



### AIR QUALITY IMPROVING

The quality of air in the PRD region continued to improve last year due to anti-pollution measures, a report says

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### CHAN'S ACCOUNTABILITY PLEDGES

The Secretary for Administration and Justice pledged to improve mechanisms for accountability of government officials

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# Times

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### WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

#### PHILIPPINES

Government forces launched "precision attacks" yesterday to clear militants linked to the Islamic State group from a city that has been under siege since a failed raid to capture a militant on the U.S. list of most-wanted terrorists. Around 20 people have died in the fighting, including 13 militants and five soldiers, and the violence has forced thousands to flee amid fears of growing extremism in the country. More on p12

**TAIWAN's** military practiced repelling a simulated Chinese assault on an outlying island group yesterday as part of annual military drills addressing the threat from across the Taiwan Strait. More on p10



AP PHOTO

**INDONESIA's** president ordered a thorough investigation yesterday of twin suicide bombings that targeted police, killing three officers, in the deadliest attack by suspected militants in the capital in a year. More on p12

**SINGAPORE's** government gave an upbeat outlook on the economy, saying it will probably expand more than 2 percent this year as exports continue to strengthen.

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# WTCC return not confirmed

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AP PHOTO

# Chaos in Brazil

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RENATO MARQUES



Alvin Chau, Chairman of Suncity Group (left) and Pun Weng Kun



A screenshot of the WTCC website

## 64TH MACAU GRAND PRIX

## WTCC return not confirmed

## Renato Marques

**T**HE expected return of the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) to the Guia Circuit for the 64th edition of the Macau Grand Prix may be in doubt, despite the event already being scheduled at this venue on the WTCC races' calendar for this year.

The president of the Sports Bureau (ID), Pun Weng Kun, said yesterday that the Macau GP organizers could not confirm that the race will be held at the Guia Circuit, five months prior to the event. "We can only say something after we have a commitment, for the time being we are only committed with Formula 3 and the GT World

Cup, we have no commitment with such races to allow them to race in Macau [WTCC]."

"The Macau Grand Prix is a renowned worldwide event and people have a lot of expectations about it, and there are many competitions that want to use this platform. However, our committee needs to consider which are the races that can in fact participate, which are the races that bring benefits to Macau," said Pun. "Maybe the [WTCC] is one of them. Our committee needs to evaluate if such races are to benefit and have a higher interest to Macau."

"We need to think [carefully], it is not they [say they] want to come and we [immediate-

ly] give the 'green-light,'" Pun concluded.

Questioned on the fact that the WTCC has already announced this race and have included the event in the official year calendar published on their website, Pun said: "We do not have the right to ask them to change the content of what is published on websites of entities outside Macau. But we do have competence to decide on what is to be on our event program."

Pun concluded saying, "We are not in contact with [FIA]; only during a preliminary stage were we in contact with them."

Nevertheless, the official website of the WTCC continues to

display the event as scheduled for the weekend of November 17 to 19 this year, the last round before the season finale at Qatar from November 30 to December 1.

Regarding the return to Macau, the event promoter wrote, "After two years away, the world's fastest international touring car series returns to the Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, restoring the famous Guia Race to its former glory in the process."

"Previously forming the closing event of the WTCC season, Macau will now host the penultimate weekend of the campaign when Rob Huff will be bidding for a record-exten-

ding ninth Macau win," the promoter added.

The governing body of the motorsport Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) previously announced the Macau event on the sports calendar for 2017, noting at that time that the event was subjected to confirmation from the local organizing body - namely the National Sport Federation.

The last time the WTCC series held a race in Macau was in 2014. In December that year, the FIA World Motorsport Council announced that the championship would not be returning to Macau in 2015. The race was replaced by the TCR Series in 2015 and 2016, but the contract with TCR was not renewed by the Macau GP organizers.

The Times contacted the organizing body of the WTCC for further clarification, but no response was provided before press time.

## Event retains title sponsors

**A**T a press conference held yesterday at the Macau Science Center, it was announced that the 64th edition of the Macau Grand Prix would take place with the same title sponsors as in the previous edition. Therefore, the main event sponsors will continue to be, for the fourth consecutive year, Suncity Group, which contributed the amount of MOP20 million this year.

The sponsorship of the main race events will also continue as before. Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) will again sponsor the Macau GT Cup and the Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau (CTM) will also continue to sponsor the Macau Touring Car Cup. During the event, the title sponsor agreements were signed by representatives of SJM and CTM.

In the opening speech, Pun Weng Kun, presi-

dent of the Sports Bureau (ID) mentioned that the committee is once more committed to continue improving entrance and exit amenities, in conjunction with the temporary traffic measures to "further facilitate the daily lives of residents and visitors."

Pun added, "the works on the roads will all be performed [earlier] during the summer holidays to put less pressure on the students and to [reduce the impact on] the population."

He also highlighted that the 2017 edition of the event will continue to feature the two World Cup events, the F3 World Cup (held for the second time) and the GT World Cup, which this year reaches its third edition.

Pun mentioned that the races would be organized under a similar budget to last year.

## LOCAL DRIVERS TO RACE TOGETHER

**ONE OF** the decisions made by the organizing committee to reduce the number of racing events was to condense two racing categories into just one. The decision applies to the former Touring Car Cup and Road Sport Challenge categories, which will now be combined. These two categories previously have had grid positions mostly occupied by Macau and Hong Kong racers. This will see the number of available slots from around 30 for the Touring Car Cup and around 40 for the Road Sport Challenge reduced to a total of about 40 for both categories.

This decision does not conform to the opinion of local racers that feel their path to the Guia Circuit is becoming more and more difficult. The Times confirmed with some local racers that the measure has already led to their decision to quit the race. Commenting on the topic, Pun Weng Kun said, "we merged some races in order to have a better organization. The grand prix is a high-level event and only high-level drivers can participate. The drivers understand that they need to reach a certain level to be able to participate."

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ENVIRONMENT

# Air quality improving after HK, Guangdong initiatives

**A**CCORDING to the Air Quality Report 2016, published by environmental authorities in Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, the quality of air in the Pearl River Delta Region continued to improve last year due to anti-pollution measures implemented in Guangdong Province. Supplementary information to the report as well as its conclusions were provided in a statement issued yesterday by Macau's Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA).

The monitoring system responsible for measuring the change, named the Air Quality Monitoring Network for the Pearl River Delta Region, consists of some 23 stations that detect the six major air pollutants: sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), inhalable particles, fine particles and carbon monoxide (CO).

According to the report, the average annual values for SO<sub>2</sub> and inhalable particles recorded in the region fell by 8 and 6 percent respectively last year, compared with the values recorded in 2015.

PAULO BARBOSA



The sky seen from Cheoc Van Beach, Macau



The average annual value of NO<sub>2</sub> increased by 6 percent, however the DSPA highlights this fact in context; NO<sub>2</sub> has undergone a long-term decline and decreased by around one-quarter since 2006.

At the same time, the average annual value of O<sub>3</sub> increased by 4 percent last year compared to 2015, but was down 4 percent compared to 2006, while the values for fine particles and CO increased by 9 percent and 1 percent respectively.

Citing some of these declines,

environmental authorities in Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong Province claim that measures to reduce emissions in the three territories have been successful.

Included in these successful measures was a series of initiatives to reduce overall air pollution caused by industrial sources, maritime and land transport, non-road mobile machinery and the production of electricity. Further, the DSPA statement indicates that it was mainly the Hong Kong and Guangdong Province authorities that carried out the initiatives.

According to yesterday's statement, the DSPA was involved in lobbying for the legislation and the definition of scientific criteria relating to air pollutants. Furthermore, the bureau says that it has published documents outlining the standards for exhaust gases emitted by new and imported vehicles, regulated the quality of unleaded petrol and light diesel for vehicles, and launched financial incentives for the termination of two-engine motorcycles and mopeds.

In this respect, the projects

undertaken by environmental authorities in Hong Kong and Guangdong Province have been far more comprehensive. In Hong Kong, they include a reduction in emission ceilings, the strengthening of the control of petroleum gases, restrictions on the sulfur content of light diesel vehicles within Hong Kong's maritime domain, and the regulation of non-road mobile machinery emissions.

According to the same statement, in Guangdong, the initiatives included "the imposition of clean energy and the improvement of energy sources," the application of more stringent environmental requirements for new projects and the "elimination of companies with outdated production capacity."

Moreover, authorities in the mainland province say that they have established areas where the use of certain fuels is prohibited, and that they have also reviewed the polluting effects of electricity generated by fossil fuels, building materials in the construction industry, and volatile organic compounds.

Meanwhile, a review of medium-term targets for reducing air pollutants in the region is due for completion "by the middle of this year," according to the DSPA. The review will summarize the results of emissions reductions achieved in 2015 and will set new targets for 2020. **DB**

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## AL PLENARY

# Lawmakers deem high officials accountable for problems reported by CCAC

Julie Zhu

SEVERAL lawmakers posed questions yesterday to the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, regarding the government's method of handling the problems reported by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) and by the Commission of Audit (CA). The secretary pledged to improve mechanisms for accountability of officials as well as legal training.

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, Ng Kuok Cheong said that the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) took action following the CCAC's report that condemned the IC's recruitment of outsourced staff.

Ng noted that reactions of different governmental departments towards the report were witnessed by the public. Some departments, however, did not apply disciplinary procedures or provide a public explanation, thus allowing the CCAC's reported problems to continue.

Regarding the undertaking of responsibilities, Ng stated, "after things are unveiled, [the government] says it will enhance supervision, and will make up for previous works."

The lawmaker wanted to know the consequences of the "previous works" frequently mentioned by the government.

He also pointed out that many cases were only disclosed after a few departments were dismissed. Those who should be accountable for these cases have "already left."

Ng then encouraged the government to "reveal how many people left [their work] for being accountable [for the problems], and how many left without having been asked to assume responsibilities."

Si Ka Lon, following Ng's statements, said that if the CCAC's and the CA's criticisms are not addressed, it will crumble the departments' energy.

"Main government officials must pay importance to it; someone should be responsible for these things," declared Si.

Ho Ion Sang noted that government officials worked



but "were not held accountable."

Furthermore, Ho pointed out that high officials are either retired or were moved to other departments after the reports by the CCAC and the CA came out.

Au Kam San regarded the CCAC and the CA as the hands of the Chief Executive, with the former working for integrity and the latter for efficiency.

Leong Veng Chai continued his questions to Chan. During the last AL plenary meeting, he said there were many go-

vernment departments which violated regulations during their recruitment.

"What do you reckon when several recruitments within the Legal Affairs Bureau [DSAJ] violated regulations? [...] I think you should review the recruiting process, and also review what you said," said Leong.

Chan first replied to Leong, explaining that her departments will correct their problems. She noted that the government has reached an agreement regarding the civil servant system.

According to Chan's statement, the Macau government has decided to spend effort developing the government's integrity. Moreover, according to the secretary, less than 1 percent of the work conducted by the city's high officials is considered to be in need of improvement.

Government reports regarding the working behavior of Macau leaders in the year of 2016, show that nearly two-thirds of the city's high officials received evaluations classified as "good" or above. Approximately one-third received "ok" or "expected".

Regarding leadership capability, around 88 percent of the governors were evaluated as "good" or above, while 11 percent obtained a "pass". This supports Chan's comments that only about 1 percent of government officials need to improve.

Regarding the sense of morality and the sense of responsibility while on-duty, 93 percent of the governors were assessed as "good" or above, while another 7 percent were rated lower but passed the evaluation, and less than 1 percent needed improvement.

## Many questions about Iec Long Firecracker factory

LAWMAKERS have pressed the government for further explanation on a land swap deal related to the former Iec Long Firecracker Factory, which was reported by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) last year.

The factory was reported to have gained thousands of square meters of public land from the government according to an agreement signed between the owners of the factory and the administration.

A report issued by the CCAC in 2016 indicated that the agreement was invalid.

Many lawmakers questioned whether violation of the regulations or illegal behavior was involved in the agreement.

Lawmaker Song Pek Kit doubted that any sense of responsibility was being instilled in government high officials regarding this case.

"The lands belong to all the residents of Macau," said Song, adding that the Macau public cannot trust the government if the land was swapped that easily. "The government cannot explain [its actions] to the public."

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I further questioned

how the government followed up on the case. Lei says that the "CCAC's report has a small effect regarding the Iec Long Firecracker Factory."

The head of the Land Management Department of the Land at the Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), Américo Viseu, disclosed that the investigations have concluded that the part of the factory's lands in question are indeed private lands.

Furthermore, the DSSOPT official declared that the bureau has already completed an investigation report into the lands, and has issued a notice to related people to clean the factory site and move out from the area within 60 days.

The government will reclaim the lands after this period. Moreover, Américo Viseu noted that the land swap incident was reported to the CCAC by Raimundo do Rosário, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, who took the initiative to compel the CCAC to investigate the case.

Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, added that the DSSOPT will follow up the case.

## ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

## ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

Angela Leong pointed out that the majority of Macau's tourists are from mainland China, with mainland studies showing that Alipay and WeChat Pay have become the preferred mobile payment platforms among mainland residents. Leong noted that Macau's mobile payment coverage is at a low percentage, as only a small number of large restaurants and retail companies have an installed electronic payment systems. The lawmaker claimed that regarding the sectors of transportation, medicine, services, and government departments, Macau does not provide an electronic payment platform, which means the city has a long way to go towards becoming a smart city. Leong questioned the authority on whether it will consider the installment of electronic payment systems within government departments.

## POOL HYGIENE

Chan Hong says that the government's previous swimming pool hygiene tests indicated that the city's public pool hygiene management needs to be improved. Chan mentioned that the pools in the city's hotels are under the responsibility of the city's tourism authority, and that the latter provides instructions regarding the maintenance of these pools. Chan said that the instructions are merely suggestions, which are insufficient to secure the hygiene of pools in hotels. Chan questioned the government on whether it will issue a unified pool management license. The lawmaker also wanted to know whether the government will require a specific number of mandatory lifeguards at all public pools.

## ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE

Kwan Tsui Hang stated that the city has "nearly blank supervision" towards mechanical and electrical engineering projects. Kwan noted that back in 2014, Macau had 5,193 declared elevators – however, according to a government report last year, only roughly 1,200 elevators obtained an annual safe operation certificate. Kwan says that the city's elevator maintenance and operation regulations have already been implemented for four years. Kwan noted that the regulations are not mandatory and have no punishment provisions. The lawmaker questioned whether the government has any supervision of the operation of the city's elevators at all.

28TH MACAO ARTS FESTIVAL

# Icelandic take on The Seagull to close out event



Daniel Beitler

**T**HE 28th Macao Arts Festival will come to a close on Sunday after two showings of a modern, Icelandic take on Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, brought to the stage of the Macau Cultural Center by the Reykjavik City Theatre, under the guidance of director Yana Ross.

Ross's interpretation takes the classic late-nineteenth century play by the Russian dramatist and sets it in a luxurious Icelandic lakeside summerhouse with parties and karaoke.

Ross said during a media session this week that she finds it essential to reproduce classics with a touch of localism – both in terms of time and space. That is, she imbues local names, characters and themes into her works, taking note of where they will be staged.

"It is very important to take into account the context of where the play is happening. A big part of the work is to look at the original Russian culture [...] when the play was written," said Ross. "For me, it's never an abstract Russian masterpiece; it's a very practical text for the actors, written by a hot-blooded writer."

"The key for me is open dialogue of what art means to us today. I am not interested in talking about what art meant 100 years ago... that has changed," she continued. "Perhaps, paradoxically, I am seeking authenticity, but the original is calling for an adaptation."

In giving an example of why an update to the play

created in 1895 was required, Ross explained that in the original, one character walks into a room without wearing a hat – behavior that would be considered rude and shocking in the late-nineteenth century.

In the context of today's audiences, Ross said, this would no longer be shocking and some meaning would be lost. Therefore, changes were required to ensure parts of Chekhov's writings were not overlooked.

Nevertheless, many themes found in *The Seagull* and across Chekhov's works have not changed in more than a century, testifying to the relevance of the Russian playwright today.

"I don't think there is any rule or necessity for updating classics," the Latvian-born director wrote in an introduction to the program. "The point is that the play is relevant and it is an artistic choice of how to stage it."

The Reykjavik City Theatre ranks among Iceland's oldest and most prestigious cultural institutions. It has successfully collaborated with many leading international companies such as the Barbican Center and Young Vic in London, Het Muziektheater in Amsterdam, and the Malmö City Theatre in Sweden.

Showings of *The Seagull* will be held on Saturday and Sunday night at the Grand Auditorium of the Macau Cultural Center. The performances will be held in Icelandic, with subtitles in Chinese, Portuguese and English.

ADVERTORIAL

WYNN EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP SCHEME

## Sharing the Success with Employees

Wynn Macau, Limited launched its unprecedented Employee Ownership Scheme in 2014, giving each employee of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace 1,000 shares of its stock with an aim to allow them to become an owner of the company. In April 2017, the first batch of qualifying employees received 500 vested shares of Wynn Macau, Limited stock and accumulated dividends, sharing in the company's achievement.

At the time, Mr. Stephen A. Wynn, Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer of Wynn Resorts, Limited said: "I consider everyone at Wynn my family, and it is my fundamental belief that our amazing success should also be shared as a family. The only way to allow employees to fully share the success with the company is to give them the company's stock, enabling them to become an owner of the company."

**GUIDED TRAINING COURSES TO LOOK AFTER EMPLOYEES**

This first-of-its-kind Employee Ownership Scheme aims to reward employees by sharing in the success of the company, showing appreciation for their

contributions and long-term service. The scheme is also a testament to the company's commitment in caring for employees and its accountability in helping facilitate Macau's community development.

The company organized a month-long internal communication program with roadshows and Questions & Answers, and hosted guided training courses to underline the importance of the scheme and ensure employees fully understood how it benefits them. Each session had a dedicated professional to explain the vesting of shares, how employees can benefit from keeping them, and to answer questions in person. These acts reflected the depth of how much the company values its employees.

**SHARING SUCCESS TO REWARD OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Scheme carries important meaning for every employee at Wynn. Peng Sin, who has worked in Wynn Macau's Public Area Department for more than 10 years, said that she had been hoping to share in the company's success

when Mr. Wynn announced the plan three years ago. Now an official shareholder, she has even greater confidence in the company's prospects.

Cherry Wong joined Wynn Macau 10 years ago and transferred to Wynn Palace last year. She notes that, aside from offering employees a competitive salary and comprehensive welfare benefits, the company also provides diverse training and development opportunities to retain staff. With the opening of Wynn Palace, more and more employees will be able to reach their full potential. The Scheme provides unparalleled motivation by ensuring that their efforts can benefit their own company as they continue to advance themselves.

Despite Rong Huang having worked as a technician at Wynn Palace for less than two years, he said that he has great hope for the future given newly joining employees can also enjoy the benefits of the Scheme. Once he receives his vested shares, he plans to hold them for the long-term and so looks forward to receiving higher returns through stock appreciation and regular dividends.



Wynn Macau announced the launch of its Employee Ownership Scheme in 2014



From left: Cherry Wong, Peng Sin and Rong Huang



## Macau Mobile Library suspended

All services at the Macau Mobile Library will be suspended from today for inspection and maintenance. According to a statement by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Mobile Library will stop parking at the usual locations and is estimated to resume operations in July.

## Bessmertny exhibition to end on Sunday

The contemporary art exhibition, "Ad Lib – Recent Works of Konstantin Bessmertny", organized by the Macau Museum of Art (MAM), will conclude on Sunday. The exhibition, which has been open since November, displays some 34 pieces of painting, sculpture, installation and mixed media works by Macau-based Russian artist Konstantin Bessmertny. According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the artist "manifests the spiritual demeanor of the city with a visual language that is seemingly absurd." Accordingly, the humorous approach in his work often amuses and entertains viewers. The catalogue of the exhibition is available for sale at the MAM gift shop at the price of MOP140.

## USJ students to showcase series of artworks

Bachelor of Communication and Media students from the University of Saint Joseph's Faculty of Creative Industries are set to showcase their latest works in the exhibition "Our Perspective" at Albergue SCM from May 29 to June 7. The artworks to be presented by USJ's students includes three documentaries on the E-series Civic Club Macau (ECCM), overseas students' experiences, and culture and sports facilities in the region, as well as 33 photos of traditional stores in Macau. The exhibition intends to focus on traditional culture with the purpose of preserving those declining businesses, as cited in a press release issued by the private university. The opening ceremony will be held on Monday at 3 p.m. at the Patio of Albergue SCM.

## TOURISM

# MGTO joins event in Lisbon

**T**HE Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies (APAVT) organized a presentation session in Lisbon for tourism government officials, operators and media concerning the 43rd National Congress of APAVT.

To be held in Macau from November 23 to 27, the theme of the congress will be "Tourism: In the East, all new!" according to a statement issued by MGTO.

The congress is expected to gather around 500 Portuguese tourism operators and travel agents; and provide them with an update about new tourism offers and opportunities.

During the presentation session at the Portuguese capital, the Secretary of State for Tourism of Portugal, Ana Mendes Godinho, noted, "the organization of the Congress of APAVT in Macau represents the unique golden key that will close this great year for Portugal-China relations."

"Clearly, we will have a very



APAVT president (center) with the MGTO director, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Tourism (right), the President of Portugal Tourism Board and the coordinator of Macau Tourism Promotion & Information Center in Portugal

significant moment on July with the inauguration of the direct flights Lisbon-Beijing-Hangzhou, but throughout the year we have been also developing a string of intense initiatives in order to reinforce the presence and promotion of Portugal in China," Godinho added.

Meanwhile, Helena de Sena Fernandes said that the bureau is confident that the congress would lead to further networking between operators, attracting more Portuguese visitors to Macau.

The MGTO head noted that

the event is in line with the Protocol on Cooperation in Tourism signed last year between Macau and Portugal to reinforce relations and stimulate tourism cooperation across different levels.

APAVT President Pedro Costa Ferreira, who was also at the meeting, described Macau as a "kaleidoscope of emotions, cultures, stories and people."

"Also, because Macau represents a whole global economic centeredness which is moving East, with the city embodying a true window of change of the economical structure that is

being heralded," said Ferreira.

Further, the MGTO director had a meeting on Wednesday in Lisbon with the President of Portugal Tourism Board, Luís Araújo.

During the meeting, the two parties discussed enhancing bilateral and multi-destination tourism cooperation and exchanges, along with the possibilities provided by the soon to be opened direct flights between Portugal and Mainland China, among other topics.

The 43rd National Congress of APAVT is being organized with the support of MGTO.

This is the fifth time that APAVT is holding its annual national congress in the peninsula, and the second since the establishment of the MSAR. The last edition of the congress that was held in Macau occurred nine years ago.

Last year Macau welcomed 15,624 visitors from Portugal, marking a 3 percent year-on-year increase. The growth continued for the first four months of the year, with arrivals recording a 10.4 percent increase.

## Half of local restaurants reported revenue growth in March

**A**LMOST half of the restaurants interviewed in the March business climate survey reported year-on-year growth in revenue for that month, up by 10 percentage points from the proportion that registered growth in February.

Around 47 percent of the restaurants reported an increase in revenue. The proportions of Chinese restaurants

(48 percent), Japanese and Korean restaurants (56 percent), and Western restaurants (35 percent) reporting growth went up by about 30, 25 and 10 percentage points, respectively.

The business climate survey is conducted by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). It analyzes the value of receipts from a total of 167 restaurants,

accounting for 53 percent of revenue from the whole sector. It compiles the business performance and expectations of firms within the sample.

Concurrent with the increase in revenue recorded within the restaurant sector, the proportion of interviewed restaurants that reported a year-on-year decline in receipts went down by 17 percentage

points from February to 35 percent. Chinese and Japanese-Korean restaurants recorded respective declines of 34 and 19 percentage points in March.

The survey also interviewed some 135 retailers, accounting for 70 percent of the industry's receipts.

DSEC said in a statement that, similar to the restaurant sector, half of interviewed re-

tailers reported a year-on-year increase in March sales, up by 20 percentage points from the proportion in the previous month.

In the restaurant sector, around 41 percent of interviewed firms expected their revenue to hold steady in April, while a similar number (39 percent) expected a decline.

According to DSEC, the business sentiment for April was more positive for retailers in the city, with one-quarter saying that they expected an increase.

AD

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## HERITAGE

## Plans and architectural drawings on display

**A**N exhibition featuring about 60 city plans and architectural drawings kept in the Macau Archives (AM) will be inaugurated next month. Organized by AM, the exhibition will be sorted by category to enable visitors to trace the history of Macau and gain an understanding of the city's development and changes from the late 19th century to the middle of

the 20th century.

According to the organizers, the plans and drawings showcase characteristics of buildings in Macau, and reflect that several architects involved in developing the town had "adopted a variety of design languages in their works, keeping pace with international trends and exploring the possibilities of a fusion of Eastern and

Western architectural elements."

Several lectures will be held during the exhibition period. The first will be conducted by architect Lui Chak Keong and will review Macau's urban and architectural development from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. It will be held on Saturday, June 17, at 3 p.m., at the Macau Archives.

"Macao Illustrated - Exhibition of City Plans and Architectural Drawings from the Macao Archives' Collection" will be held between June 10 and December 3.

# China-PSC fund headquarters to be unveiled during int'l infrastructure forum

Renato Marques

The China-Portuguese speaking countries (PSC) cooperation and development fund headquarters and protocol signing ceremony will be one of the highlights of this year's edition of the 8th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum.

The two-day event, to be held at The Venetian Macao on June 1 and 2, intends to be a platform for cooperation and exchanges for global enterprises, investors and professionals, especially those from Portuguese-speaking countries and those along the route of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During a press conference held yesterday held by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the vice president of the China International Contractors Association, Yu Xiaohong, stressed that the forum will "mark the official launching of the development fund in Macau, that will provide consultancy and project financing services to enterprises."

Yu further mentioned the publishing of the "Belt and Road" infrastructure cooperation authoritative indexes and reports. He also discussed the extension of the connectivity and



development plans to not only the Portuguese-speaking countries, but also to the African, Latin American and Caribbean regions.

Yu also stated most of these countries and regions will be represented on this forum at the highest level. An expected 28 ministerial-level guests and officials from 23 African countries and 11 ministerial-level guests and officials from Latin American and Caribbean countries will attend.

"As of May 23, 55 ministerial-level guests and officials from 43 countries and regions have confirmed their participation," said Yu, adding that 12 of them are from countries along the "Belt and Road" region and eight are from Portuguese-speaking countries.

Replying to questions of the media, Irene Lau, Executive Director of IPIM said that the event "is in line with the esta-

blishing of Macau as a convention center," remarking that the event "has reached its peak in terms of participants."

Lau also mentioned that in comparison with the previous edition, this year's forum "will be of a much larger scale" due to the presence of "one more country" and especially due to "more participants from Mainland China that will add more in terms of capital and human resources."

The event, which this year focuses on innovation and sustainability, will also be another opportunity to "provide a platform for cooperation and exchanges for global enterprises, investors and professionals, especially for those along the route of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Portuguese-speaking countries," the president of IPIM, Jackson Chang said at the opening speech.

## Marine life ceramics at Anim'Arte Nam Van

Jointly organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macau Artist Society, the "Sou Leng Fong Ceramic Art Exhibition" will be inaugurated on Sunday at the Lakeside Gallery at Anim'Arte Nam Van. The exhibition features eleven sets of ceramic works by Sou Leng Fong, themed on "star gazing, flower viewing and fish watching." According to a statement issued by the IC, Sou uses marine life as a subject in her works, through which she illustrates relationships, conflict and confusion within society and between people. For example, the IC says that the floating fish in her work "resemble people looking for their respective directions." The exhibition will run until June 25 and is open daily to the general public between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

## Water company identifies oil spill

Macao Water Supply Company Limited says it identified an oil spill in the Cheac Pac Vun reservoir on Wednesday afternoon. Emergency actions were taken immediately to remove the oil pollution from the reservoir. No oil entered the water treatment plant or the water supply system. Several more days will be needed to completely remove the oil discharge. The water company has halted the water supply from its reservoir in Coloane. Taipa's water supply will not be affected. The oil spill is suspected to have originated from industrial sites near the Cheac Pac Vun reservoir, partially because of recent heavy rains.

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The Best Places to Live in Macau - 2017 - Part V

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

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JULIET RISDON

We are often asked by people new to hunting for a home in Macau "Where is the best place to live?" The answer to this of course depends largely on your personal perspective and circumstances. Of course there will always be pros and cons in any property and location, so it's good to know what is essential and what is desirable to make it a good choice for you. Last week we highlighted 'village living' in Coloane, Taipa and St Paul's in old Macau. In this final article in the series, the focus is on Taipa and Cotai.

Nova Park, Taipa

Area: Central Taipa Area residential.

Amenities: Walking distance to restaurants, supermarkets, banks, healthcare, and schools. Bus stops and taxis nearby. New local park and under ground Public Park are right outside.

Building facilities: Gym, pool, security personnel. Car parking available in the building, children's play areas.

Property features: Reasonable size living space in a small complex.

Rental prices: Mid Range.

Advantages: New apartments, great location.

Drawbacks: Apartments smaller than older properties.

Kingsville, Taipa

Area: Taipa, edge of Old Taipa, residential.

Amenities: Good for walking to the supermarket, banks, health care, on the main bus route with Bus Stops right outside, schools are easily accessible, as are local bars and restaurants.

Building facilities: Swimming Pool, Gym, Children's Play area. Car Parking Spaces available.

Property Features: Dark wood flooring and woodwork, mostly good views, small fitted kitchens with ovens as standard.

Rental Prices: Mid to High End Advantages: Great Location/ Mostly great views

Drawbacks: Apartments are older, many need renovation

The Buckingham, Taipa

Area: Taipa, edge of Old Taipa, residential.

Amenities: Good for walking to the supermarket, banks, health care, on the main bus route with Bus Stops right outside, schools are easily accessible, as are local bars and restaurants.

Building facilities: Swimming Pool, Banquet Room, Spa Room, well equipped Gym, Games Room, BBQ Area, Children's Play area. Concierge. Car Parking Spaces available.

Property Features: Light wood

flooring and woodwork, small fitted kitchens with ovens as standard, reverse cycle air-conditioning.

Rental Prices: Mid to High End. Advantages: Great location.

Drawbacks: Many apartments do not get much sunlight

One Oasis

Area: Coloane & Cotai.

Amenities: Bus stops nearby. Adjacent to the Panda enclosure. Public park directly opposite.

Building facilities: Large development, Gym, pool inside & out, entertainment rooms, security personnel. Car parking available in the complex, children's play areas.

Property features: New building. Some good views over Coloane hills and park.

Rental Prices: Low to Mid Range.

Advantages: New apartments, some good views.

Drawbacks: Location is isolated, animal noises audible from the zoo, few balconies.

If you would like further information on these properties or a copy of the information mailed to you in 'pdf' format, please e mail me at Juliet@JMLProperty.com and we will be happy to send you the information.

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**O**PEC and its allies extended oil production cuts for nine more months after last year's landmark agreement failed to eliminate the global oversupply or achieve a sustained price recovery.

The producer group together with Russia and other non-members agreed to prolong their accord through March, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, Iran's Minister of Petroleum, said in Vienna. No new non-OPEC countries will be joining the pact, according to a delegate fami-

# OPEC, allies to extend oil cuts

liar with the matter, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public.

Six months after forming an unprecedented coalition of 24 nations and delivering output reductions that exceeded all expectations, resurgent production from U.S. shale fields has meant oil inventories remain well above the level targeted by

OPEC ministers. While stockpiles are shrinking, ministers acknowledged that the surplus built up during three years of overproduction won't clear until at least the end of 2017.

Saudi Oil Minister Khalid Al-Falih said yesterday that the cuts are working, saying stockpile reductions will accelerate in the third quarter and inventory levels will come down to the five-year average in the first quarter of next year. While he expects a "healthy return" for U.S. shale, that won't derail OPEC's goals and a nine-month extension will "do the trick," he said.

"We must complete our mission today," said Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak, who said the agreement was working despite skepticism.

The extension prolongs a rare period of collaboration between OPEC and some of its largest rivals, including Russia. The last time both sides worked together was 15 years ago, and the agreement fell apart soon after it began. The current accord encompasses countries that pump roughly 60 percent of the world's oil, but excludes major producers such as the U.S., China,



Khalid Bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, Saudi Arabia's energy minister (center)

Canada, Norway and Brazil.

Without a steer on what will happen beyond March, there's concern that OPEC could return to the free-for-all production that caused prices to slump from 2014 to 2016, though Al-Falih has insisted the organization will maintain control. "We have said we will do whatever it takes," the minister said.

The Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee - comprised on six OPEC and non-OPEC nations - has a strong mandate to

continue watching the market and can recommend further action if needed, said his Kuwaiti counterpart Almarzooq.

Al-Falih earlier announced that OPEC is welcoming a new member, Equatorial Guinea, to its ranks. The African nation will be one of the group's smallest producers, pumping about 270,000 barrels a day, a little more than neighboring Gabon. It was already participating in the cuts as a non-OPEC producer. **Bloomberg**

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Staff workers show AlipayHK in Hong Kong. The online and mobile payment platform Alipay announced on Wednesday that it would launch AlipayHK, a version dedicated to local-currency payments in Hong Kong. AlipayHK is the first version of the Alipay app to handle non-renminbi transactions.

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# Beijing protests US Navy patrol through South China Sea

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA protested a U.S. Navy patrol that sent a guided missile destroyer near a group of man-made islands in the South China Sea yesterday, in the first American challenge to Beijing's claims to the waters since President Donald Trump took office.

China's Defense Ministry told reporters that it had sought an explanation with U.S. officials over the incident, which Beijing said involved the USS Dewey and took place around Mischief Reef, one of a chain of artificial islands China has built and fortified to assert its claims over the strategic waterway.

While U.S. officials did not immediately comment on yesterday's operation, Washington has in the past insisted that it has the right to conduct so-called freedom of navigation operations, or FONOPS, in the area because it is in international waters. The Navy conducted similar operations under former President Barack Obama, but had not done so since Trump took office and began talking up the prospect of warming ties with Beijing and cooperating



over issues like North Korea.

A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the U.S. destroyer had "trespassed" near islands over which China has "indisputable sovereignty."

"We urge the U.S. to correct

this mistake and stop taking further actions so as to avoid hurting peace and security in the region and long-term cooperation between the two countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Ren Guoqiang told reporters at a monthly news briefing that a pair of Chinese navy frigates had warned off the American ship after it entered the area without China's permission.

"We urge the American side to take concrete efforts to correct its wrongdoings and add more positive energy to the military-to-military relationship," Ren said.

The spokesman added that the U.S. actions not only posed the risk of sparking an accident at sea but would "only motivate the Chinese military to enhance its capacity."

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea and has aggressively tried to fortify its foothold in recent years by transforming seven mostly submerged reefs into island outposts, some with runways and radars and — more recently — weapons systems.

The work is opposed by the

other claimants to the atolls and the United States, which are wary of restrictions on ship movements in a key waterway for world trade which boasts rich fishing grounds and a potential wealth of undersea oil, gas and mineral deposits. An international tribunal last year rejected most of China's claims to the waters and said its land reclamation was aggravating tensions and violating the sovereignty of fellow claimant the Philippines. China has ignored the ruling.

China contends the man-made islands are primarily for civilian purposes and to increase safety for ships. It has said it won't interfere with freedom of navigation or overflight, but there have been questions about whether that includes military ships and aircraft.

A bipartisan group of U.S. senators earlier this month urged Trump to resume freedom of navigation operations that had last been conducted in October. The senators described the South China Sea as critical to U.S. national security interests and to peace in the Asia-Pacific.

U.S. Defense Department spokesman Maj. Jamie Davis said in an emailed statement that U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region would continue to conduct freedom of navigation operations to "challenge excessive maritime claims in order to preserve the rights, freedoms, and uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations under international law."

Davis gave no details of yesterday's operation, saying summaries would only be released in an annual report and adding that U.S. forces conducted such operations last year to challenge claims by 22 coastal states, including allies and partners.

"U.S. forces operate in the Asia-Pacific region on a daily basis, including in the South China Sea. All operations are conducted in accordance with international law and demonstrate that the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows," Davis said.

"FONOPS are not about any one country, nor are they about making political statements." AP

## Taiwan holds war games simulating Chinese island attack



TAIWAN'S military practiced repelling a simulated Chinese assault on an outlying island group yesterday as part of annual military drills addressing the threat from across the Taiwan Strait.

Units from the army, navy and air force were deployed for the drills on the Penghu islands. They featured tanks, rocket launchers, assault helicopters and soldiers using shoulder-fired missiles to repel a force invading from across

the 160-kilometer-wide strait.

Warships maneuvered offshore and fighter jets deployed flares.

The drills come amid heightened tensions with China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen observed the drills wearing a helmet and flak jacket and said they would improve command and cooperation between the different branches of the military.

## China and Pakistan working to free abducted Chinese

AUTHORITIES from China and Pakistan are working together to rescue a Chinese couple abducted in southwest Pakistan, a Chinese government spokesman said yesterday.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China had asked Pakistani authorities to "take all necessary measures and do their best to rescue the kidnapped Chinese."

Lu added that the two governments were coordinating to ensure the safety of other Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

Pakistani police were searching for the two teachers from a private language school after they were abducted in the city of Quetta Wednesday.

Gunmen dressed as police stopped the couple's car and shot and wounded a

man who intervened after he rescued a third person who was in the car, according to Pakistani police and China's official Xinhua news agency.

No one immediately claimed responsibility and the motive behind the abduction was unclear.

Thousands of Chinese nationals work in Pakistan and have sometimes been targeted in attacks by anti-

government militants.

China is a longtime ally of Pakistan and is currently building a network of roads and power plants under a project known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Gunmen attacked a highway construction site that is part of the economic initiative earlier this month, killing at least 10 Pakistani workers.



Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nafees Zakaria briefs media at the Foreign Office in Islamabad

AP PHOTO



Go player Ke Jie (center) speaks at a press conference after a match against Google's AI program, AlphaGo

ALPHAGO

# Computer wins second game against Chinese go champion

A computer beat China's top player of go, one of the last games machines have yet to master, for a second time yesterday in a competition authorities limited the Chinese public's ability to see.

Ke Jie lost despite playing what Google's AlphaGo indicated was the best game any opponent has played against it, said Demis Hassabis, founder of the company that developed the program.

AlphaGo defeated Ke, a 19-year-old prodigy, in their first game Tuesday during a forum organized by Google on artificial intelligence in Wuzhen, a town west of Shanghai. They play a final game Saturday.

AlphaGo previously defeated European and South Korean champions, surprising players who had expected it to be at least a decade before computers could master the game.

Internet users outside China could watch this week's games live but Chinese censors blocked most mainland web users from seeing the Google site carrying the feed. None of China's dozens of video sites carried the live broadcasts but a recording of Tuesday's game was available the following night on one popular site, Youku.com.

State media reports on the games have been brief, possibly reflecting Beijing's antipathy toward Google, which closed its China-based search engine in 2010 following a dispute over censorship and computer hacking. Google says 60 million people in China watched online when AlphaGo played South Korea's go champion in March 2016. The official response to the

match, a major event for the worlds of go and artificial intelligence, reflects the conflict between the ruling Communist Party's technology ambitions and its insistence on controlling what its public can see, hear and read.

The government encourages internet use for business and education but tries to block access to material considered subversive.

The possible reason for suppressing coverage while allowing Google to organize the event was unclear. Censorship orders to Chinese media are officially secret and government officials refuse to confirm whether online material is blocked.

Yesterday, AlphaGo "thought that Ke Jie played perfectly" for the first 50 moves, Hassabis said at a news conference.

"For the first roughly 100 moves, it is the closest game we have ever seen anyone play against the master version of AlphaGo," he said.

Ke said the computer made unexpected moves after playing more methodically on Tuesday.

"From the perspective of human beings, it stretched a little bit and I was surprised at some points," he said.

"I also thought that I was very close to winning the match in the middle," Ke said. "I could feel my heart thumping. But maybe because I was too excited, I did some wrong or stupid moves. I guess that's the biggest weak point of human beings."

This week's games are taking place in a hall where Chinese leaders hold the annual World Internet Conference, an event attended by global internet companies. AP

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# STILETTO STYLE

Stuart Weitzman is marking 30 years of fashionably garbing feet with the launch of the limited edition pavé Nudist collection. Choose from five glamorous incarnations of a stiletto that has become a favourite of Hollywood's most stylish: there are posh polka dots, cutting-edge camouflage, and metallic python designs, as well as a range of Swarovski crystals to choose from for the ultimate jewel-encrusted shoe. Discover the exclusive made-to-order pavé Nudist at the Stuart Weitzman pop-up exhibition until 31 May at Shoppes at Parisian or visit a Sands Shoppes boutique.

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## PHILIPPINES

## Soldiers try to restore order in besieged city

Jim Gomez &  
Teresa Cerojano, Marawi

**A**RMED tanks packed with soldiers rolled into a southern Philippine city yesterday to try to restore control after ISIS-linked militants launched a violent siege that sent thousands of people fleeing for their lives and raised fears of extremists gaining traction in the country.

At least 21 people have died in fighting that erupted earlier this week, when the army raided the Marawi hideout of Isnilon Hapilon, who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists and has a USD5 million bounty on his head.

But the operation quickly went wrong. Militants called in reinforcements and swept through the streets, torching buildings, taking a Catholic priest and his worshippers hostage and sealing off much of the city to the outside world.

There was no immediate word on Hapilon's whereabouts, but there was no indication he had been captured.

President Rodrigo Duterte declared 60 days of martial law on

Tuesday across the southern third of the nation, an area that includes Marawi but extends well beyond it. Mindanao is home to 22 million people. Duterte also warned that he may expand martial law nationwide.

Much of Marawi was still a no-go zone yesterday. Automatic gunfire and explosions could be heard in the distance and plumes of black smoke rose from the direction of the city center. Air force helicopters swooped overhead.

"At night we can hear the gunfire," said Mohammad Usman, 49, who was among thousands of residents streaming out of the city, jamming their belongings into cars. "I'm just praying that the bullets will not find its way to my house and hit us. I hope that the bombs will not land nearby and harm us."

Even though much of the city was sealed off, disturbing details were emerging.

Duterte said a local police chief was stopped at a militant checkpoint and beheaded. Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said the militants erected Islamic State flags at several locations. And Marawi Bishop Edwin de la Pena



said the militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a Catholic priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers.

Duterte has repeatedly threatened to place the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings, under martial law, which allows him to use the armed forces to carry out arrest, searches and detentions more rapidly. But

human rights groups and others have expressed fears that martial law powers could further embolden Duterte, who already has been accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of people in his crackdown on illegal drugs.

"We are gravely concerned that the declaration of martial law in Mindanao might lead to more extrajudicial killings and other cases

of human rights violations," said Teddy Casino, a former member of the House of Representatives.

Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise in commando assaults, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group and was wounded by a military airstrike in January. **AP**

## INDONESIA

## Suspected suicide bombs in Jakarta kills three policemen

**I**NDONESIA'S president ordered a thorough investigation yesterday of twin suicide bombings that targeted police, killing three officers, in the deadliest attack by suspected militants in the capital in a year.

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo said he ordered police to "thoroughly investigate the networks of the perpetrators and hunt them to the roots." He spoke from his hometown of Solo in Central Java province.

Two suspected suicide bombings near a bus terminal in Jakarta Wednesday night killed three policemen and injured ten other people, including five officers, police said.

National police spokesman Setyo Wasisto said there were two explosions by two suicide bombers.

"I expressed my deep condolence, in fact three policemen were



killed," Wasisto said. "There were explosions and latest investigation found that there are two suicide bombers, all men."

He added that ten other people — five policemen and five civilians — were wounded and were taken to several hospitals.

Earlier, Vice National Police Chief Syafruddin, who uses one name, said an initial investigation showed there were two explosions and a suspected suicide bomber had also died.

"Tonight, to Indone-

sian citizens and all of us who are here at the scene, I express very deep concern. There have been bomb explosions at the Kampung Melayu bus terminal and for now they are believed to have been a suicide bombing," he said.

Syafruddin said the officers had been guarding a parade by a group of local people.

The explosion occurred in a parking lot next to the bus terminal in eastern Jakarta.

A bomb squad was investigating the explo-

sion as heavily armed police and soldiers guarded the area.

TV channels showed people helping a victim lying on the ground, and three policemen carrying another victim away from the scene.

Police sources said an anti-terror squad had immediately raided two houses believed to be owned by the perpetrators in neighboring provinces of Banten and West Java, but the results have not yet been known.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, generally follows a moderate form of the faith.

The government has carried out a sustained crackdown on militants since the 2002 Bali bombings by al-Qaida-affiliated radicals that killed 202 people. A new threat has emerged in the past several years from extremists who sympathize with the Islamic State group. **AP**

## JAPAN

## Foreigners detained in Tokyo stage hunger strike to stay

**D**OZENS of foreigners seeking permission to stay in Japan have staged a hunger strike while in detention, highlighting what human rights advocates say is shoddy treatment of foreigners here.

Supporter Mitsuru Miyasako told reporters yesterday many had been recruited to work in Japan during the "bubble economy" about 30 years ago but are now being told to go home.

None has been charged with a crime. About half are seeking refugee status, although only about 0.3 percent of such applicants are awarded asylum in Japan. Many have had children in the country.

The hunger strike, which started May 9 with 22 people in a Tokyo immigration detention center, expanded to 70 people there. Thirty people in another city joined. It ended Tuesday because they were suffering health problems and had "reached their limit," Miyasako said.

During the initial days of the hunger strike, some people didn't even drink water, and three — from China, Nigeria and Bangladesh — became unconscious and were hospitalized, Miyasako said in a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Tokyo. They have since recovered.

Immigration officials say such

people simply need to leave Japan.

"The decision has been made that they are to return and so we keep talking to them to convince them of that," said Kazuyuki Tokui, a Justice Ministry official.

Miyasako, who heads a support group called Provisional Release Association in Japan, said the detention centers have insufficient medical care.

In March, a Vietnamese man in his 40s died of a stroke after being found unconscious in his room at an immigration facility in Ibaraki prefecture, near Tokyo. Tokui said the government saw the death as a serious problem and is investigating.

Although Japan has in recent years begun an aggressive campaign to welcome tourists to boost its economy, it has long had a reputation as insular and unfriendly to outsiders.

Nearly 1,300 people are being held at detention centers nationwide, according to the ministry. The largest number came from China. Those who staged the hunger strike came from China, Myanmar, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Ghana, Peru and other nations, according to Miyasako.

The hunger strike has not produced any change to their status. **AP**

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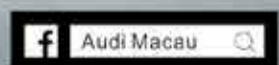
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BRASILIA ON FIRE

# Brazil president revokes order deploying troops in capital

**B**RAZIL'S president yesterday cancelled an order to deploy the military to the streets of the capital after criticism that the move was excessive and merely an effort to hold onto power amid increasing calls for his resignation.

In a decree published in the Official Diary, President Michel Temer revoked the order issued a day earlier, "considering the halt to acts of destruction and violence and the subsequent reestablishment of law and order." On Thursday afternoon, soldiers began to leave their posts in Brasilia, according to the Defense Ministry.

The troops were deployed early yesterday [Macau time] following a day of clashes between police and protesters demanding Temer's ouster amid allegations against him of corruption. Fires broke out in two ministries and several were evacuated. Protesters also set fires in the streets and vandalized government buildings. Images in national media, meanwhile, appeared to show police officers firing weapons, and the Secretariat of Public Security said it



Demonstrators torch the Ministry of Agriculture during an anti-government protest in Brasilia

was investigating. In all 49, people were injured, including one by a bullet.

Temer's popularity has been in a freefall since he took office a little more than a year ago after his predecessor was impeached and removed. Some Brazilians consider him illegitimate because of the way he came to

power, and his efforts to pass a series of economic reforms to cap the budget, loosen labor laws and reduce pension benefits have only made him even more unpopular. In addition, several of his advisers have been linked to Brazil's massive corruption investigation, known as Operation Car Wash.

Now, as part of the Car Wash probe, Temer is facing allegations that he endorsed the paying of hush money to a former lawmaker who has been jailed for corruption. Brazil's highest court is investigating him for alleged obstruction of justice and involvement in passive corruption after a recording see-

med to capture his approval of the bribe. Temer denies wrongdoing.

Many Brazilians want him out one way or another: They are calling for him to resign or be impeached. The calls for resignation have heated up since the release of the recording and came to a head in Wednesday's protest, when 45,000 demonstrators took to the streets.

In Congress, meanwhile, opposition lawmakers have submitted several requests for his impeachment. Later Thursday, the respected Brazilian bar association plans to submit another such request — a move that carries symbolic weight since the association is not partisan.

The use of troops in the nation's capital is particularly fraught in Brazil, where many still remember the repression of the country's 1964-1985 military dictatorship. Images of soldiers patrolling the streets increased the impression that Temer is struggling to maintain control and further ratcheted up pressure on him.

Temer said the decision was necessary to restore order and within his rights.

"Order was restored, the respect of life and order was restored," Defense Minister Raul Jungmann said in a news conference. He also countered accusations that the move was highly unusual, noting that the military had been called to patrol the streets of cities 29 times since 2010. **AP**

BRUSSELS

# Angry UK to confront Trump on leaks as NATO leaders meet

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump opened meetings with European Union leaders yesterday against the backdrop of striking anger from Britain over intelligence leaks and a decision by Manchester police to withhold information from the United States about the investigation into this

week's bombing. A British official said that Manchester police have decided not to share further information on the investigation due to leaks blamed on U.S. officials. The sharp rebuke comes as Trump is in Brussels, a city he once called a hel- lhole, to address leaders at both the European Union

and NATO, a pair of alliances whose necessity he has questioned.

The EU council president said a discussion with Trump produced sharply different views on Russia. NATO leaders nervously waited to see if Trump would pledge to adhere to a mutual defense pact. And the new French pre-

sident pushed Trump on a sweeping climate agreement and even engaged in an apparent handshake stand-off.

Later in the day, Trump was expected to attend his first meeting of NATO, the decades-long partnership that has become intrinsic to safeguarding the West but has been rattled by the new president's wavering on honoring its bonds.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said she plans to discuss the leaks with her American counterpart at the NATO gathering to "make clear to President Trump that intelligence that is shared between our law enforcement agencies must remain secure."

British officials are particularly angry that photos detailing evidence about the bomb used in the Manchester attack were published in The New



The Donalds: Tusk (left) and Trump

York Times, although it's not clear that the paper obtained the photos from U.S. officials.

Trump, who unlike other leaders at the summit is not planning to address reporters, did not respond to shouted questions as to whether the UK can trust the US with sensitive material.

The rebuke comes amid a backdrop of uncertainty in Brussels toward Trump over his past comments publicly cheering the United Kingdom's vote to leave the EU last summer and slamming the alliance during his transition as "a vehicle for Germany." Trump has taken a less combative tone since taking office, praising the

alliance as "wonderful" and saying a strong Europe is very important to him and the United States.

After meeting with Trump at the EU, European Council president Donald Tusk said he and the U.S. president agreed on the need to combat terrorism but some differences loomed large.

"Some issues remain open, like climate and trade. And I am not 100 percent sure that we can say today - we mean Mr. President and myself - that we have a common position, common opinions about Russia," said Tusk, who said unity needed to be found around values like freedom and human rights and dignity. **AP**

## Handshake showdown: Macron just won't let go

**U**.S. President Donald Trump met his match in a handshake showdown with France's new president, Emmanuel Macron. At their first meeting, ahead of a NATO summit in Brussels, the two men locked hands for so long that knuckles started turning white. Trump finally seemed ready to pull away — but Macron evidently wasn't. The French leader held the shake for a few seconds more. Both men's jaws seemed to clench. Trump has descri-



bed himself as "a germ freak" and called handshakes "barbaric."

## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Revenge Sr 2
17:40	Castle S6 (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated) (PT)
19:40	Soap Opera (PT)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Movie
01:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:45	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:40	Comedy
11:15	Blaze Riders
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
14:50	Soap Opera
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:55	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Drama (PT)
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Macao International Dragon Boat Races (Highlights)
00:50	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:25	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

10:35	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
18:15	Miscellaneous
19:30	Documentary Serie
19:40	Miscellaneous
20:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary Serie
23:00	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
23:30	Macao International Dragon Boat Races (Highlights)
23:55	RTPi Live

## Offbeat

How do you move 40,000 bees?  
CAREFULLY, WITH JUST 3 STINGS

With just three stings and no serious injuries, two beekeepers have safely removed an estimated 40,000 bees that bedeviled a Virginia townhouse community.

The Washington Post reports ([wapo.st/2rCfkZo](http://wapo.st/2rCfkZo)) the 18-kilogram swarm was carefully snipped from a tree branch May 17 in a grassy area of the Fredericksburg community by 33-year-old Nathan Thompson and his 70-year-old father Earl. The two belong to a family of beekeepers spanning three generations.

A county animal control officer, Anthony McCall, responded to the outsized swarm. But a sheriff's office statement described McCall as a self-admitted "chicken" regarding bees. So he summoned Nathan Thompson, interim chief of neighboring Aquia Harbor police, for help.

The Thompsons removed the swarm to beehive boxes. Now they hope the bees can be loaned out to help pollinate farmers' crops.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

26 MAY

## ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min



## GET OUT

ROOM 2

2:00, 4:00pm

Director: Jordan Peele

Starring: Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Bradley Whitford

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min



## BAYWATCH

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Seth Gordon

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra

Daddario

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min



## THE CIRCLE

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: James Ponsoldt

Starring: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, John Boyega

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

## MACAU TOWER

11 MAY - 29 MAY



## ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

## this day in history



## 1950 UK DRIVERS CHEER END OF FUEL RATIONS

Long queues have appeared at garages this evening and motorists have torn their ration books into confetti after the government announced an end to petrol rationing.

The Minister of Fuel and Power, Philip Noel-Baker, told the House of Commons rationing would be abolished because two American companies had agreed a deal to supply oil in return for buying British goods.

"This is indeed VP [Victory for Petrol] day for the motor users' campaign," said a spokesman for three motoring organisations - the RAC, AA and Royal Scottish Automobile Club.

"The effect on the industrial, commercial and community life will be electric. Ration books now become as obsolete as the man with the red flag."

Under a deal agreed earlier this month, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey and the California Texas Oil Company will be paid in sterling and in turn they have agreed to invest the money in British equipment, services and oil tankers.

It is hoped the policy will attract more dollar-spending tourists - which may offset the amount of dollars paid for the new fuel supplies from America.

The government estimates an increase in fuel consumption of one million tons a year. About 430,000 tons of this will be supplied by the US firms. The rest will come from newly expanded refineries in Britain.

But the poor quality of petrol in this country will not improve until refineries - such as those at Southampton and Cheshire - have been completed, probably in 1952.

Discounted driving licences, known as half-rate licences - issued to drivers using basic petrol - will also be abolished.

The Treasury will benefit from £26m in revenue from full-rate licences, a new rate of petrol tax and savings on administration costs. More than 2,000 officials who run the rationing system will lose their jobs.

The practice of putting red dye in commercial petrol to curb black market sales will also stop.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Petrol rationing was first imposed at the onset of World War II in September 1939 and its continuation five years after the war ended was a hotly debated issue, especially during the 1950 general election campaign.

The Conservatives in opposition had long argued it was no longer necessary but Labour said the nation had a severe dollar shortage and could not afford to buy US supplies.

After the 1950 election - which saw Labour's majority slashed - the government realised the public would no longer tolerate rationing.

Petrol rationing was reintroduced in January 1957 for five months during the Suez Crisis when Egypt and Syria blocked supplies. It was almost brought back again during a world fuel crisis in 2000 when Opec squeezed supplies to stop fuel prices coming down.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You can finally put whatever has been bothering you lately on the back burner...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Look down at your plate before you go back to the buffet for a second helping. Do you still have perfectly good food in front of you? Well, don't waste it...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 As the stars shift and change positions, you're among the first round chosen for the team. All day long it seems that you're somehow on the right side of the line that separates the insiders from the outsiders.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 New circumstances find you facing your own indifference. It's difficult to make a decision when you just don't have much invested in the outcome, isn't it? At least it's a comfort to know you're not the only one in this situation.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 These days it seems as if the laws of the universe were written to benefit you, and you delight at the prospect of everything going your way. You have the advantage no matter which way you turn.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If you can't do it yourself, maybe you shouldn't attempt to do it at all. Support may be forthcoming, but it's on someone else's schedule. In the hours that it takes to wait and explain, you could probably handle matters on your own.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The stars urge you to win your victories one at a time, face-to-face and to be fully aware of your actions. As the hours wear on, the increasing influence of certain astral aspects leads you to the politics of charm.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You need your alone time and that's a good thing, because solitude is on the agenda. Do what you must, because the energy you're giving off is too powerful for most.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Talking is highly overrated. Instead of describing your feelings, demonstrate them creatively. This is the perfect time to use sign language and gestures to get your point across.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may feel like keeping a low profile these days, and it's no wonder - the stars heat things up to a high temperature. Don't be too surprised if something you did in the past catches up with you.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're a big fan of blunt honesty and the naked truth. If you think it, you're likely to say it without censoring it for the audience. Luckily, you run with a crowd that has a sense of the absurd.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 What happened? You got off to such a great start, but you're suddenly feeling fatigued. Don't be surprised when your huge lead slows to a walking pace. Now that you've had your fun, another person gets a chance.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Language communication; 7- the season...; 10- Ladies of Spain; 14- Immature insects; 15- "Beso" (1962 hit); 16- Fruit-filled pie; 17- 1998 Masters winner Mark; 18- Cul-de-; 19- Think tank output; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Modern bank card; 26- Fond du, Wis.; 27- Berlin's "Blue"; 28- Mtn. stat; 29- Dorm overseers, for short; 30- Dirty digs; 31- Forbidden by law; 33- Bingo!; 34- Colo. clock setting; 37- Animation unit; 38- Yoko; 39- Obtain; 40- From Z; 41- Bambi's aunt; 42- Singer Damone; 43- Go in again; 45- Adult males; 46- Become firm; 47- Salt Lake City hoopsters; 48- Belgian painter James; 51- Big brute; 52- Dictation taker; 53- Characteristic of journalism; 56- Young news; 57- Diarist AnaA's; 58- Speaks publicly; 62- Part of a bird's beak; 63- Atty.'s org.; 64- Take offense at; 65- Greenish blue; 66- "... the cows come home"; 67- Black Sea port;

DOWN: 1- -mo; 2- Actress Dawber; 3- Before, of yore; 4- Elusive; 5- Unit of weight in gemstones; 6- Get better; 7- Magnetic induction units; 8- Sir Newton was an English mathematician; 9- Short stocking; 10- Adhesive; 11- Spokes; 12- Narrow mountain ridge; 13- Remains; 21- Aztec god of rain; 22- Executor's concern; 23- Free of frost; 24- Actress Burstyn; 25- Feminist Abzug; 29- Arrested; 30- Article of bedding; 32- Rule; 33- Concur; 34- Dull finish; 35- Dutch painter Jan; 36- Trunk; 44- Screwball; 45- Bite; 46- Of the backbone; 48- Throw out; 49- Like some checking accounts; 50- Kama; 51- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.; 52- Begat; 54- Med. school course; 55- Mower brand; 59- French possessive; 60- Nav. rank; 61- RR stop;



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## Portugal's European Championship hero dropped from squad

**P**ORTUGAL is going to the Confederations Cup without Eder, its goal-scoring hero in the final of the European Championship, and rising star Renato Sanches.

Coach Fernando Santos left the pair off his 24-man squad yesterday for a friendly against Cyprus, a World Cup qualifier against Latvia, and the Confederations Cup in Russia next month.

Eder and Sanches were the conspicuous absences in the squad that will be led by Cristiano Ronaldo.

A year ago, Eder, a substitute, scored in extra time to give his team a 1-0 win over France and the European title.

Young midfielder Sanches was talked about at that tournament as a possible heir to Ronaldo and subsequently earned a high-profile transfer from Benfica to Bayern Munich, where he hasn't featured regularly. Sanches was ins-



Eder scored the sole goal in the final of the European Championship

tead included in the Portugal Under-21s.

Portugal hosts Cyprus on June 3 and plays at Latvia in a World Cup qualifier on June 9. Four days later, Portugal travels to Russia where it plays its first Confederations Cup game against Mexico on June 18. The Portuguese will also meet Russia and New Zealand in the group stage.

**A** guttural roar of "Manchester, Manchester" thundered around the Friends Arena at the full-time whistle.

Purely in soccer terms, Manchester United's 2-0 win over Ajax in the Europa League final yesterday was a triumph of huge significance for England's biggest club.

On a wider level, it was also a moment to cheer for the team's home city, grieving two thousand kilometers away.

Manchester was plunged into tragedy on Monday when 22 people were killed by a bomb attack at an Ariana Grande concert in the city center. United's players were clearly moved by the events and flew to Sweden with heavy hearts, vowing to deliver a display in their biggest match of the season that would serve as a tribute to the victims and their families.

That they succeeded in doing so was a testament to their strength of character. It made this victory, in a largely forgettable match, one to remember.

"Yesterday morning, we were devastated," said United midfielder Ander Herrera, dedicating the win to the victims. "But the manager told us the only thing we could do was to win this for them. That's what we've done."

"It's just a football game, just a trophy, but if we can support them with this just 1 percent,

## FOOTBALL

# United beats Ajax

it's enough for us."

Paul Pogba scored off a deflected shot in the 18th minute — the France midfielder pointed to the sky during his celebrations — and Henrikh Mkhitaryan added a second goal in the 48th by deftly hooking home a close-range effort from a corner.

**Does this cup make the city of Manchester a little bit happier? Maybe.**

JOSÉ MOURINHO

In tough circumstances, United handled the occasion better than an Ajax side featuring six players aged 21 or under and playing in the famous Dutch club's first European final in 21 years.

"I haven't seen the Ajax that I am used to," Ajax coach Peter Bosz

said. "They are not used to play a final. It was all new for them."

For United coach Jose Mourinho, it was obvious that the victory was a huge weight off his shoulders, because of both the emotions of the last few days and the importance of the match. Mourinho was thrown up in the air by his coaching staff in the post-match celebrations, he rolled around on the ground with his son, and jumped up and down in frenzied fashion just before United captain Wayne Rooney lifted the trophy.

United's season was always going to be defined by this game. In Mourinho's first season at Old Trafford, he has guided the team to two trophies — the League Cup in February — and a place in next season's Champions League, the bonus prize for winning the Europa League.

"Obviously there's happiness from our achievement," Mourinho said. "But if we could, we'd change the peoples' lives for this cup. We wouldn't think twice. Does this cup make the city of Manchester a little bit happier? Maybe."

AD



## STILL THE BIGGEST POKER NIGHT OF THE WEEK

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# 2-0, wins Europa League



The planned pre-match one minute's silence, in honor of the victims of the blast, rapidly turned into 60 seconds of applause, during which United's fans chanted poignantly "Manchester, Manchester" for the first time. The two teams wore black armbands for the match in another

mark of respect and both sets of fans came together in a show of unity, mingling happily outside the stadium and in the city center before the match.

It was billed as a clash between the efficiency of Mourinho's United against the swagger and youthful exuberance of Ajax. United

was the clear winner, the players imposing themselves as much through their physicality as their superior game management.

"It was the victory for pragmatism," Mourinho said, "a victory of the humble people. People who respect their opponents and exploit their weaknesses."

For Mourinho, that meant long balls to Marouane Fellaini, a regular attacking outlet because of his height and physical presence. It meant keeping a strong defensive shape and using the pace of Marcus Rashford on the break.

Pogba — the world's most expensive player — stood out, dominating the midfield in the first half. His crucial goal had a huge element of fortune to it, though.

Fellaini laid the ball off to Pogba at the edge of the area, and the France midfielder allowed it to run across him before sending in a low left-footed shot that struck Davinson Sanchez's outstretched leg, looped up, and span into the net past wrong-footed goalkeeper Andre Onana.

Mkhitaryan's goal was much more easy on the eye. A right-

wing corner was headed down by Chris Smalling, and Mkhitaryan reacted quickest with a very smart finish.

Pogba and Mkhitaryan were United's big-money signings last offseason and have had inconsistent seasons. They delivered when it mattered most.

United had little trouble keeping Ajax at bay in the closing stages and the celebrations were euphoric after the match, with Pogba producing some dance moves in front of United's jubilant fans.

It was United's sixth European trophy and the only major piece of silverware missing from its collection.

"It means the last piece in the puzzle," Mourinho said, "a club with every trophy in the world of football." AP

## ONE MILLION POUNDS FOR VICTIMS' FUND

**MANCHESTER'S PREMIER** League soccer clubs have combined to donate 1 million pounds (USD1.3 million) to a victims' fund established after Monday's suicide bombing in the northern English city. The cash pledge from Manchester United and Manchester City takes the "We Love Manchester Emergency Fund" to over 3 million pounds. United executive chairman Ed

Woodward says "the barbarism of Monday evening's attack has shocked everyone. Our clubs are right at the heart of our local communities in Manchester and it is right that we present a unified response to this tragedy." Man City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak hopes the donation "will go some small way to alleviate the daunting challenges faced by those directly affected."

## ANALYSIS

# Manchester United rediscovers aura, winning mentality under Mourinho

Steve Douglas, Stockholm

**T**WO trophies, qualification for the Champions League, and a re-establishment of the club's old aura and winning mentality.

Jose Mourinho's first season at Manchester United can be deemed a success.

For all his spin, his at-times questionable man-management and the cautious approach of his team, Mourinho is proving to be the coach to whom United really should have turned after the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013.

The tenures of David Moyes (10 months) and Louis van Gaal (two years) set United back, and are blots in its illustrious recent history. England's biggest club looks to be in the right hands now.

Winning the Europa League — courtesy of a 2-0 victory over Ajax in Stockholm — was a game-changer for United and Mourinho. It secured an automatic spot in next season's Champions League group stage, meaning United are back with the big boys of European soccer.

Where United should be, given its history, prestige, and wealth.

"For me, it's the most important trophy of my career," said Mourinho, who is never shy of hyperbole.

Mourinho said he was looking forward to taking a break from the game after a taxing last few months of the season, capped by playing the Europa League final in the wake of the bomb attack at a concert in Manchester that killed 22 people.

Yet, in the back of his mind, he will surely be plotting forensically for next season.

His shopping list of potential signings is already in the hands of United vice chairman Ed Woodward, with Atletico Madrid forward Antoine Griezmann likely at the top of it.

"Now it's up to him and the owners," Mourinho said.

United has splashed out more than USD500 million on signings in the transfer market in the past three offseasons. Another summer of heavy spending is likely.

But the pressure is on Mourinho to get the right players in, because fans might not be so tolerant of his pragmatic and often-defensive style the longer his reign goes on. At some stage, Mourinho needs to take the handbrake off and allow his team of stars to express them-



selves more.

United scored one goal in away matches against other members of the Premier League's top six this season. In each of those games, the team lined up defensively, seemingly happy to leave with a 0-0 draw or to nick a goal on the break. That will have to change.

Mourinho has other challenges.

What does he do with Wayne Rooney, United's captain and

midfield, and potentially center back.

Still, these are exciting times for United.

The first game of next season will be against either Juventus or Real Madrid — whichever team wins the Champions League — in the European Super Cup in Skopje, Macedonia, on Aug. 8.

United will be among the second seeds in the draw for the group stage of the Champions League in late August.

And after finishing a disappointing sixth place in the Premier League, the team should be a genuine title challenger for the first time since Ferguson left United as English champion in 2013.

Under Mourinho, United should be feared once again.

"We performed like a big club, a big team," United midfielder Ander Herrera said after the Europa League final, sounding every inch a future captain of the team. "Very serious and very smart."

And that's United under Mourinho.

"In a bad season, in a season where sometimes I felt that my team was the worst team in the world, where I felt sometimes I was the worst manager in the world, we manage to win three trophies," Mourinho said, referring to the Europa League, the League Cup, and the eve-of-season Community Shield.

"It is the end of a very difficult season. But a very, very good season." AP

opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautédé



**SUICIDE IN MACAO**

Émile Durkheim was the first academic to dedicate a whole book to suicide. In his seminal work, the French sociologist was able to distinguish between egoistic, altruistic, anomic and fatalistic forms of suicide, along a double axis of social integration and moral regulation. The book was published in 1897, and although it has been criticised, especially for its exclusive reliance on aggregated statistics, it still constitutes a reference and has helped design public policies to address what represents a crucial indicator of the soundness of an entire society. The plight of a few can lead to the destruction of the whole.

No wonder that the hanging suicide of a 16-year-old girl on May 2 triggered wide coverage in the Macao press and later made Secretary for Social Affairs Alexis Tam express his genuine grief, instructing the relevant administrations to fully investigate the case and provide counselling to those in need. His overall message to youth, despite the clumsiness of the wording “not to act silly”, was to exhort young people to “cherish life”. Having acted both swiftly and comprehensively, to Mr Tam’s credit Macao’s suicide rate has dropped significantly in the past few years, standing at 8.2 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 if only residents are included and at 9.6 if the whole population is taken into account. The world average was 10.7 the same year according to the WHO.

Back in 2008, I had the privilege of inviting to Macao Paul Yip Siu Fai, the director of the Hong Kong Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention who had just edited a book on “Suicide in Asia”. At the time, Prof. Yip had emphasised that Macao’s suicide rate for 2007 stood at 16 per 100,000 (a figure I was never able to reconstruct), higher than the world average of 15 and clearly higher than Hong Kong’s 13. He emphasised that one of the shortcomings was the lack of detailed statistics and in-depth research about the situation in our SAR. Nevertheless, something must have been done right regarding awareness, portrayal of suicide in the media, reducing access to lethal methods of self-harm, identifying potential cases, educating the young, addressing the problems of the survivors and putting in place suicide prevention programs.

Yet, providing statistics, the very first task towards adequate surveillance and monitoring, remains problematic.

Firstly, statistics about suicide in Macao are only released once a year, and somewhat overexposed on World Mental Health Day on October 10. Not only can it be deemed prejudicial — is suicide solely a mental illness? — it is also clearly not enough, with insufficient detail — age, sex, education, etc., are important elements — and not accessible to the wider public.

Then, turning to the statistics from the Health Bureau — available since 1996 — one notes many discrepancies: there are no statistics for suicide before 2001 and the method of counting drastically changed in 2007 and led to a (downward!) revision of the total numbers for 2004 and 2005. From 2007, the gender breakdown is no longer provided (men used to be the majority) and the rate per 100,000 disappeared from 2007 to 2013, resurfacing only in 2014. But even then, a rate of 7.8 for 2015 is given, whereas the Health Bureau made its communication on October 10, 2016 based on 8.2: which one is right? What about the peaks of 2004 and 2011: any explanations?

According to Paul Pun, the head of Caritas, some 305 and 222 suicide related phone calls were made to Caritas’ Life Line in 2015 and 2016, including respectively 4 and 8 when the act was about to happen. Women are the most at risk (respectively 179 and 136 cases). Now the Blue Whale Game is also menacing Macao and a collective suicide attempt was indeed prevented just last month...

Please Mr Tam, provide us with more and better statistics.

**THE BUZZ** ARIANA GRANDE’S MANAGER: ‘FEAR CANNOT RULE THE DAY’

Ariana Grande’s manager says he plans to honor those killed during the bombing of her concert with “love and joy and life.”

Scooter Braun writes on Twitter that “the wish of terrorism is to take away that feeling of freedom and joy.” Braun says that can’t be allowed and “fear cannot rule the day.”

He says “extraordinary evil” must be fought with “extraordinary greatness.”

A suicide bomber killed 22 people during the attack outside the arena in Manchester, England, just after Grande’s show ended. Grande tweeted that she was “broken” after the bombing.

MANCHESTER

**Queen Elizabeth visits young survivors of concert blast**

QUEEN Elizabeth II met yesterday with children injured in the Manchester concert bombing, consoling them and pronouncing the attack at an event attended by so many young people “wicked.”

The 91-year-old monarch visited Evie Mills, 14, Millie Robson, 15, and other youngsters recovering from severe shrapnel wounds at the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital.

“It’s dreadful. Very wicked, to target that sort of thing,” the queen told Evie and her parents.

Millie, wearing an Ariana Grande T-shirt, told the queen she had won VIP tickets to the pop star’s Monday night concert at Manchester Arena and been injured in the bombing attack after the end of the show. The teenager said she felt fortunate to have survived.

“I have a few, like, holes in my legs and stuff, and I have a bit of a cut, and my arm and just a bit here, but compared to other people I’m quite lucky really,” she said.

The queen broke her normal custom of wearing a matching outfit by visiting the children in a blue coat topped with a jaunty orange hat — as if to try to lighten the gloom.

Elizabeth told Millie she thought Ariana Grande was



AP PHOTO

a “very good singer,” adding, “She sounds very, very good.”

Millie was one of 12 children under the age of 16 taken to Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital by ambulance after the blast that killed 22 people and the suspected bomber.

The families of a teenage couple killed in the bombing say the pair “wanted to be together forever and now they are.”

In a joint statement released through Manchester police, their families say 17-year-old Chloe Rutherford and 19-year-old Liam Curry were “perfect in every way for each other” and “inseparable.”

The families said: “On the night our daughter Chloe

died and our son Liam died, their wings were ready but our hearts were not.”

Others confirmed dead yesterday included 14-year-old Sorrell Leczkowski. Her family, who went to the Arena to collect her from the concert, said her grandmother is in intensive care and her mother is recovering from surgery.

Meanwhile, the police said an incident attended by officers and army bomb disposal teams in Manchester is now over and the area has been deemed safe.

Greater Manchester Police said officers and soldiers went to a street in Hulme, southwest of central Manchester, yesterday to deal with a possible suspicious package. MDT/AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	25-45 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	😞

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**MONGOLIA** The International Monetary Fund said yesterday lenders have approved a USD5.5 billion financing package for Mongolia to support reforms meant to revive economic growth and reduce reliance on mineral exports.



AP PHOTO

**NEW ZEALAND** California-based company Rocket Lab said yesterday it had launched a test rocket into space from its New Zealand launch pad, although the rocket didn’t reach orbit as hoped. Politicians in the country are rushing through new space laws and the government has set up a boutique space agency, which employs 10 people.

**CYPRUS** The rival leaders of ethnically divided Cyprus are still “far apart” on holding a final peace summit next month that would aim for an overall deal reunifying the island as a federation, a United Nations envoy said yesterday.



AP PHOTO

**ZIMBABWE** President Robert Mugabe’s daughter has been appointed to the country’s censorship board. The 27-year-old Bona Mugabe (pictured right) now will be part of an agency that polices what Zimbabweans can watch on their televisions or in public.

**US-NATO** Meeting fellow NATO leaders for the first time, U.S. President Donald Trump aggressively challenged them yesterday to spend more on their own defense, putting the alliance under exceptional pressure to become tougher, sharper and newly relevant. More on p15

**VENEZUELA**’s chief prosecutor said a 20-year-old protester had been killed by state security forces, giving a version of events that contradicted others in the socialist administration who have strenuously denied state forces were involved.

**times square by rodrigo**



Times