscal year that begins in April. The inflation rate now is about zero. Recent manufacturing data have shown a slight uptick in production that economists say could signal the stagnant economy is gaining strength.

ENERGY: U.S. benchmark oil futures gained 10 cents to \$46.96 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Overnight they extended their losses after falling last week to their lowest price this month. Crude fell \$1.84 to \$46.86 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 31 cents to \$48.92 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The U.S. dollar inched higher to 104.91 yen from 104.87 yen a day earlier. The euro slipped to \$1.0964 from \$1.0973. AP

corporate bits

SANDS ESTABLISHES TEAM MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES



"My Way Program" facilities

Sands China stated yesterday in a press release that it has established various programs dedicated to the development of its team members.

To date, Sands China's human resources department has initiated several programs and initiatives under the umbrella of its Sands China Academy.

Through this training platform, Sands China provided more than one million training hours in 2015, equivalent to 320 team members trained per day, as cited in the company's press release.

The ongoing initiative has already seen a 70 percent increase in training hours during the first nine months of

2016, compared to the same period the year prior.

One of the academy's innovative and successful team member engagement programs is the "Because We Know Knowledge" competition, an interactive self-learning platform implemented in a game format. This competition platform has attracted participation from more than 9,000 team members.

Another initiative is the "My Way Program," a scheme that equips participating team members with a diverse and integrated skill set applicable to the resort sector. The program offers them opportunities to try new fields and positions for a set period of time.

KFC OWNER YUM BRANDS COMPLETES SPIN-OFF OF CHINA BUSINESS



The owner of KFC and Taco Bell completed the spin-off of its China division, which began trading on the New York Stock Exchange at some point after the opening bell yesterday.

The new company, Yum China Holdings Inc., will run the KFC and Pizza

Hut chains in mainland China. It also plans to open the first Taco Bell there before the end of this year. In all, Yum China has 7,300 restaurants in China.

Yum China Holdings Inc., which is based in Shanghai, began trading on the New

York Stock Exchange yesterday under the ticker symbol "YUMC."

Shareholders of the parent company, Yum Brands Inc., based in Louisville, Kentucky, get one share of Yum China for each share of Yum Brands they own.

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

STRAIT POLITICS

Xi shows one-China benefits in talks with Taiwan opposition

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's meeting with Taiwan's opposition leader yesterday underscored China's key message to the island's independence-leaning administration: The price of not recognizing Taiwan as part of the Chinese nation, as Beijing demands, is access to China's highest levels of power.

Xi's meeting with Nationalist Party Chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu at the Great Hall of the People in the heart of Beijing comes months after China cut off communication and exchanges with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's administration. Diplomatically, China has also sought to isolate the island even more by having its representatives barred from international gatherings.

While Xi referred to neither of those issues in his opening remarks before the media, he reiterated the importance of the "one-China principle" and the "'92 consensus," referring to an agreement reached at a breakthrough meeting that year reinforcing the principle. Beijing says the agreement forms the basis for all future contacts and exchanges — and must be explicitly endorsed by Tsai.

"To ensure that the country can't be separated and ensure the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation is the common will of all Chinese people," Xi said, according to footage shown by Hong Kong's Phoenix TV.

The meeting marked Xi's highest-profile talks with a Taiwanese political figure since he met then-President Ma Ying-jeou in Singapore late last year for a one-day summit.

Xi said that China "resolutely opposes" Taiwan's formal independence and that the sides should "continue to push forward the cooperation in all

■ Although the Communists and Nationalists were bitter foes for decades, they have found common cause in their opposition to Taiwan's independence

fields, and continue to improve the sentiment for the benefits of the peoples, and strive for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

Although the Communists and Nationalists were bitter foes for decades, they have found common cause in recent years in their opposition to Taiwan's independence and desire for closer economic ties. Underscoring those ties, hundreds of representatives from the two sides will gather today for what is being called a "forum on peaceful development," to discuss issues from politics to economics, culture, social issues and youth.

In her remarks to Xi, Hung noted that while more formal channels for communication are currently blocked, the Nationalists "cannot shirk its responsibility to help civil society though the communication channels between the Com-



Taiwan's main opposition Nationalist Party Chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu (left) is greeted by a Chinese official as she arrives in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province

munist Party and the Nationalists" to solve problems.

She said the Nationalists wanted to help maintain communication between the sides to facilitate economic, cultural, social and other exchanges and explore the possibility of a peace settlement.

Hung said efforts should be made to eliminate the "dangerous turmoil" caused by the independence-leaning government to "preserve the hard-won harmony" between the two sides.

"Although the Nationalists are not the governing party, we will never, for a second,

forget the mission of cross-Straits relations," she said.

Hung's election as Nationalist boss was widely seen as recompense for her being dumped as the party's candidate to run against Tsai in the January election. She is seen as the standard bearer for the party's more conservative pro-unification wing made up largely of those who followed Chiang Kai-shek to Taiwan after the Communist military victory on the Chinese mainland in 1949 and their descendants.

Under another candidate, the Nationalists went on to lose

the presidency in January by a landslide, along with their parliamentary majority.

On Monday, Hung and her delegation paid their respects at the mausoleum of original Nationalist leader and Chinese President Sun Yat-sen in the former capital of Nanjing. Sun, who is revered by both the Nationalists and the Communists, inspired the former enemies to "work together to fight for the national rejuvenation and improve people's livelihood," Hung said.

"We will create a prosperous future. [As long as] both sides of the Taiwan Strait cooperate and develop peacefully, our common wish will come true," she said in remarks carried by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Despite the keen rivalry between the Nationalists and Tsai's DPP, Tsai's spokesman Alex Huang said Monday that the government sees "all normal people-to-people exchanges" with China in a positive light.

"The two sides should enhance mutual understanding and promote the peaceful development of bilateral relations through meaningful dialogue and exchanges without political preconditions," Huang was quoted as saying by Taiwan's official Central News Agency.

However, he added that all political parties should "stand by the people" and support the government's policy on cross-strait ties. He also added that only the government was authorized to forge agreements on behalf of Taiwan. AP

ECONOMY

Manufacturing hits 2-year high as demand perks up

PRIVATE and official surveys showed yesterday that China's factory activity rose last month to its highest level in more than two years, suggesting the world's No. 2 economy is stabilizing.

The Caixin monthly purchasing managers' index climbed to 51.2 in October from 50.1 the previous month.

The report found that production grew at its fastest pace in more than



five years as strong domestic demand more than offset a slight drop

in new export orders.

A separate index compiled by the official Chinese

Federation of Logistics & Purchasing found a similar pick-up in output and new orders helped push the reading to 51.2 last month from 50.4 in September.

Both indexes are at their highest since July 2014. They are based on 100-point scales on which the 50 mark separates expansion from contraction.

Data on China's huge manufacturing industry, which employs many

millions of workers, is closely watched for indications on the state of the broader economy, which last year expanded at its slowest rate in a quarter century.

Caixin's survey focuses on smaller, private enterprises while the federation's report gives more weighting to large, state-owned companies.

Despite the improved readings, official analysts fretted that weak demand from customers in major

overseas markets was a drag on China's factories.

"Owing to the global economy's feeble recovery, the import and export situation is still grim," said Zhao Qinghe, an analyst at the National Bureau of Statistics.

In another hopeful sign for China's economy, activity in the services sector firmed up as the official non-manufacturing PMI ticked up to 54.0 last month from 53.7 previously. AP

Chinese, Malaysian navies to cooperate in South China Sea

Louise Watt, Beijing

CHINA and Malaysia said their navies will cooperate more in the politically sensitive South China Sea in an agreement signed yesterday during a visit by Malaysia's leader, who is seeking stronger ties with Beijing as he tries to offset a financial scandal at home.

Prime Minister Najib Razak hopes to use his visit to Beijing this week to woo new investment and boost his image as he is shunned by Western leaders over the scandal, which has prompted a U.S. government investigation, analysts say.

He was given a red carpet welcome by his Chinese counterpart, Li Keqiang. After meeting at the Great Hall of the People, they oversaw the signing of agreements, including a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation.

"We have not touched upon the details of our cooperation. Mostly we are focusing on naval cooperation," Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters afterward. As China and Malaysia are both South China Sea coastal nations, "we need

We need to enhance our naval cooperation to ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea, enhance our mutual trust.

LIU ZHENMIN
VICE FOREIGN MINISTER
CHINA



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak (left) and China's Premier Li Keqiang chat during a signing ceremony following their meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

to enhance our naval cooperation to ensure peace and stability in the South China Sea and enhance our mutual trust," he said.

Beijing asserts that virtually all of the South China Sea is Chinese territory, but an international tribunal ruling in July invalidated those sweeping claims. China has ignored that ruling. Six other Asian governments also claim part of the South China Sea, and some observers see it as a potential flashpoint that could spark conflict one day.

Najib is the second leader of a nation with rival territorial claims in the South China Sea to visit Beijing in two weeks. The first, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, played down his country's dispute with China.

The international tribunal case was initiated by Duterte's predecessor, and Duterte has sought to cast himself as far more conciliatory, an approach that appears to have paid off. While Chinese coast guard ships continue to guard a tiny, uninhabited shoal that China effectively seized in 2012, Filipino fishermen have been allowed to fish there for the first

time in four years.

Malaysia claims a swath of the South China Sea north of Borneo, along with islands and reefs, but has been relatively understated amid the feuding among fellow claimants China, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Last month, Najib said Malaysia will not compromise on its South China Sea claims, but wants them to be hashed out through dialogue and peaceful negotiations.

Liu said Najib agreed with the Chinese premier "to further advance the proper settlement of the South China Sea issue on a bilateral channel and through dialogue." Beijing always prefers negotiating disputes on a one-to-one basis with the countries concerned, so it can bring more pressure to bear.

Liu said the two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, trade, investment and law enforcement, and will work together to build an east coast railway link in Malaysia and an oil and gas pipeline in Sabah. All this cooperation "will bring our relations to a new high," Liu said.

Najib is to meet President Xi

Jinping tomorrow.

Najib has been implicated in a U.S. government investigation into massive fraud at a Malaysian investment fund he founded known by the initials 1MDB. The U.S. Department of Justice said in a lawsuit seeking to seize assets in the U.S. that at least USD3.5 billion was stolen from the fund and diverted through a web of shell companies and bank accounts in Singapore, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the United States.

Malaysia's attorney general has defended Najib, even as his popularity at home has plummeted in recent months.

James Chin, director of the Asia Institute at Australia's University of Tasmania, said Najib wants to attract more Chinese money to make up for a drop in foreign direct investment from Western countries spooked by the scandal. He said Najib also wants to show that "there are still powerful countries around the world that are still willing to give him the five-star or red carpet treatment."

"He's showing the Malaysian domestic audience that a new upcoming power like China is still willing to host him, because it is quite obvious that he can't get the same treatment in Western capitals anymore," Chin said.

While Najib has more riding on the visit, the Chinese government is also eager to increase its clout with Malaysia as it looks to develop its "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Under Xi's signature foreign economic expansion strategy, China aims to strengthen land and sea links and bilateral cooperation with the rest of Asia, Africa and Europe. One part of that is a planned high-speed railway from Singapore to the southwest of China which will pass through Malaysia.

"China for its part wants to be closer to Malaysia in economic and political terms because it's trying to draw Malaysia into its sphere of influence," Chin said.

Relatives of Chinese passengers on Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which went missing in 2014 en route to Beijing, are clamoring to meet with Najib during his visit. About 10 relatives went to the Foreign Ministry and later to the Malaysian Embassy yesterday. AP

JAPAN PROTESTS CHINA'S DRILLING ACTIVITY IN EAST CHINA SEA

JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT has lodged a protest with China over drilling activity in the waters between the two countries. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said yesterday that Japan had confirmed that a moored Chinese drilling ship is conducting some kind of activity in the East China Sea.

He called China's oil and gas exploration efforts "extremely regrettable" at a time when the maritime boundaries between Japan and China have not been established. Japan has complained about similar activity before, largely in the waters between the Chinese mainland and Okinawa and other southern Japanese islands.

Cybersecurity draft law targets foreign hackers

CHINESE authorities could freeze assets and take other actions against foreign hackers threatening the country's infrastructure under a revised draft of a new cybersecurity law.

The law has been submitted for its third and final reading by the Standing Committee of

the National People's Congress, China's legislature, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Xinhua says the draft would allow police and other agencies to freeze assets and apply "other necessary punishment" against foreign hackers, while also requiring ex-

panded security measures for industries including public communications, energy and finance. The report provided no details. The legislation is expected to be passed in the coming weeks.

Cybersecurity has been a top source of friction between China

and the United States, which both say they suffer hacking attacks originating from the other. Chinese officials have long characterized their country as a top victim of hacking and have called for expanded law enforcement powers and more stringent regulations on imported

technology equipment.

If passed in its current form, the cybersecurity law could introduce new rules about how Chinese citizens' data are stored and expand data access and censorship powers for law enforcement.

Foreign technology companies, particular-

ly Silicon Valley giants with a stake in the Chinese market, also worry that the rules have a secondary motive of protecting the domestic technology sector by discouraging Chinese buyers in both the private and public sectors from purchasing foreign products.

Foster Klug & Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA | CORRUPTION

Man rams office: 'I came here to help her die'

SOUTH Korean police detained a man who rammed a large excavator into a gate yesterday near the office where prosecutors questioned a woman at the center of a scandal that threatens the country's president. The woman had earlier said she "deserves death" and the detained man said he "came here to help her die."

The attack with heavy construction equipment on a government building is part of a frenzy of emotion in South Korea over the woman, Choi Soon-sil, whom prosecutors have detained as they examine whether she used her close ties to President Park Geun-hye to pull government strings from the shadows and amass an illicit fortune.

Prosecutors are expected to quickly seek an arrest warrant for Choi, who was swarmed Monday by hundreds of journalists and protesters as she tried to enter the prosecution office.

Choi, a cult leader's daughter with a decades-long connection to Park, was nearly knocked off her feet several times as the crowd closed in on her. Protesters screamed for her arrest and Park's resignation; one angry person reportedly tried to enter the building with a bucket full of animal feces; and Choi, 60, lost her Prada shoe in the scrum.

Social media is now awash with images of the discarded black footwear and the word, "Soonderella," a combination of parts of Choi's name and the girl from the fairy tale who leaves behind a glass slipper at a ball.

"Please, forgive me," Choi said through tears inside the Seoul prosecutor's building. Using a common expression of deep repentance, she added, "I committed a sin that deserves death."

The man accused of running his big yellow excavator into the



Choi Soon-sil, a woman at the center of a scandal that threatens the country's president, arrives for questioning at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors Office

prosecution office near where Choi had been investigated later told officials that "since Choi

Soon-sil said she committed a sin that deserves death, I came here to help her die," according

to police officer Han Jeung-sub. The man detained was identified as a 45-year-old surnamed Jeong.

It wasn't known if Choi was at the Seoul office at the time of the ramming, which injured a security guard and damaged the gate and other facilities.

Last week, amid intense speculation, Park acknowledged Choi had edited some of her speeches and provided public relations help. Widespread reports have said Choi had a larger role in government affairs despite having no official ties to the administration.

Prosecutors are trying to determine the scope of access Choi had and whether she was given sensitive presidential documents. Choi has previously said she helped Park but didn't know if she was seeing confidential in-

formation.

Other reports have contained allegations she misused money from nonprofit organizations after pressuring businesses to donate to them.

Park has fired some of her closest aides to try to contain the fallout. Some lawmakers and the public have called for Park's resignation or impeachment, and thousands of people have protested in the streets.

Choi has been close to Park since Choi's father, the leader of a religious cult, gained Park's trust by reportedly convincing her that he could communicate with her assassinated mother. Choi's father denied this in a 1990 media interview.

The scandal has resonated with South Koreans in a way that past corruption allegations have not. AP

Pyongyang joyfully lobs barbs at Seoul political scandal

NORTH Korea is joyfully jumping into a bizarre political scandal rocking Seoul, calling it the inevitable result of a corrupt regime and saying the administration of South Korean President Park Geun-hye is "the most deformed, abnormal and stupid in contemporary society."

Pyongyang, while allowing none of its media the freedom to point criticism at its own leadership, has wasted no opportunity to lambaste Park in the harshest ways it can.

The North's state-run Korean Central News Agency called the scandal a "hideous power-backed corruption case unprecedented in South Korean history."

Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the North's ruling party, added the "deformed, abnormal and stupid" characterization and, just for good measure, called Park a "colonial stooge."

"The whole society of in the south of Korea is now boiling like a porridge pot at the shocking news," Jon Min Dok, a North Korean Foreign Ministry official, told an Associated Press Television crew in Pyongyang yesterday.

Any administration in Seoul can count on being branded as stooges and puppets of the U.S. by the North.

But North Korea has a special grievance with Park.

She had adopted an increasingly hawkish policy toward Pyongyang as her tenure has progressed and the North has stepped up its nuclear tests and long-range missile development.

But the bad blood goes much farther back. Her father, the staunchly anti-communist military strongman Park Chung-hee, was South Korea's president from 1963-1979. Though a North Korean attempt to assassinate him in at the presidential "Blue House" failed in 1968, he was killed by his own intelligence chief in 1979.

Park's mother was also assassinated, in 1974, by a Japanese-born Korean sympathizer of the North's regime.

PHILIPPINES

Military says it has killed 70 Abu Sayyaf militants

THE Philippine military said yesterday it has killed 70 Abu Sayyaf militants and captured 32 others in an offensive that began in July against the group, which is accused of kidnapping sailors from neighboring countries for ransom.

Military spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said 28 government troops have died and nearly 100 others have been wounded in one of the largest military campaigns against the brutal militants in the southern island provinces of Sulu and Basilan.

At least 34 militants have surrendered under pressure from the offensive, he said.

President Rodrigo Duterte flew to Sulu with top defense officials and military commanders on Monday to rally the troops and give medals to six soldiers wounded in the latest fighting in Sulu's Patikul and Indanan towns, which killed at least eight Abu Sayyaf gunmen, Arevalo said.

Troops were ordered to "continue to intensify the conduct of operations and maintain the momentum," Arevalo said.

Duterte has ordered the military to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, which is accused of kidnapping Malaysian and Indonesian tugboat crewmen in a series of attacks this year that prompted the three countries to map out a joint strategy to strengthen sea border security.

The daring attacks in the busy sea lane have prompted Indonesia to restrict coal shipments to the Philippines. The militants have targeted slow-moving tugboats pulling coal barges which are easy to board, but last month they atta-

cked an ocean-going South Korean cargo ship off southern Tawi Tawi province, near Sulu, abducting its South Korean skipper and a Filipino crewman.

Duterte plans to discuss the Abu Sayyaf threat when he visits Malaysia next week.

The Abu Sayyaf has survived through the years mainly with kidnappings for ransom. A Philippine threat assessment report seen by The Associated Press showed that the militants pocketed at least 353 million pesos (USD7.3 million) from six ransom

kidnappings involving 21 people in the first six months of the year.

The report said the lucrative payoffs enabled the group to procure firearms and ammunition.

Most of the total was paid for the release of 14 Indonesian and four Malaysian crewmen who had been held at Abu Sayyaf jungle camps in Sulu province, the report said.

Philippine officials have said they were unaware of any ransoms paid for the hostages and added that they continue to observe a no-ransom policy.

Military offensives reduced the number of Abu Sayyaf fighters to 481 in the first half of the year from 506 in the same period last year, but they managed to carry out 32 bombings in that time — a 68 percent increase — in attempts to distract the military assaults, the report said.

The militants have an estimated 438 firearms, it said.

The report said the group retains new members by posting "their pictures, videos in the social media to dissuade them from leaving." AP

SRI LANKA

Authorities crack down on owners of elephants taken from wild

Krishan Francis & Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

In Sri Lanka, an elephant in the back yard has long been a sign of wealth, privilege and power. But these days it may also be a sign that someone is breaking the law.

Capturing wild elephants has been banned for decades here. Registration records indicate there should be only 127 elephants in captivity, most of them older. Yet they are a staple of the South Asian island nation's 400 or so yearly processions — traditional ceremonies honoring a marriage, calling for peace or praying for rain — and in each there are always a few young elephants clumsily cantering to keep up.

"In Sri Lanka, people measure the success of the processions by the number of elephants," said the Rev. Magalkande Sudantha, a Buddhist monk.

Despite concerns that the animals may be abused, spectators always expect a parade of elephants wearing jangling ornaments, and babies are a special attraction.

In Sri Lanka, people measure the success of the processions by the number of elephants.

REV. MAGALKANDE
SUDANTHA
BUDDHIST MONK



A zoological garden worker using his hands sprays water on an elephant as the heard rests in a river at the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala about 90 kilometers east of Colombo, Sri Lanka

"There is no beauty in processions without elephants," said Janaka Alwis, a 48-year-old city council employee in Gampaha, north of Colombo. "People go to watch because of the elephants, and to count them."

Aware of the ongoing elephant racket, authorities have been cracking down. In the last two years, the government has confiscated 39 elephants whose owners produced either false permits or none at all. Some had paid as much as USD200,000 per captured animal when a previous government was in office, according to Wildlife Minister Gamini Jayawickrama Perera.

Those facing prosecution for illegally keeping elephants include one judge and a Buddhist monk. Police are also considering charges against people suspected of rounding up wild elephants for profit.

The practice of taming wild elephants includes starving, beating and scaring them into submission, while keeping

them chained up at all times, conservationists say.

"Taming a wild elephant is an extremely cruel experience for the animal," said Prithviraj Fernando, who runs the Center for Conservation and Research in Sri Lanka. "Whether it's a temple or a private person, that's how it is done."

The Sri Lankan elephant is one of three subspecies of Asian elephant and is found only on the teardrop-shaped Indian Ocean island. In the 19th century there were believed to be up to 14,000. That number fell to fewer than 3,000 before hunting and capture were banned. But while the population has grown since then to nearly 6,000, according to the island's first official elephant census in 2011, they are still considered endangered and under threat from habitat loss and degradation. They are confined to small, isolated pockets of jungle and pasture in the north and the east.

For Buddhists, who make up

70 percent of the island's 20 million population, elephants are believed to have been servants of the Buddha and even a previous incarnation of the holy man himself. Sinhalese kings rode elephants into battle. And every year, colorfully decorated tuskers carry an ornate box containing a replica of one of the Buddha's teeth.

"The elephants carrying sacred relics are very fortunate. Even we don't have that opportunity," said housewife Kanthi Sriyalatha, 53. She said the sight of the animals is also a thrill. "Children wait in anticipation to watch processions because they want to see the elephants."

Conservationists said that, given the importance given to using elephants in religious ceremonies, the government should be stepping in to manage their care while ensuring no more are captured in the wild.

"We need to impose some restrictions on ourselves. There are about 30,000 Buddhist

temples," Fernando said. "If every temple wants to have a procession with an elephant, it is not possible."

The government is planning to set up its own pool of captive animals to be hired out to temples for ceremonies.

"We have to create a pool of elephants" for processions, said Perera, the wildlife minister. "We are creating a process now for how to issue permits, how to release some of the elephant babies" to temples for their upkeep and use in processions.

Under the plan, some would be kept in a so-called elephant orphanage. But some would go to families or temples that are financially capable of feeding and caring for them.

Some elephant owners say those who claim mistreatment are acting on Western notions of conservation and animal welfare.

"Elephants living with us do better than the animals in the wild," said Harsha Dharmawijaya, whose family has kept at least one elephant for 96 years. "We scrub their bodies and bathe them, feed them and treat their illnesses. [...] In a way this is a noble act."

Some critics, however, note that Buddhism is a faith that preaches compassion for nature.

"If the Buddha was alive, would he condone what's going on? I don't think he would," said Sumith Pilapitiya, a former World Bank environmental specialist who argued that the government should focus on the animals' welfare rather than religious norms.

"In the name of Buddhism [...] we are ill-treating animals," he said. **AP**

JAPAN

Sony Music apologizes for band's Nazi-like outfits

SONY Music Japan apologized yesterday after a popular Japanese all-girls band came under fire for performing in outfits resembling Nazi-era German military uniforms.

The mostly teenage members of Keyakizaka46 appeared at an Oct. 22 concert in black knee-length dresses that look like military overcoats, and black capes and officer caps with a

Nazi-like eagle emblem. Sony Music is the group's label.

"We express our heartfelt apology for causing offense [...] because of our lack of understanding," Sony Music Entertainment (Japan) said in a statement posted on its website. "We take the incident seriously and will make efforts to prevent a recurrence of a similar incident in the future."

Sony Music spokesman Yasuyuki Oshio said there had been no intention to link the performance to Nazism.

The U.S.-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights group focused on anti-Semitism and hate speech, issued a statement Monday saying it was disgusted by the uniforms and calling on Sony Music and the group's producer to apologize.

"Watching young teens on the stage and in the audience dancing in Nazi-style uniforms causes great distress to the victims of the Nazi genocide," Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal Center, said in the statement.

It's not the first time that Sony has said it's sorry after a complaint from the Wiesenthal Center. In 2011, Sony Music Artists

Inc. apologized for a rock band under its management that dressed up like Nazis on a national TV broadcast. The Wiesenthal Center had expressed "shock and dismay" at the appearance by the band, Kishidan, on MTV Networks Japan.

Much of Asia is less sensitive about the use of Nazi themes than the West. The Wiesenthal Center has also protested

incidents in South Korea and Thailand.

Keyakizaka46, formed in August 2015 by producer Yasushi Akimoto, is a group on the rise, according to The Japan Times. Its first single, "Silent Majority," was No. 1 on Japanese charts after selling about 260,000 copies within a week of its April 6 release, the English-language newspaper reported. **AP**

Qassim Abdul-Zahra
& Brian Rohan, Bazwaya

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqi forces enter Mosul city limits, main urban fight ahead

IRAQ'S special forces entered the outskirts of Mosul yesterday and were advancing toward its more urban center despite fierce resistance by Islamic State group fighters who hold the city, an Iraqi general said.

It was the first time Iraqi troops have set foot in the city, Iraq's second largest, in over two years. The advance could be the start of a grueling and slow operation for the troops, who will be forced to engage in difficult, house-to-house fighting in urban areas that is expected to take weeks, if not months.

Troops entered Gogjali, a neighborhood inside Mosul's city limits, and by noon were only 800 meters from the more built-up Karama district, according to Maj. Gen. Sami al-Aridi of the Iraqi special forces.

"The special forces have stormed in," he said. "Daesh is fighting back and have set up concrete blast walls to block off the Karama neighborhood and our troops' advance," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. Bombs have been laid along the road into the city, he added.

Mosul is the final IS bastion in Iraq, the city from which it drove out a larger but demoralized Iraqi army in 2014 and declared a "caliphate" that stretched into Syria. Its loss would be a major defeat for the jihadis, but with the closest Iraqi troops still some 10 kilometers from the city center, much ground remains to be covered.

Yesterday's battle opened up with Iraqi artillery, tank and machine gun fire on IS positions on the edge of Gogjali neighborhood, with the extremists responding with guided anti-tank missiles and small arms in an attempt to block the advance. Airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition supporting the operation added to the fire hitting the district.

Spokesman Col. John Dorrian said that the U.S.-led coalition, which coordinates all its attacks with the Iraqis, has been observing the battlefield and has noted that IS forces can no longer move in large numbers.

"And when we see them come together where there are significant numbers we will strike them and kill them," he said during a televised press conference with Iraqi forces in Qayara, south of Mosul. Concerns over civilian casualties have led to air operations using precision munitions only, he added.

From the nearest village east of Mosul, Bazwaya, smoke could be seen rising from bui-



Iraqi special forces soldiers use radio communication as a tank rolls down an alley in the village of Bazwaya, some 8 kilometers from the center of Mosul

ldings in Gogjali, where shells and bombs had landed. IS fighters also lit special fires to produce dark smoke in order to obscure the aerial view of the city.

Inside the village, white flags still hung from some buildings, put up a day earlier by residents eager to show they wouldn't resist the Iraqi forces' advance. Some residents stood outside their homes, and children raised their hands with V-for-victory signs.

The families, estimated to

■ ■
When we see them [IS fighters] come together where there are significant numbers we will strike them and kill them.

COL. JOHN DORRIAN
US-LED COALITION

number in the hundreds, will be evacuated from the village to a displaced persons camp, according to Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil of the Iraqi special forces.

As the fighting raged, several of the newly displaced from Bazwaya could be seen carrying white flags and driving a herd of some 150 sheep toward the camp.

Emad Hassan, 33, a former policeman, said he had come to Bazwaya when the operation started in order to flee the IS fighters.

"When I knew the security forces were serious about liberating Mosul, I came here," he said. "Daesh was preventing families from moving toward the security forces and ordered them into the city center, but I refused and stayed."

For over two weeks, Iraqi forces and their Kurdish allies, Sunni tribesmen and Shiite militias have been converging on Mosul from all directions to drive IS from the city.

Iraqi forces have made uneven progress in closing in on the city. Advances have been slower to the south, with government troops still 35 kilometers away. To the north are

Kurdish forces and Iraqi army units, and Shiite militias are sweeping toward the western approach in an attempt to cut off a final IS escape route.

The Shiite forces, Iran-backed troops known as the Popular Mobilization Units, are not supposed to enter Mosul, given concerns that the battle for the Sunni-majority city could aggravate sectarian tensions.

Just behind the eastern front line, the army's ninth division has moved toward Mosul on the path cleared by the special forces, and was now approximately 3 kilometers (2 miles) from its eastern outskirts.

The U.S. military estimates IS has 3,000-5,000 fighters in Mosul and another 1,500-2,500 in its outer defensive belt. The total includes about 1,000 foreign fighters. They stand against an anti-IS force that including army units, militarized police, special forces and Kurdish fighters totals over 40,000 men.

According to a video published online by IS, life was normal inside Karama district a day earlier. Released by its Aamaq news agency, the footage from Karama shows resi-

dents insisting that life is normal and that "no apostates or Shiites" had entered the city.

"We hear the thud of the bombs fired by our brothers at the apostates," said a bearded man in a wheelchair, speaking from a market street where taxis and shoppers passed by unimpeded.

As the Mosul offensive has pressed on, bombings have continued in the capital, Baghdad, part of sustained IS efforts to destabilize the country. Dozens have been killed since the push on Mosul started in apparent retaliation attacks, mostly claimed by IS.

Also yesterday, Kurdish authorities detained a Japanese freelance journalist covering the fighting. Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said in Tokyo that "we are aware that he is currently being detained" and that Japan is trying to determine why.

Japan's Kyodo News agency says that journalist Kosuke Tsuneoka was reporting on the battle to recapture the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group. Kyodo reported that he is being held by the Kurdish militia known as the peshmerga. **AP**



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Ann Sanner, Columbus

USA ELECTIONS

Democrats say Trump, GOP are intimidating voters in four states

DEMOCRATS are accusing Republicans and Donald Trump's presidential campaign of conspiring to intimidate voters in at least four states just days ahead of the election.

In each lawsuit, the state's Democratic party is seeking court action to preemptively block potential voter harassment or intimidation from Republican poll watchers or other observers.

The lawsuits were filed in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona against Trump's campaign, each state's Republican party and GOP operative Roger Stone, who runs the group "Stop the Steal."

Trump has called on his supporters to act as "election observers" in certain areas of the country to help prevent fraud. That has stirred fears of voter intimidation and confrontations at the polls.

In a federal lawsuit filed in Cleveland, the Ohio Democratic Party accused Trump and Republicans of conspiring to threaten, intimidate and prevent minority voters from casting ballots in the perennial battleground state. The complaint cited comments Trump has made at rallies in Ohio and elsewhere.

"In the months leading up to the 2016 election, Trump has made an escalating series of sta-



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at the Macomb Community College, on Monday, in Warren

tements, often racially tinged, suggesting that his supporters should go to particular precincts on Election Day and intimidate voters," the Ohio lawsuit alleged.

The state party said that absent court intervention, voters would be subjected to "intimidation, threats, and perhaps even force at the hands of vigilante 'poll watchers' and 'ballot integrity' volunteers on Election Day."

Ohio Republican Party spokeswoman Brittany Warner called the lawsuit "a publicity

stunt" and said the party is not involved in such voter intimidation. Pennsylvania Republicans called the lawsuit "a desperate effort by the Democrats in the face of eroding support for Hillary Clinton."

In an emailed response, Stone said the lawsuit is without merit. He said his organization is not coordinating with the Trump campaign or any official GOP organizations. Instead, it is partnering with another group called Vote Protectors to conduct exit polls and plans to compare those

responses with the voting machine results in 7,000 precincts nationwide.

"We seek only to determine if the election is honestly and fairly conducted and to provide an evidentiary basis for a challenge to the election if that is not the case," Stone said.

In Arizona, Democrats are seeking a court order to block volunteer GOP poll watchers from

harassing or photographing people headed to polling locations.

Arizona Democratic Party Chairwoman Alexis Tameron said the party is worried that "rogue actors" will scare off voters.

In Nevada, the lawsuit claimed that Trump supporters have yelled at voters outside Las Vegas-area polling places when they said they were not voting for the Republican nominee. AP

NYT: TRUMP USED DUBIOUS TAX AVOIDANCE SCHEME IN 1990s

DONALD TRUMP avoided paying potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes in a way even his own lawyers considered questionable, The New York Times reported.

The newspaper said the maneuver also may explain how Trump posted a one-year loss of more than USD900 million a few years later, enabling him to avoid paying

federal income taxes for perhaps 18 years.

At issue is how Trump was able to cancel hundreds of millions of dollars of debt as his casino empire in Atlantic City went broke in the early 1990s. Canceled debt generally is treated as taxable income, meaning Trump would have owed the IRS significant money on debt that his creditors forgave.

AD

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'China Macau Distinguished Gathering' - Macau Auto, Yacht and Business Aviation Show, Is Coming to Play in November!

CHINA MACAU DISTINGUISHED GATHERING
濠江盛匯

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Autumn is the most romantic season in Macau. This autumn, an international and professional land-sea-air show themed "China Macau Distinguished Gathering", is due to be warmly held, which will gather luxury car, yacht and private plane enthusiasts.

Through six-year of unremitting efforts, the Macau Auto, Yacht and Business Aviation Show has been accredited by UFI approved event. This marks a milestone of the three "China Macau Distinguished Gathering" exhibitions that have edged into the top-tier of international exhibitions. This year's 6th Auto Show, 6th Yacht show and the 5th Macau Business Aviation Fair are due to be held from November 4 to 6, 2016. This land-sea-air fair will cover three landmarks of Macau with a total area of over 100,000 square meters. Over 200,000 visitors will attend the show and almost 200 internationally renowned brands of cars, yachts and business airplanes will be exhibited. The show will be supported by a series of brilliant activities, including professional forums that lead industrial development trends, a new and unique yacht cruise, the experience of boarding business airplanes, product releases, children's painting activities and a photography contest, a model contest, a wine tasting and more, which will offer visitors chances to closely experience high-end lifestyles and Macau's cultural diversity.

This China Macau Distinguished Gathering - Macau Auto, Yacht and Business Aviation Show, makes use of the geographical advantage of Macau, which radiates to Southeast Asia and connects with international markets. This gives full play to the business and service platform of Portuguese countries, and coordinates with the development strategies of the Central Government and the Macau SAR, such as "One Road, One Belt", "Maritime Silk Road" and "HK-Macau Independent Travel". Through this show, the industry can enhance its scale and quality and actively promote the development of high-end commerce, tourism, leisure and other industries in Macau, so as to add fresh vigor and vitality to tourism in the region.

Surprises are in store for this year's China Macau Distinguished Gathering Auto, Yacht and Business Aviation Show. Please join us for the show on November 4-6, 2016!

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what's ON



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

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

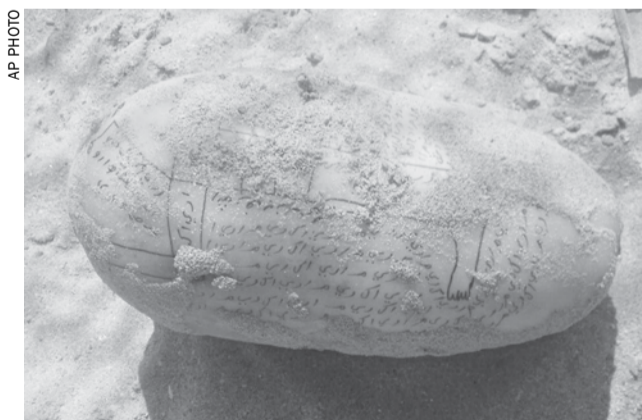
A SEXAGENARY REVISION - MASTERS OF THE MACAO ARTISTS SOCIETY
TIME: 10am-7pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 4, 2016
VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, Av. Xian Xing Hai Macao
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE VOICE
 - THE EXHIBITION THAT SPEAKS TO YOU
TIME: 9am-5:30pm (Closed on public holidays)
UNTIL: November 16, 2106
VENUE: Communications Museums of Macao, No.7, Estrada de D. Maria II, Macao
ADMISSION: MOP10
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063

EDGAR DEGAS: FIGURES IN MOTION
 - A COLLECTION OF 74 BRONZE SCULPTURES
TIME: 12pm-9pm
 (Closed on Mondays, except public holidays)
UNTIL: November 20, 2106
VENUE: MGM Art Space, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (852) 3678 0150

Offbeat

EMIRATI POLICE FIND STRANGE FRUIT COVERED IN WRITING, NAILS



Police in one of the sheikhdoms of the United Arab Emirates say they found and determined a strange fruit covered in writing and nails was not dangerous.

Police in Sharjah, a conservative emirate neighboring Dubai, posted a picture and video of the fruit found Saturday on a beach there.

The yellow melon bore Arabic writing and appeared to have a cartoon picture of a person on it, with nails hammered into neat rows on the figure.

Police say they spoke with officials at the emirate's Islamic Affairs Department and determined it not to be a threat.

While more relaxed on social issues than its Arab neighbors, items associated with black magic and witchcraft are illegal in the United Arab Emirates.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:30	UEFA Champions League: Benfica - Dynamo Kyiv (Repeated)
17:15	Once Upon A Time S1 (Repeated)
18:00	Precious Pearl (Repeated)
18:50	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:20	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Criminal Minds S10
22:10	Precious Pearl
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live
03:45	UEFA Champions League: Borussia Dortmund - Sporting (Live)

cinema

CINETEATRO

27 Oct - 2 Nov



DOCTOR STRANGE

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
 (3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 115min



JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK

ROOM 2
 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Damika Yarosh
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 118min

HEARTFALL ARISES

ROOM 3
 2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Ken Wu
Starring: Nicholas Tse, Sean Lau
Language: Chinese (English and Cantonese)
Duration: 108min

MACAU TOWER

27 Oct - 16 Nov

DOCTOR STRANGE

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Scott Derrickson
Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams
Language: English (Cantonese)
Duration: 115min

this day in history



David Jacobsen



Larry Speakes

1986 US HOSTAGE FREED IN BEIRUT

An American held hostage in Beirut by Muslim fundamentalists has been released.

David Jacobsen was set free in the west of the Lebanese capital after 17 months of captivity at the hands of Islamic Jihad.

After his release, Mr Jacobsen, 55, was taken to the American embassy compound in east Beirut.

He was kidnapped in May 1985 as he walked the short distance from his home on the American University Hospital campus to the hospital compound.

He is expected to leave Beirut soon with his daughters and sons who have come to the city to greet him.

Mr Jacobsen's release is being credited to the efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, Terry Waite.

Soon after the hostage was freed a US helicopter collected Mr Waite from Lanarca in Cyprus where he had been conducting secret negotiations and took him to the US embassy in Beirut.

Mr Waite's intervention in the case of the Beirut hostages comes after success in freeing people held in Iran and Libya.

So far he has helped gain the release of three Beirut hostages after their relatives appealed to him for help.

The US authorities were also involved in the negotiations.

US presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said they could not divulge details because of concerns for the safety of other captives in Lebanon.

"Again we call on the captors of all hostages in Lebanon to release their innocent victims.

"No political goals are or will be achieved by resorting to extortion or terrorism," Mr Speakes said.

The US Government held the kidnappers of the remaining hostages responsible for their safety, he added.

At least two other American hostages are still being held in Beirut as well as several Frenchmen and Briton John McCarthy.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After David Jacobsen's release it emerged that in spite of earlier declarations, the US Government had been effectively buying hostages' freedom.

The US had been selling arms to Iran in return for its influence over the hostage-takers.

This led to the so-called "Iran Contragate" affair after further revelations that money from the arms sales had then been channelled to fund rebels in Nicaragua.

Hostage negotiator Terry Waite was himself kidnapped in 1987 and not released until November 1991.

The following month saw the release of the last US hostage, Terry Anderson, after seven years in captivity.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Ergonomics exist for a reason, so if you're feeling off, get up, stretch and rest your eyes. Instead of grabbing a sandwich at your desk, go for a walk. Make your health a priority.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today you're a born diplomat and a natural counselor, so if someone in your department is having a hard time articulating something, don't hesitate to help them out.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You have tons of details to tend to, and you can't afford to be sidetracked. So if the busybodies and talkers are headed your way, slap on those headphones or shut the door.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your PDA is smoking, considering all the scheduling you're doing today. Keep it up. The stars are putting long-term plans in motion -- all you have to do is watch your beautiful work fall into place.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're not exactly known as a frugal person, but when you break the news that the budget is too big, watch their jaws drop to the floor. Enjoy your newfound financial savvy.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's up to you to break the ice, so if you're lucky enough to get some new hires or transfers, make nice during a spare moment. They'll be happy, you'll feel like a fountain of compassion, and your supervisors will be grateful.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Right now you just want to mingle, mingle, mingle with your coworkers. So if it's been a while since you've lingered around the water cooler, sharing office gossip or celeb news, it's time to sidle on over.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you attend to the little details of your workday, you'll be ever so pleased and surprised at how smoothly it will flow. Maybe you should do this every day!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Wait until your manager is in a chipper mood to break the news about your desire for more money. Today is not the best time to make your demands known.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Once you do your research, you'll know exactly what it is you or your team should do. Everything else will fall into place. Your manager is going to love what you come up with.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It's time to go beneath the surface when it comes to someone at work. You may think you know what they're all about, but the reality might be quite different.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 At this point, it's all about dealing with what's on the surface, so don't overanalyze what your manager said or the agenda of a weekly meeting. You can't do anything to change it anyway.

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: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

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

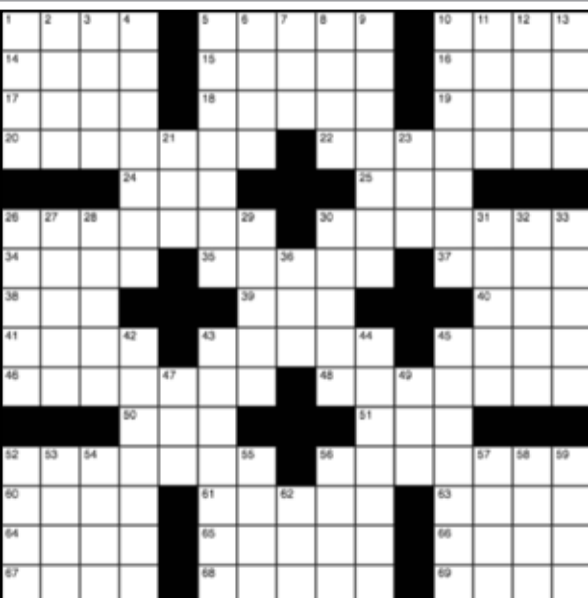
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fill up; 5- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 10- Mex. miss; 14- Mtn. stat; 15- Healing plants; 16- Sounds of relief; 17- Bull; 18- Looks after; 19- Speaker of note; 20- Clap; 22- Most strange; 24- TV adjunct; 25- U-turn from SSW; 26- Like the Dalai Lama; 30- Disperse; 34- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 35- Sierra; 37- Indian exercise method; 38- Architect I.M.; 39- Compass point opposite WSW; 40- East ender?; 41- Roadside rests; 43- Ford flop; 45- Worry; 46- Finery; 48- Snappy comebacks; 50- Father; 51- John Ritter's dad; 52- A place of destruction; 56- Majestic; 60- Ready for picking; 61- Starbucks order; 63- Journalist Jacob; 64- Broad smile; 65- Alternate; 66- Treater's words; 67- Keats creations; 68- High times?; 69- Former Russian ruler;

DOWN: 1- ___ precedent; 2- Hanging to one side; 3- Maryland athlete, for short; 4- Develops in stages; 5- Chemical-free; 6- ___ Three Lives; 7- Ages and ages; 8- Give up; 9- Spirit; 10- Satisfaction; 11- Almost unobtainable; 12- Michael Moore's "Downsize ___!"; 13- Gal Fri.; 21- Pretend; 23- Genetic messenger; 26- Rhino relative; 27- Goodnight girl of song; 28- Existence; 29- I ___ vacation!; 30- Scornful look; 31- ___ is human...; 32- Heron; 33- Tirades; 36- Switch positions; 42- Makes sorrowful; 43- Phantom; 44- Correspondences; 45- Ballroom dance; 47- Boy; 49- Leaves in a bag; 52- Golden Fleece ship; 53- Feathered creature; 54- ...baked in ___; 55- Western pact; 56- Type of gun; 57- Half of zwei; 58- Capital of Peru; 59- River of Flanders; 62- Howe'er



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- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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Airshow China ongoing in Zhuhai

PHOTOS BY XINHUA



 THE CHINA International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition (Airshow China) is being held between November 1 and 6 in the neighboring city of Zhuhai.

Airshow China is the international aerospace trade show endorsed by the Chinese authorities. It has been held every two years since 1996. The show is a platform for international aviation and aerospace enterprises to demonstrate the latest technology innovations in the market.

China's J-20 stealth fighter made its public debut at an air show yesterday, in the latest sign of the growing sophistication of the country's military technology.

The fifth-generation warplane, which outwardly resembles the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor in service with the U.S. military, performed a series of maneuvers under overcast skies in Zhuhai.

The long-range J-20, armed with air-to-air missiles, performed its first test flight in 2011 and has been the object of feverish attention by the nation's aviation buffs. At least six prototypes have been produced, according to an annual report on the Chinese military issued by the Pentagon this year.

AP PHOTO



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo, makes a scissor kick during the Spanish La Liga soccer match against Deportivo Alaves, at Mendizorrosa stadium

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW

Ronaldo two goals shy of 100 in European competitions

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

Thursday, 3:45am
Legia W v Real M
H 29, D 12, A 1.13

UNLESS Cristiano Ronaldo suddenly decides to add mercy to his list of virtues, the Real Madrid forward will have a good shot at scoring his 100th goal in European competition tonight.

Ronaldo, who once aptly described himself as "rich, handsome and a great player," is two goals short of that landmark before Madrid visits Legia Warsaw in the Champions League today [Thursday, 3:45am].

The Portugal forward arrives primed for more goals after recovering his ruthless touch on Saturday, when he scored his 38th career hat trick in a 4-1 win at Alaves in the Spanish league.

Ronaldo is the all-time leading scorer in the Champions League, with 95 of his European goals coming in the tournament he helped Madrid win for a record 11th time last season.

But Barcelona rival Lionel Messi has closed the gap with Ronaldo in their never-ending scoring duel after netting six goals to lead the Champions League this season. That's compared to Ronaldo's two so far. Messi has 89 Champions League goals, and 92 in all UEFA competitions.

Legia looks like easy pickings for Ronaldo. The Polish team has lost all three group matches and conceded a tournament-high 13 goals.

And its players will face Madrid all alone at Wojska Polskiego Sta-

dium, whose doors will be closed to the public by UEFA as a penalty for fans' racist behavior and the fireworks thrown during a previous loss to Borussia Dortmund.

Madrid, which beat Legia 5-1 in their first meeting without any goals from Ronaldo, are undefeated in 26 matches across all competitions dating back to last season's quarterfinals. They have won their last five matches overall by the combined score of 24-5.

Gareth Bale will also be eager to shine after signing a new contract with Madrid through 2022.

The only worry for Madrid is the absence of injured center backs Pepe and Sergio Ramos.

Madrid will qualify for the last 16 if it wins and Dortmund beats Sporting Lisbon in the other Group F match.

GROUP E

Group E is proving to be this season's most competitive quartet.

Only three points separate leader Monaco from last-place CSKA Moscow before they meet in the Mediterranean principality. Monaco has been boosted this campaign by the arrival of Poland defender Kamil Glik, whose late goal earned a draw against Bayer Leverkusen.

Tottenham hosts Leverkusen with both sides hoping for a win combined with a Monaco slip to move to the top of the group. Spurs haven't won in five matches across all competitions without injured striker Harry Kane.

GROUP F

Dortmund, like Madrid, can advance with a win over Sporting Lisbon.

Mario Goetze, who returned to

Dortmund this season from Bayern Munich, has shown some flashes of his rich talent. But more will be needed for Dortmund make another run to the final like in 2013, which Goetze missed because of injury.

"To do it would be my biggest dream come true. I've been working every day for it," Goetze said. "Yet that was a long time ago. I'm focusing on the future and on this Champions League season. It's not going to be easy next time against Sporting."

GROUP G

Its Premier League title defense may be in serious trouble, but Leicester City is outperforming the other English sides in its first foray in the Champions League.

Three wins in as many matches mean Leicester can seal a place in the knockout rounds with another win over FC Copenhagen.

In the other group match, FC Porto welcomes Brugge hoping to break a run of four home matches without a victory in Europe.

GROUP H

Juventus and Sevilla are level at the top of Group H and can go through with victories in their respective home matches against Lyon and Dinamo Zagreb.

Juventus faces Lyon fresh off an encouraging 2-1 win over domestic rival Napoli, which allowed it to build a four-point lead in Serie A.

Sevilla will be without midfielder Samir Nasri, who has been playing well for the Andalusian side on loan from Manchester City.

Nasri scored Sevilla's winner in a 1-0 victory in Zagreb. He then picked up a left leg muscle injury over the weekend. **AP / oddschecker.com**

TENNIS

Zhang, Svitolina win opening matches at Zhuhai's Elite Trophy

AP PHOTO



Chinese wild-card entry Zhang Shuai opened the WTA Elite Trophy tournament with a 6-1, 6-1 win over sixth-seeded Tímea Babos yesterday. The tournament in Zhuhai features the leading players on the women's tour who didn't qualify for the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore last week. Carla Suarez Navarro withdrew from the tournament with a right wrist injury and was replaced by Hungarian alternate Tímea Babos, who will play Babos today. Fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina rallied after dropping serve three times in the opening set to beat No. 10-seeded Kiki Bertens 2-6, 6-4, 6-2. Johanna Konta, who is the top-seeded player at the last event on the WTA calendar for 2016, will open against Sam Stosur today.

CRICKET

Pakistan scores 32-0 after Brathwaite carries West Indies to 337

Opening batsman Kraigg Brathwaite hit a century and became the fifth West Indian to carry his bat yesterday as the tourists took a 56-run lead in the third and final test against Pakistan. Pakistan, which scored 281 in the first innings, brought the deficit down to 24 and progressed to 32-0 in the second innings at tea on the third day. Brathwaite remained unbeaten on 142 off 318 balls, hitting 11 fours, and batted for 8 hours, 20 minutes before the West Indies were dismissed for 337 after lunch. Resuming at overnight 244-6, Brathwaite led the West Indies resistance with a 60-run eighth-wicket stand with Devendra Bishoo (27) on a slow turning wicket.

FOOTBALL

Klose ends playing career, will train as coach with Germany

AP PHOTO



The German soccer federation says striker Miroslav Klose, the top scorer in World Cup history, is ending his playing career and will train as a coach. The 38-year-old Klose retired from international soccer after winning the

World Cup with Germany in 2014, scoring twice to bring his total goal tally from four tournaments to 16. With a career total of 71 goals, Klose is also the highest-scoring player for Germany. Klose's contract with Lazio expired after last season. The German federation says that, in consultation with coach Joachim Loew and technical director Hansi Flick, Klose will now undergo an individual training program "with the clear aim of embarking on a coaching career." Klose, who played 137 games for Germany, will now become part of the national team setup.

opinion

Sports Views

John Leicester, AP Sports Columnist

F1'S BUFFONERY RUINS A PERFECTLY GOOD PRODUCT

You wouldn't trust Formula One with a loaded gun, because it would be sure to shoot itself in the foot. The drivers' derring-do, the adrenaline, the speed, the glitz and the wealth of the sport are trumped sometimes only by its buffoonery.

The Mexican Grand Prix on Sunday could be Exhibit A in a business school class about how to turn a perfectly good product into unappealing gruel. Tennis champion Serena Williams, a trackside VIP guest, spent chunks of the race typing on her mobile phone, likely asking the questions, "Who are the clowns running this circus?" and "When's the next flight home?"

A quick summary: The third-placed driver was actually fourth, replaced by the fifth-placed guy who finished third after the driver who was fourth was moved up to third immediately after the race, but only for a few hours, when he was demoted to fifth.

And on his way to his fourth place that became a third place and then a fifth place, Sebastian Vettel sprayed expletives over his car radio. This childlike fit of road rage was prompted by the fact that the driver in front of him, Max Verstappen, was laboring under the clearly mistaken impression that the whole point of an F1 race is that one shouldn't move over simply because the short-tempered guy behind feels he should be in front.

With Vettel breathing down his neck, Verstappen braked too late, careened off a turn and across the grass before rejoining the track back in front of the German. Post-race, in the first of their confusing changes to the finishing order, stewards demoted the Dutchman from third for that misdemeanor which they previously ignored when race winner Lewis Hamilton did almost the exact same thing.

Head scratching.

And was Vettel immediately punished for his beeped-out foul-mouthed televised tirade? Of course not. He was promoted from fourth to third, albeit temporarily, handed a shiny trophy and bottle of Champagne.

Again, confusing.

The redeeming feature of this otherwise processional and largely dull race, yet another, that Hamilton led from pole position to finish would have been the brief light at the end of the tunnel when Vettel and Daniel Ricciardo fought wheel-to-wheel going into turn four near the end.

Ricciardo, his Red Bull shod with faster soft-compound tires, tried overtaking Vettel's Ferrari from the left. The German, understandably, didn't make way, squeezing the Australian into the left-hand turn but not appearing to do anything rash like ramming into him.

The exquisite car-handling skills, to touch at high speed but not crash, were exhilarating to watch; heart-in-the-mouth stuff.

"Brilliant driving from both of them," former F1 driver Martin Brundle said, commentating on Sky Sports.

But the stewards ruined that, too.

In defending his position on the bend against Ricciardo, Vettel made "an abnormal change of direction" that was "potentially dangerous," the stewards ruled.

It was impossible not to scoff at the irony. Danger on a track where cars hit hair-raising top speeds of 370 kilometers per hour? Duh. Perhaps next time, they'll hand out speeding tickets and wring the sport completely dry of thrills.

What else was Vettel to do? Wave Ricciardo through? Miss the bend and drive straight on like Verstappen, only to be penalized for that, too? The sport needs rules, but not rules that stop racers from racing.

Nor did it make sense that Vettel wasn't pulled over for his radio meltdown. In football, Vettel would have earned a red card and an early trip to the showers, not a shower of bubbly on the podium.

Shame, really, because this F1 season is heading to an exciting crescendo, with Rosberg close to winning his first world title if he can hold off Mercedes teammate Hamilton in November's last two races, in Brazil and Abu Dhabi.

But the overwhelming impression left by this Mexican Grand Prix of frustrating confusion and poor behavior was that the off-season respite from F1 can't come soon enough.

THE BUZZ LOW OIL PRICES WEIGH ON EUROPE'S OIL COMPANIES

Two of Europe's largest energy companies said that low oil prices weighed on underlying earnings once again in the third quarter and predicted that the price backdrop won't be returning to the heights seen as recently as 2014 anytime soon.

BP reported that its profit before one-time items and after adjusting for the cost of inventories fell 48 percent to USD933 million. Rival

Royal Dutch Shell did report an 18 percent increase in comparable earnings to \$2.79 billion but that was largely due to production stemming from its recent acquisition of BG Group.

Brent crude, the benchmark for international oil, averaged \$45.86 a barrel in the third quarter, down from \$50.47 in the same period last year. Oil traded above \$100 a barrel a little more than two years ago.

Rescuers try to find 15 still trapped by mine blast in Chongqing



Rescuers work at Jinshangou Coal Mine in Chongqing, southwest China

HUNDREDS of rescuers were struggling yesterday to find 15 coal miners still trapped a day after a gas explosion killed 18 of their colleagues in western China.

Whether the 15 are alive was not known more than 24 hours after the blast ripped through the privately owned Jinshangou mine in the sprawling Chongqing region. Just two miners are confirmed to have survived the blast.

Thirteen fatalities had been confirmed yesterday morning. Later, five more bodies were recovered from among the 33 people who had been trapped in the shaft following the explosion, Xinhua News Agency and state broadcaster CCTV reported.

The searchers were being hindered by debris blocking some of the mine's passageways.

We "will exert our utmost as long as there's still a ray of hope," Chongqing depu-

ty mayor Mu Huaping said of the search efforts, according to Xinhua.

Local officials did not answer telephone calls from The Associated Press, and a person who answered the phone at the mine hung up when asked about the blast.

Gas explosions inside mines are often caused when a flame or electrical spark ignites gas leaking from the coal seam. Ventilation systems are supposed to prevent gas from becoming trapped.

The State Administration of Work Safety ordered an investigation into the blast, "adding that those responsible must be strictly punished." Local officials in Chongqing also ordered smaller mines to shut down temporarily, Xinhua said.

China's mining industry has long been among the world's deadliest. The head of the State Administration of Work Safety said earlier this year that struggling coal mines might be likely to overlook maintenance.

China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal but plans to shutter more than 1,000 outdated mines as part of a broader plan to reduce overproduction. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Good
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

INDIA-PAKISTAN Seven civilians were killed and nine others wounded by Pakistani shelling in Kashmir yesterday, Indian officials said, as cross-border firing by the two countries' troops escalated in the disputed region. Civil administrator Pawan Kotwal said hundreds of civilians living in villages along the frontier have been evacuated to safer places in recent weeks and are spending nights in government-run shelters.

EGYPT The secretary-general of the Saudi-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation has resigned after making a joke about the purportedly frugal ways of Egypt's president, the group said. The joke became the latest point of contention in Cairo's increasingly tense relations with Riyadh.

RUSSIA The speaker of the Russian parliament's upper chamber, Valentina Matviyenko, who is in Japan to lay the groundwork for President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit, says Moscow isn't going to give up any of the disputed Pacific Ocean islands to Japan.



GERMANY Police say they have seized several firearms from a couple believed to belong to the so-called Reich Citizens' Movement, a loose grouping of anti-government extremists, after authorities revoked their weapons permits.

BRITAIN'S Treasury chief has promised the country will 'strike back' against cyberattacks amid fears that online threats from state-sponsored hackers jeopardize society.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



All Saints. Tens of thousands of Filipinos throng to Manila's North Cemetery, the country's largest, to pay tribute to their departed in observance of All Saints Day. People in this predominantly Catholic nation in Asia, take their time to visit the graves of their dear departed by offering flowers and prayers in the annual tradition.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published tomorrow. The Times will be back on the stands on November 4. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.