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WORLD BRIEFS



QATAR Arab nations isolating Qatar extended a deadline yesterday for the energy rich country to respond to their demands by another 48 hours, allowing its top diplomat to carry a handwritten response to Kuwait's ruler in an effort to end the diplomatic crisis. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain already have plans to meet in Cairo to discuss their next moves.

PHILIPPINES Military officials said yesterday that militants aligned with the Islamic State group who seized parts of a southern city forced hostages to loot millions in cash, firearms, ammunition, gold and jewelry from houses and business establishments. More on p13



THAILAND Fearful that Thailand's new labor rules will get them into trouble, tens of thousands of migrant workers are returning to neighboring Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, causing hardship to themselves and their Thai employers. More on p13

JAPAN Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's scandal-laden ruling party scrambled yesterday to control damage from an embarrassing defeat in Tokyo municipal elections, but experts said the stunning result could mean the beginning of the end to Abe's long reign. More on p12

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Int'l Documentary Film Festival returns with homage to Kawase

P3 MDT REPORT

Group suggests free university education

The Macao Citizens Federation suggested that the local government should extend its free education scheme to tertiary education. A report by Cheng Pou, the president of the association, said that the government has a great revenue surplus which offers the possibility to invest more resources into education. The president also suggested that the government could offer free university education for bachelor degree levels. The association believes that by doing so, the competitiveness of local youth in the labor market can be enhanced. Moreover, Cheng wrote that "this does not correspond to a big amount of money."

Bus lane signs removed from San Ma Lou

Electronic road signs indicating exclusive bus lanes have been removed from the streets along the San Ma Lou area. Instead, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) has placed permanent transportation instruction signs along these roads. However, according to a report by Macao Daily News, the change causes a considerable number of vehicles to enter the bus lanes by mistake. DSAT said that the exclusive bus lanes along San Ma Lou had been implemented for more than seven years, and that transportation facilities are well equipped at these locations to implement the exclusive bus lane policy. The majority of the drivers are accustomed to this policy. The exclusive bus lane is only enforced on Sundays and public holidays.

Police officer suspended after dog abuse

A male police officer who was found to have beaten his own dog in January has been suspended from his position, the Secretariat for Security announced on its official website. A notice was signed by Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak on June 26 regarding the officer's suspension. The secretariat's official website also declares that the Judiciary Police has continuously required its members to watch their personal behaviors and to obey the law. The secretariat revealed that it had initiated an investigation into the police officer on January 28.

CRIME

Tourist prosecuted over unauthorized drone flight

Renato Marques

A tourist from the mainland is being prosecuted for an unlawful drone flight which occurred on the evening of July 2 in the Nam Van Lake area, a Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson informed yesterday during a press conference. The man, of approximately 30 years, was chased by the police after an officer on duty at the Government's Headquarters noticed an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) commonly known as a "drone" flying over the area of the Nam Van Lake.

The police found the presence of the drone during the evening and in an area very close to the government headquarters very suspicious, and started a manhunt in all the area to find the operator of the equipment. He was located a few minutes later in the leisure area of the lake.

Questioned by the police, the man admitted to be the drone operator, saying that he was a tourist. The man said he was walking by the area and he found it interesting. This prompted him to use the UAV to film the surrounding area, from the Nam Van to the Macau Tower.

According to the PSP, the UAV weighed 743 grams, which according to the law would require both an authorization to fly during nighttime and an identification tag with the owner's name and contact, in line with the new rules published by the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) in late September last year. These laws require all drones weighing over 250 grams to be identified in addition to establishing a security zone around a list of government institutions and other "sensitive" areas. Such rules prevent UAVs from entering the airspace within 50 meters of the Government Headquarters, the Legislative Assembly building, and the Court of Final Appeal building, as well as the official residences of the Chief Executive and principal officials of Macau and the Central People's Government.



This photo unrelated to the criminal case shows a drone at the Nam Van Lake area

The PSP informed that they have issued an official letter to the AACM which details their findings, and the AACM will now deal with the case.

In the case of unlawful use of UAVs, the new regulations set a penalty fee that ranges from MOP2,000 to MOP20,000 in addition to other sanctions.

In a separate case reported by the same police force, a 20-year-old non-resident worker is being charged with stealing a bag from a man lying on the street.

The case started with a report to the police from a passer-by that stated a man was lying on the street.

A patrol from the PSP was sent to the location finding the man sleeping on a stone bench. When questioned by the police the man, who had been drinking a lot and eventually had fallen asleep in that place, said his bag that allegedly contained cash, credit cards and mobile phones worth a total of MOP22,000 had been stolen.

A further investigation, through the viewing of street video surveillance cameras, identified a Filipino, around 20 years old, who resides in a nearby building.

Upon questioning by the police, the suspect admitted to have taken the bag but denied that he had any of the possessions mentioned by the owner.

He told the police he disposed the bag in the rubbish bin nearby after not finding any valuable items inside.

He is being charged for theft.

Two casino employees charged for fraud and forgery

Two local resident men, aged 24 and 25, have been accused by their employer, a local casino company, of trying to commit fraud by forging documents to grant a casino credit line of HKD5 million to be used by a third party. The credit line aimed to facilitate gamblers' access to money without having to carry it into Macau, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed in press conference.

The complaint to the PJ was filed by the employer who told the police that the men had submitted the aforementioned documents in order to acquire such credit from the company.

For the time being, the company has not reported any loss, as the credit was not granted.

In a separate case, the police informed that a 33-year-old from the mainland has been accused of extortion and providing false declarations

to the police.

The case started on June 30 at around 5 a.m., when the suspect presented a complaint to the PJ accusing another man (51) of having pushed him to the ground, causing him injuries.

The event, which allegedly occurred in a casino in Cotai, was investigated and a viewing of the casino CCTV revealed a different story. The accuser can be seen asking for tips from the other man who refused, after which point he grabbed him with both arms before falling on the ground.

Questioned by the police, the suspect informed that the man threatened to file a complaint against him if he did not forfeit HKD 500,000.

The first man was detained and presented to the Public Prosecutions Office on the charges of extortion and false declarations to the police.

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DANIEL BEITLER



Cinematheque Passion

INT'L DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

Second edition pays homage to Kawase

Daniel Beitler

EMBODYING the theme of "Time and Growth", the Macau International Documentary Film Festival will return for its second edition this month, once again inviting local documentary filmmaker Penny Lam to curate the festival.

Some 26 documentaries, subtitled in both Chinese and English, will be screened over the course of the three-week festival held at Cinematheque Passion.

In accordance with the festival's theme, the documentaries have been partitioned according to the four seasons, with spring, summer, autumn and winter reflecting the chronological stages of a person's life.

"In Chinese [culture], we see the seasons as the four stages of life, with spring being the beginning – or childhood," explained the returning curator in an interview with the Times.

Taking center stage at this year's festival is "director in focus" Naomi Kawase, an award-winning Japanese filmmaker known for her documentary-realism. Much of Kawase's work is semi-autobiographical and the filmmaker has a discernible fondness for using herself, her family and her friends as film subjects.

"The oldest [Kawase] film [we are screening] is from 1992 and the latest one is from 2015 and so the filmmaker has obviously changed a lot over that time," said Lam.

"In the later films, which come from different stages in her career, you can see how she changes as a person – first as a teenager and then as a mother."

By casting herself as a principal subject in her work, Kawase's films chronicle her personal growth as both an individual and a filmmaker, making the organizers' choice of 'director in focus' well suited to the fes-

tival's theme.

"Critics said that her films are like a personal diary that she has [transformed] into a film," said Lam, adopting a popular interpretation of Kawase's artistic style. "Documentaries, for a long time, have had the reputation of being [impersonal] with their responsibility to reflect society. But Kawase doesn't care, [she] believes she can film whatever she wants."

The Macau public generally prefer works of fiction [to documentaries] because they are more accessible.

RITA WONG
CINEMATHEQUE PASSION COO

In one of her seven documentaries being screened at the festival, Kawase records the process of tracking down her father, who abandoned her when she was a child. In another, she gives birth to her son on camera.

As is becoming a tradition with the young festival, this edition will also feature a Macau entry. Wong Kuan Chak's *The Last Ride* (2017), a 15-minute short to be screened alongside several other documentary shorts, takes a humorous look at the city's scooter racing sub-culture.

The Last Ride is about a young man who wants to quit scooter racing to pursue a different passion. He decides to organize one last race before he gives up the sport for good.

"In Macau, the teenagers used to race their scooters," said Lam. "This was never something serious, but

there is a sub-culture here and some people [within this sub-culture] take the racing very seriously."

According to Lam, scooter racing is a decades-old tradition for the Macau youth. Even today, he said, there are some people still racing in Coloane in the early hours of the morning.

This year's festival is larger in terms of the selection of films on offer: 26 compared to 18 in its inaugural edition. It has also been moved from spring last year to the summer, with the intention of drawing more tourists and students to the screenings.

Organizers say that although new film festivals are the trend in the city's cultural scene, perhaps only two can be strictly defined as "festivals about documentaries."

"The Macau public generally prefer works of fiction [to documentaries] because they are more accessible and more [prevalent] in the commercial scene," Rita Wong, the chief operating officer of Cinematheque Passion, offered as an explanation.

"I think that this is starting to change with the documentary festivals [in the city]," she continued. "People need to be introduced to documentaries through these kinds of festivals, because the public are not familiar with [this media form] and may not know where to start with them."

"A lot of the films that we selected for the festival are very cinematic [...] because of the reality of the Macau audience," said Lam. "Not all documentaries are cinematic - and [this] is not a way of judging the merit of documentaries," he continued, adding that "the magic and power of documentaries comes over time."

The Macau International Documentary Film Festival begins on July 8 with screenings lasting until July 30. Focus filmmaker Naomi Kawase will arrive in the city for the festival's concluding week, starting from July 23.



Penny Lam (left) and Rita Wong

Organizers' pick

PENNY LAM highlights *Still Tomorrow* (2017), a film by mainland Chinese director Fan Jian, as one not to miss at the Macau International Documentary Film Festival.

The documentary recounts the surreal - yet true - story of a woman's journey from being a farmer, married against her will to an older man, to a celebrated poet who earned the attention of several prominent Chinese writers. With her newfound fame and money, the woman is able to secure her freedom from her husband and start a new life.

"It is a very poetic and surreal story," said Lam. "This story is amazing and the cinematography is impressive."

The film won a prestigious award at its premiere at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam, becoming one of the first Chinese films to be recognized at such a high level within the international documentary-making community.

"We nearly didn't get the chance to screen it here because the film is so new and it had not been premiered in Asia yet," said Lam. "All of a sudden, Shanghai Film Festival agreed to premiere it earlier this month, and so we were granted permission [by the filmmaker] to screen it in July."

Still Tomorrow (2017), Fan Jian. Mandarin-language film with subtitles provided in Chinese and English. Screenings: July 16 at 9:30 p.m. and July 30 at 4:30 p.m.

RITA WONG says she is very excited for one of Kawase's earliest documentary films to be brought to the Passion Cinematheque screen.

Forty minutes in length, *Embracing* (1992) is about the Japanese director's search for her father who abandoned their family when she was a child.

Adhering to her documentary-realism style, the film avoids Hollywood clichés associated with fictional stories of sentimental family reunions. It even goes as far as denying the audience any more than a passing insight into the eventual meeting of father and daughter.

Now a famous director, Kawase launched her career with this documentary, which propelled her to fame within Japan.

"My choice is one of Kawase's earliest documentaries, because it is very hard to find [this film] in cinemas," said Wong. "It is a precious thing to watch Kawase's early films in the cinema because she is getting very famous and it is [usually] only possible to find her later works."

Embracing (1992), Naomi Kawase. Japanese-language film with subtitles provided in Chinese and English. Screenings: July 13 at 7 p.m. and July 23 at 8:30 p.m. followed by a "meet the director" session.



Cotai Eco-Areas' Open day

The registration period for the monthly activity "Open Day of the Cotai Ecological Areas" opens today. The activity will take place from July 8 to 22 (at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. each day) and lasts two hours (in Eco-Areas I and II). During the guided tour, participants can enter areas which are normally restricted so that they can see fauna and flora specific to the area. Due to the limited number of entries (100), the registration will end as soon as all the slots are filled.

AACM approves July-August extra flights

The Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) has approved 142 extra and charter flights for July and August so far. These flights are destined for mainland China, Taiwan, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Japan. In accordance with the application submitted by Air Macau this year, AACM has approved the airlines to operate a total of 142 extra and charter flights. The extra flights begin today and will continue until August 31. The added flights include 57 flights to Taipei, 26 to Kaohsiung, 30 to Bangkok, 17 to Jeju, eight to Ningbo and four to Okinawa, according to the bureau's statement. AACM has also approved the applications for a capacity increase submitted by Air Macau and Tiger Taiwan for their Taiyuan and Taiwan flights respectively.

Licensing eased for employment agencies

The Labor Affairs Bureau launched measures that aim to ease regulations on the licensing of employment agencies yesterday, the bureau informed in a statement. These measures include exemption for the presentation of several documents such as company registration certificate, land registry certificate and declaration of the commencement of activity (M1) from the Financial Services Bureau. In addition, it is also possible to send the Criminal Record Certificate directly to DSAL from the Identification Bureau's self-serve kiosks.

TRANSPORT

Groups still upset over measures to curb vehicles

SEVERAL local drivers and garage workers have expressed frustration over the government-imposed vehicle curbing measures, arguing that some measures are not effective in solving long-term transport problems.

Following the implementation of the measures earlier this year, groups voiced their concerns during a TDM Forum held on Sunday. The forum was not attended by any official from the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

Some groups urged the government to focus on the improvement of public transport, noting that there were methods imposed that "fail to solve long-term problems" as some of the regulations pertain to emissions standards.

"The government should focus on improving public transport in the long-run," said Leong Sai Kun, member of the Traffic Advisory Board, as cited in a TDM report. "Without a proper system of public transportation in place, residents won't ditch their cars."

Cheng Chong Fai, president of Public Utilities Concern As-

sociation of Macau, lamented that some vehicles met standards when they were initially on sale, but due to the imposed measures, the vehicles had to be dumped. "It is so unfair to their owners when they have to be dumped now under the new rules," Cheng argued.

In February this year, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) announced that the scheme is the government's plan to curb the number of two-stroke engine vehicles in Macau, hoping to gain the attention of the owners of "about 30 percent of the total number of vehicles." The measure was aimed at removing a total of 9,575 two-wheel vehicles that run on two-stroke engines from the roads.

Meanwhile during the Forum, residents also condemned policy makers for failing to give drivers sufficient time to be in line with the new measures.

A concerned resident even argued, "it is unfair that the measures were just the decision of a few people," referring to government officials. "In our eyes the measures are wrong. We were forced to follow these ins-



tructions without being offered time to digest them."

Another opposed resident noted that the controversial measures are "simply the least desired and ineffective method."

Due to the new measures, a hike in parking costs was imposed, along with stricter vehicle inspections and heavy penalties for illegal parking.

Just last month, DSAT increased the fares of all parking meters by as much as 200 percent for private cars and about 100 percent for motorcycles and heavy vehicles in certain areas.

DSAT is still planning to implement new fares in other areas of Macau in October.

Further, registrations for

more than 14,000 motor vehicles were canceled this year to date, a number that equaled the total number of vehicle registrations canceled in 2016.

The government initially planned to introduce the four-percent annual cap on vehicle growth in 2015. The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, recently said that the goal was to set vehicle increase at a four percent annual rate, and would look at improving vehicle inspection measures in a bid to improve air quality.

"We are looking at implementing a set of different measures, including giving priority to public transport," he noted.

CTM fined MOP104,000 for April's cyber blackout

CTM has been fined MOP104,000 for the partial Internet blackout that occurred in April, announced by Lau Vai Meng, director of the Macao Post and the Telecommunications Bureau, yesterday.

Lau said that the punishment is in accordance with the city's policies on internet licensing, further noting

that the maximum financial punishment is MOP500,000.

The director informed that in this instance the bureau deemed that CTM did not conduct operations according to the city's legal instruction.

Lau also said that CTM has already offered a total of two million patacas to its customers in

compensation.

"If I am not remembering it wrong, there are two things [CTM was punished for]. One is that CTM did not follow our instructions, and another is the [blackout's] affecting range and affecting time. That's how we did the math to come up with that fine," explained Lau. She expressed the

hope that similar incidents will not happen again.

In April, a blackout spread from CTM's installations. According to the company, the software problem involved two major internet access servers.

The blackout affected access to Internet for the devices of more than 30,000 customers. The

company's CEO, Vandy Poon, declared at the time that CTM would assume "full responsibility" for the incident.

In addition, when informed about the recent cyber-attack which occurred in other regions and countries, Lau said that the bureau has not received related reports from any local telecommunication operators.

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MGTO awards photo contest winners

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) held a prize-giving ceremony yesterday for the winners of the photo, student drawing and trophy design categories in the 28th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest held at the Macau Tower. A total of 89 prizes were awarded. The first prize winners for the photo contest went to Leong Ka I and Chan Kun Fai while Sam Hoi Kin, Chong Leong Hang and Cheang Chi Ian were awarded the first prizes for the student drawing contest. Ng Lei Lai Ha won the first prize for the trophy design contest. The list of all of the awardees is posted on MGTO's website. The awarded artworks will be exhibited at the lower ground level of the Macau Tower until July 9.

OM holds concerts for its 'devotion series'

The Macao Orchestra (OM) held a series of concerts last month titled "Love Music, Love Devotion" at Hospital Conde S. Januario, Sir Robert Ho Tung Library and the Coloane Prison on June 14, June 29 and June 30 respectively. The orchestra performed Mozart's string quartets in a series of string concerts, showcasing classical music which attracted many listeners. The concert series is an effort to contribute to the community through musical performances and to share classical music with the public. By organizing these concerts, the OM aims to convey its appreciation for music to the community by offering opportunities for all social groups to enrich their cultural exposure.

AL ELECTION

Countinho apologizes for interference claim

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho has issued an apology to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, after he accused the organization last month of providing discriminatory treatment to certain Legislative Assembly (AL) election candidates.

In the apology, printed in Macau's two largest Chinese newspapers, Macau Daily News and Va Kio Daily, Coutinho described his accusation as being inappropriate and said that he had no evidence for the charges he made.

"First of all, please let me express my most sincere apologies related to the comments I made regarding the incident of the invitation of another Macanese group to the Liaison Office dinner," it read.

"During the interview I made statements which were not based on facts regarding the invitation and the Liaison Office leaders. Besides that, the words I used were profou-



Pereira Coutinho

ndly inappropriate and that has had negative repercussions in the Liaison Office, for which I apologize."

"The Liaison Office has demonstrated its esteem for the Macanese community. It has contributed to the harmony of the local society. Its efforts are recognized by the Macau people, including the Macanese."

Speaking last month as he formalized New Hope's (Nova Esperança) candidacy to the

AL elections, the lawmaker and candidate in the 2017 AL election accused the Liaison Office of interference in the election.

Coutinho said that the Liaison Office had organized a special dinner and invited members of the Macanese and Portuguese communities. He then accused officials from the Office of encouraging these attendees to vote for rival Macanese candidate

Jorge Neto Valente.

Neto Valente, the son of the Macau lawyer of the same name, is running in the election as the third-place candidate on Melinda Chan's list.

"I was very [disappointed] to realize that [such a dinner] was organized specifically in a way that [only] one of the candidates to the election could address the community," said Coutinho last month. "When the Central Government pays for this, I consider that this is a serious matter because we see the infringement to the principle that elections must be fair."

Coutinho added that he suspected local representatives of Beijing were supporting "these kinds of events in exchange for benefits when they leave [their posts]."

The Macanese legislator is the head of the New Hope political association as well as the Civil Servants Association. Despite having been directly elected to the AL in every election since 2005 and the fact that he will again stand first on the New Hope list this year, the lawmaker warned it would be difficult to elect even a single lawmaker in September.

"The lack of fairness is already affecting the [election] run," he said at the time.

AD



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HERITAGE

Patane Library: retain the old, create the new in Macau

Mark O'Neill*

ON a crowded street in the Inner Harbor district, residents have discovered a pleasant surprise – a row of seven dilapidated buildings has been transformed into a sparkling new library. The Patane Library opened on December 9 at a ceremony presided over by Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, and Ung Vai Meng, then president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). Since then, it has attracted around 700 visitors a day to enjoy its wide range of free newspapers, magazines, books, films, and music.

Built in the 1930s, the buildings were used as shops, selling timber to shipyards and piers that were then the heart of the city. But as the economy changed, the shops closed and the buildings were converted into overcrowded apartments for the poor. The property fell into such disrepair that in 2010, the owner, a real estate company, wanted to demolish them. The IC stepped in, proposing that the buildings be restored and converted into a library. It took six years and an investment of MOP26 million to revitalize the property, with an additional monthly rent of MOP165,000, 11 months a year paid to the real estate company over the next five years.

"Building on empty land is the easiest and costs less", says Lam Kai Wun, an architect from the Division for Research and Planning of the IC's Department

of Cultural Heritage. "But there is nothing special about it. It has no story. This site is more valuable than a new building," he adds.

"We kept the elements from the original buildings. The old residents say that they remember the old wood windows and doors. They have a feeling for this place and say that they used to live here. For each person, each room has a story and they remember it. The story goes on and, we hope, will be told from one generation to the next," explains Lam.

■ Built in the 1930s, the buildings were used as shops, selling timber to shipyards and piers that were then the heart of the city

Built in the 1930s, the seven buildings on Rua da Ribeira do Patane combined European and Southeast Asian architectural styles. They housed timber merchants who sold their goods to the city's booming shipyards located a short distance away in the Inner Harbor. It was the business center of the city, where passenger and cargo ships arrived from Hong Kong and the

mainland, and where fishing vessels set out to sea. The street bustled with people and clients for the timber.

The exterior of the buildings reflected a style common across southern China with a covering over the pavement that provided protection for pedestrians from both rain and the scorching summer sun. Inside, each building was comprised of a shop on the ground floor, stocks on the top floor, and living quarters for the merchant and their family on the first floor.

Over time, the economy of Macau changed. As the mainland developed its own shipyards, the city could no longer compete in terms of price of land and labor. Production moved to port cities in Guangdong. As their sales dwindled, the timber merchants were forced to shut down. Consumer traffic diminished as well with the emergence of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro as the city's commercial center, full of new shops, banks, hotels, and restaurants.

The poor condition of the buildings complicated the restoration process. "Our principle was to preserve the whole façade," says Lam. The first job was to clear out all the waste and additional structures put in by the new residents. "We needed 25-30 rubbish trucks to remove everything. Only then could we see the original state of the buildings."

Since the buildings stand on reclaimed land, there had been slippage in some places during the long period of neglect. So

Lam and his team repaired the severely damaged areas, and reinforced the foundations. They built a new roof using glass and steel frames, and demolished the walls that separated the seven buildings to create a single unit. Old wood windows and doors from each wall were retained, and a portion preserved for visitors to see.

■ We kept the elements from the original buildings. The old residents say that they remember the old wood windows and doors.

LAM KAI WUN
ARCHITECT

To accommodate the collection of books and audiovisual materials, the team built a new structure in three of the shops capable of supporting such a massive weight. They also added a lift, to move books and people, and modern drainage and fire prevention systems.

The new glass front allows passersby to see what is inside, and encourages them to come in. To make it even more inviting,

Lam placed two benches at the entrance where people can sit, and sip a coffee or eat a snack. Inside they reproduced the original paint scheme, and hung some of the original shutters on one wall, a feature popular with elderly residents.

Why build a library and not a museum or another kind of public facility? To meet demand. According to Lo Chi Keong, chief of Division of Reader Services and Promotion of the IC's Department of Public Library Management, the city's 17 public libraries drew 2.5 million visitors last year.

"Our aim is to have one within 5-10 minutes walking distance of every resident. In July 2012, we opened a small one nearby, the Red Market Library," he says. A former branch of the Post Office, the 260 square meter facility has seating for 73, as well as eight computers and a collection of 7,100 books, mainly on home economics. Although it is open 24 hours a day, the Red Market Library does not have library officials on duty after 8 p.m..

"But the Red Market Library is too small. The area needed a larger one and the residents were asking for one. Each district needs a cultural center, and this one is a historic building that deserves to be preserved. Each library needs its own special features. The Patane Library specializes in drama and music," Lo explains.

The Patane Library consists of three floors, covering an area of 1,130 square meters, with 170 seats for readers, as well as space to read the 79 newspapers and 643 magazines. The periodicals come from all over the world, including the mainland, Taiwan, Singapore, Europe, and the United States. The collection also boasts 14,000 books and 4,100 audiovisual materials. It has a multi-media zone to show films and concerts, as well as a room for meetings and school projects.

"Since it opened, we have attracted a wide range of people," says Lo. "In the morning, elderly people queue up for the opening at 9.30 a.m. to read newspapers and magazines. During the lunch break, we have white-collar people coming from their offices. After the end of class, students come from the schools. Parents come in with their children. We have activities for children, as well as for adults. Presentations from publishers and authors have been especially popular. Readers can access both traditional and electronic books, and order books from other libraries."

Ten years ago, the derelict buildings that now comprise the Patane Library were something to avoid. Now the IC has transformed them into a social and cultural center in the Patane district, and a prime example of how to combine the past and the present. *MDT/Macauhub

The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



Active Info Display



1.4TSI with 150HP



5 star NCAP



LED Headlight



3D LED Taillight

The Tiguan 2 is a great all-grown-up SUV with distinctive styling which redefines its class and confidently points the way to the future. The new generation Tiguan is the first sport utility vehicle to be based on the modular transverse matrix (MQB), and it sets new standards in design, comfort and functionality. In doing so it of course remains capable of off-road, with a rugged all-wheel drive system that includes premium class technology for use on and off the highway. The Tiguan 2 is, then, both more SUV and more than an SUV.



Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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Hong Kong stocks unsettled by Macau's June revenue miss

HONG Kong stocks fell for a second day yesterday, but managed to recover by the close on Monday, as casinos led declines after gaming revenue in Macau disappointed last month.

The Hang Seng Index slipped 0.1 percent to 25,734.77 as of 10:11 a.m. local time. Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. headed for its biggest drop since May, while Sands China Ltd. was set for its lowest close in three weeks. BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Ltd. extended last week's rally after saying it is studying a special dividend following the sale of Chiyu Bank. The Shanghai Composite Index slipped 0.3 percent, retreating from its highest level in more

than two months, with large-cap shares bearing the brunt of the losses.

By the late afternoon, the Hang Seng Index had recovered to be up 0.1 percent, helped by a surge in Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd.

The Hong Kong benchmark has struggled to climb over the 26,000 level after a six-month rally lifted valuations. Macau's casino revenue growth missed estimates in June as Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Hong Kong last week likely curtailed visits to the gambling hub, analysts said after the figures were published on Saturday.

A gauge of Chinese manufacturing compiled by Caixin Media and Markit Economics unexpect-



BLOOMBERG

tedly rose to 50.4, indicating expansion, after an official measure released last Friday beat all estimates.

China's bond-connect program with Hong Kong, which gives of-

shore investors another way to access the mainland's debt market, started yesterday. Officials from Hong Kong's Securities & Futures Commission visited a number of brokerages after a rout in small-

cap stocks last week, scrutinizing trading records and margin loans, Apple Daily reported, citing unidentified people.

Meanwhile, China's large-cap stocks were poised to fall for a second day as a technical indicator signaled recent gains were overdone. Insurance companies led the retreat.

The SSE 50 Index of some of China's largest companies dropped 0.6 percent as of the midday break. New China Life Insurance Co. slid 2.5 percent to lead the drop, while China Pacific Insurance Group Co. and Ping An Insurance (Group) Co. also fell.

China's large-cap companies have outperformed the broader market this year as a deleveraging campaign punished smaller firms with higher borrowing costs and state-backed funds were suspected of favoring stocks with heavy index weightings. The SSE 50's 14-day relative-strength index last week climbed near the 70 level that signals to some traders an asset is overbought (more on page 11). **MDT/Bloomberg**

Hollywood endings not enough to rescue China box office

CHINA'S box-office receipts fell last month as Hollywood blockbusters failed to compensate for poor showings by local films.

June movie ticket sales dropped 5 percent to 25.5 billion yuan (USD3.8 billion), according to data from online ticketing app and tracker Maoyan.com. Revenue rose 3.7 percent in the first half, well below the more than 35 percent a year average for the five years before 2016.

The monthly and first-half results dashed predictions that films like Paramount Pictures' "Transformers: The

Last Knight," and Walt Disney Co.'s "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales" would pull in enough moviegoers to revive the market. PriceWaterhouseCoopers this month pushed back its forecast for China's movie market to overtake the U.S. to 2021 from 2017.

"In the first half, domestic titles flopped in general, and the market has become too reliant on Hollywood imports, the quality of which have not stood up to expectation," said Mark Chen, an analyst at UOB Kayhian Investment Co. "Chinese mo-

viegoers have become more sophisticated and have outgrown special effect-packed franchise movies."

Analysts had been predicting a robust recovery for China's film market this year, and there have been some strong months, like the 49 percent surge in April. The biggest monthly gain since February 2016 was driven by Hollywood car-chase franchise: "The Fate of the Furious," which claimed more than half of the month's ticket sales.

While films from outside China underperformed expectations, local

ones did even worse and lost market share. Foreign-made movies claimed 61 percent of ticket sales in China in the first half, compared with 47 percent a year ago, according to researcher EntGroup.

To be sure, China's growth potential remains high, according to Beijing-based film consultancy Fanink Research. About 43 percent of the nation's population can be counted as moviegoers, compared with 76 percent for the U.S., according to Fanink.

China box-office revenue is still growing faster than the about 2 percent rate for North America last year, according to Motion Picture Association of America data. **Bloomberg**

U.S. approves laptops on flights from Abu Dhabi

Edward Robinson

THE U.S. Department of Homeland Security lifted its ban on electronic devices in the cabins of commercial jetliners flying to the U.S. from Abu Dhabi after validating security measures at a facility inside Abu Dhabi International Airport, according to a statement from Etihad Aviation Group.

"The removal of the restrictions allows passengers flying to the U.S. to carry all laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices onto the aircraft, subject to enhanced security measures," the airline said in a statement Sunday.

U.S. officials are pushing overseas airports to beef up

security on laptops and similar items after intelligence reports warned that terrorist groups may be capable of hiding bombs in such machines.

Etihad Airways passengers traveling to the U.S. pass through immigration and customs at a preclearance facility in Abu Dhabi International Airport's Terminal 3, the company said. Opened in 2014, it's the first facility of its kind in the Middle East.

The initial ban started in March, when DHS announced that passengers flying to the U.S. from 10 airports in the Middle East and North Africa would be barred from carrying electronic devices larger than mobile phones into the cabin. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS RESORTS OFFERING 'MACAU SUMMER CELEBRATION' SUITE PACKAGES



Sands Resorts Macau is offering suite packages as part of its "Macau Summer Celebration" promotion. The promotion includes discounts of up to 35 percent for visitors to enjoy at one

of the following four hotels: The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Conrad Macao, and Holiday Inn at Macau Cotai Central.

According to a press release from Sands Resorts,

the package provides guests with a "Deluxe Privilege Booklet" containing more than 100 special offers. Guests can choose either a daily breakfast or lunch option at designated restaurants, Cotai Water Jet ferry tickets, or other options including entry tickets to The Parisian Macao's half-scale Eiffel Tower. Guests who stay for two nights will receive show tickets for either the "China Show - Monkey King" at the Sands Cotai Theatre or "Thriller Live" at the Parisian Theatre. Those who book a third night will receive a room upgrade.

The offer is available between July 3 and September 30, 2017 and guests can stay between July 10 and September 30.

WYNN RESORTS DONATES TO SCMM WELFARE SHOP



Wynn Resorts distributed food hampers to 360 disadvantaged families and donated a check worth MOP300,000 to the Holy House of Mercy's (SCMM) Welfare Shop on Saturday.

Wynn's donation is a part of a solidarity project that commenced in 2013 to help finance a monthly handout of food hampers for households in need.

According to a press re-

lease issued by Wynn, the project has already helped to ease the financial hardships of more than 16,000 families impacted by inflation, rising rent and food prices.

The check was presented by President and Executive Director of Wynn Resorts Macau, Linda Chen, to the President of SCMM's Board of Trustees, António José de Freitas. July's donation is the fifth consecutive donation to SCMM from Wynn, amounting to a total contribution of MOP1.4 million in the span of five years.

A team of 40 members from Wynn's "We Volunteer" association took care of distributing the food hampers at the welfare shop premises and also presented a special cash gift to each of the families.

Doubts arise over Nobel Peace winner's inability to travel

Didi Tang

A friend of imprisoned Chinese Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo said yesterday that he doubts the government's claims that the ailing dissident is too sick to leave the country in part because of a video in which Liu is described as being in "acceptable" condition.

Whether Liu is able to travel is a key question in negotiations for his possible release from a Chinese hospital. The U.S. and European Union have been calling on Beijing to allow China's most famous political prisoner, recently diagnosed with late-stage liver cancer, to choose where he wants to be treated.

Shang Baojun, Liu's former lawyer, has said Chinese officials have told Liu's family members that his health was so poor that he could not travel.

Liu's friend Hu Jia, a political dissident, said yesterday a video that emerged on YouTube over the weekend appeared to indicate



In this recent undated handout photo, Chinese dissident and Nobel Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo, left, is attended to by his wife Liu Xia in a hospital in China

te that Liu was in stable condition. Medical experts were seen saying that Liu's treatment plan was going smoothly.

"Currently, his situation is ac-

ceptable," an unidentified male doctor in a white coat was seen saying in the video, which did not include any images of Liu and was dated Wednesday.

A separate photo that's been circulating online showed Liu holding a bowl and being spoon-fed by his wife. Liu did not appear to be hooked up to life-support.

"Based on the videos and the photo, we know for sure that his conditions have not deteriorated," Hu said. "There's no question that Liu Xiaobo can travel."

William Fingleton, spokesman for the European Union delegation in China, said EU diplomats met with a Chinese vice minister of justice on Friday regarding Liu's treatment. Fingleton did not provide details on the discussion.

In a statement released later Friday, the EU's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, urged China to immediately grant Liu parole on humanitarian grounds, citing Liu's deteriorating health.

Mogherini also said that China should "allow him to receive medical assistance at a place of his choosing in China or over-

seas," and that Liu and his wife should be free to communicate with the outside world.

Reliable, independent information on Liu's condition and his desire to travel has been difficult to obtain, as Liu and his wife, Liu Xia, have long been isolated by the authorities, out of the reach of most friends and the media. While the couple have not publicly stated their willingness to go abroad, their friends believe they wish to do so, based on Liu Xia's earlier indications to her friends.

China's foreign ministry said yesterday that it has no information on Liu's case. "I can only say that we hope that the relevant countries can respect China's judicial sovereignty instead of making use of this individual case to interfere in China's domestic affairs," spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular news briefing.

China's justice department did not immediately respond to faxed questions about Liu's case.

Liu, a writer and an outspoken government critic, was sentenced in 2009 to 11 years in prison on a charge of inciting subversion of state power, a year after he co-authored Charter '08, a document calling for democracy and rule of law in China. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010 while incarcerated. AP

Iran signs USD5b gas deal with France's Total, Chinese firm

Nasser Karimi, Tehran

IRAN yesterday signed a USD5 billion agreement with France's Total SA and a Chinese oil company to develop its massive offshore natural gas field, the first such deal with foreign companies since the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Officials met in Tehran and signed the agreement, which will see the firms develop a portion of the massive South Pars offshore field that Iran shares with Qatar. Qatar calls the same area the North Field and it provides the small country, now in the middle of a diplomatic crisis with four other Arab states, its incredible wealth.

Total has a 50.1-percent share in the new Iran deal. The state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. has 30-percent stake and Iran's Petropars has 19.9 percent.

The development at phase 11 of the South Pars field will see 20 wells and two wellhead platforms built

and connected to existing facilities by two underwater pipelines, Total said. A second phase will involve the construction of offshore compression facilities, the firm said.

The state-owned China National Petroleum Corp. has a 30 percent stake in the deal

Total said the project will have a capacity of 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas a day or 400,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day, including condensate.

"This is a major agreement for Total, which officially marks our return to Iran to open a new page in the history of our partnership with the country," Total chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanne said in a

statement. "Total will develop the project in strict compliance with applicable national and international laws."

During the ceremony, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh congratulated all involved in the deal, saying it will lead to "more than \$5 billion in foreign investments." He also described it as "one of the outcomes of the nuclear deal and recent presidential election," which saw moderate President Hassan Rouhani re-elected over a hard-line challenger.

Zanganeh also held out a hand to U.S. oil companies, saying his country needs some \$200 billion of investments in its oil industry in the next five years to make up for time lost during sanctions. Iran hopes to produce 6 million barrels of crude oil and condensate a day in five years, he said, up from some 3.6 million today.

"We do not consider any obstacle for the participation of American companies," Zanganeh said. "The main obstacle is

being created by the U.S. government."

Iran sits atop the world's fourth-largest oil reserves and the second-biggest stores of natural gas. Since the nuclear deal, which saw Iran limiting its enrichment of uranium in exchange for economic sanctions being lifted, the country has quickly boosted its crude oil production and sold what it had in floating reserves. Yesterday's deal will further boost its coffers and secure a new supply of natural gas for domestic consumption, beginning in 2021.

The 20-year contract also offers a vote of confidence for Iran in the business world, especially as U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened to try and renegotiate the nuclear accord.

Total pulled out of Iran in 2006 as United Nations sanctions first took hold over fears Iran's atomic program would be used to build nuclear weapons. Tehran has maintained its program is only for peace-



Iranian workers walk in a construction site which is part of South Pars gas field, on the northern coast of Persian Gulf

ful purposes.

In the time since the nuclear deal, Iran has seen success in other business ventures. Boeing Co. and its European rival Airbus have signed billions of dollars in deals with Iran Air, all already approved by the U.S. Treasury.

Chicago-based Boeing also signed a \$3 billion deal in April to sell 30 737 MAX aircraft to Iran's Aseman Airlines, a firm owned by Iran's civil service pension foundation. The Boeing sales represent the first major deals for an American company in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and U.S. Embassy takeover.

The U.S. Congress has been pushing for a new set of sanctions against Iran and its hard-line Revolu-

tionary Guard, a paramilitary unit responsible for recent ballistic missile tests that angered Washington.

Hossein Amiri Khamkani, a member of an Iranian parliamentary committee on energy, said he believed yesterday's deal "breaks the taboo of American sanctions and opens the way for other companies."

Tehran-based Energy analyst Ali Reza Soltani agreed.

"The oil deal, in practice, has defused all the moves by international and regional opponents and rivals of Iran," Soltani said. "It has a clear-cut message: The leveraging of sanctions against Iran has lost its credibility and effectiveness." AP

China warns against 'negative' U.S. turn as Trump raises heat

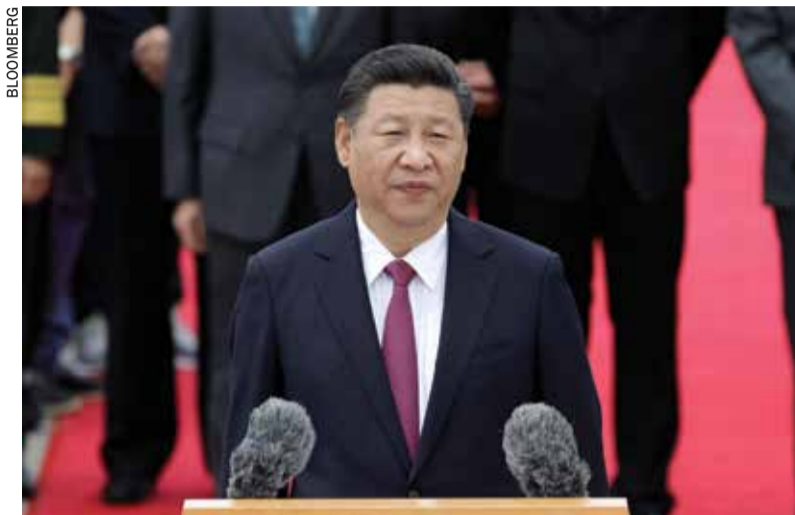
Ting Shi

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's complaint about a "negative" turn in China's relationship with the U.S. showed the challenge facing Donald Trump when the two leaders meet in Germany this week.

Xi's comment during a phone call with Trump on yesterday followed several assertive U.S. moves in Asia, including a naval patrol past a Chinese-controlled islet a day earlier. The American president called in part to advance talks on curbing North Korea's nuclear weapons program, which have progressed little since Xi's sunny April visit to Trump's Florida resort.

"Ties are also affected by some negative elements, and the Chinese side has already expressed our stance to the U.S.," Xi told Trump, according to state broadcaster China Central Television. "China and the U.S. should tightly grasp the overall direction of development based on the consensus we reached at Mar-a-Lago."

The remarks were Xi's first acknowledgment of rekindled tensions between the world's two largest economies ahead of an expected meeting at the Group of 20 summit that begins Friday in Hamburg, Germany. Besides Trump's frustration with China's contribution to reining in Kim Jong Un - expressed in a tweet



Chinese President Xi Jinping

last month - members of his administration have also renewed criticism of the country while returning to a harder line on trade.

The risk is that Trump rethinks his early detente with Xi and advances a punitive approach similar to what he advocated during the campaign. Moves such as levying tariffs or boosting ties with Taiwan could prompt retaliation from China, especially as Xi prepares for a key Communist Party party reshuffle.

"China-U.S. ties have somewhat cooled a bit from their giddy heights after the Mar-a-Lago summit," said Jia Qingguo, dean of Peking University's diplomacy department and a foreign affairs adviser to the government. "This climb-down was within expect-

tations, because China cannot single-handedly deliver on North Korea."

An 82-word summary of Trump's call released by the White House said "both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula" while discussing a range of issues. The president "reiterated his determination to seek more balanced trade relations with America's trading partners," the White House said.

While Trump initially focused on getting China's help to prevent Kim from developing an intercontinental nuclear missile, other old disputes have been resurfacing. The U.S. has in recent days announced a USD1.3 billion arms sale to Taiwan, published a report

ranking China among the world's human-trafficking offenders and called on Beijing to let ailing Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo seek cancer treatment abroad.

Whether such moves were isolated, part of a campaign to show China the price of inaction or steps toward a more confrontational strategy was unclear. The U.S. is raising the pressure at a sensitive time for Xi, who must project strength ahead of a party congress in the fourth quarter that will shape his influence into the next decade.

The political atmosphere makes moves toward Taiwan, which China considers a breakaway province and one of "core" issues, particularly provocative. That's especially true after Trump broke with decades of protocol against interactions with Taiwanese leaders in December and accepted a phone call with the island's president.

"Going overboard in trying to put pressure on Beijing may prove counterproductive, since it will simply prompt a tit-for-tat response from which the U.S. will not emerge unbruised," the state-run China Daily said in an editorial Sunday. The piece, titled "It's unwise for Washington to play the Taiwan card," warned against any efforts to embrace a congressionally supported push to allow U.S. Navy visits at the island's ports.

China's summary of the presidential phone call said that Trump reaffirmed the long-standing U.S. policy recognizing Beijing as the sole legitimate government of China. The White House made no mention of the subject.

Trump's call with Xi followed a separate chat with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, of Japan, a U.S. trade rival that's also key ally against Kim's regime. Japan's chief cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, told reporters Monday that the pair agreed that China must be firmer with North Korea.

Ties are also affected by some negative elements, and the Chinese side has already expressed our stance to the U.S.

XI JINPING [REPORTEDLY TOLD TRUMP]

Trump, Xi and Abe will all have an opportunity to discuss issues of concern at the G-20 summit.

"I do find the 'honeymoon's over' conclusion a bit premature," said Jia, of Peking University. "The G-20 summit will provide another chance for President Xi and Trump, who have already established good personal relationship, to catch up and maybe repair things a bit." **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong bond link gets underway to muted reaction

TRADING on China's new bond link to the rest of the world started yesterday, with little in the way of a market reaction.

First-day turnover on the system was 7 billion yuan (USD1 billion), 4.9 billion yuan of which came from bid requests, according to a statement posted on the website of the National Interbank Funding Center. Some 130 new investors registered with the program as it started, Julien Martin, head of fixed income and currency product development at Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing Ltd. said at an investor forum. The 10-year government debt yield rose just three basis points to 3.60 percent.

The bond connect with Hong Kong, which gives

offshore investors another way to access the mainland's \$10 trillion debt market, echoes the two cross-border stock connect programs available in the former British colony. The latest system, which will initially only allow one-way flows to the world's third-largest bond market, is an effort to increase the meager foreign holdings of mainland debt, and one more step in China's efforts to become part of the international financial system.

"More and more foreign investors need to purchase yuan-denominated assets," Pan Gongsheng, deputy governor at the People's Bank of China, said at the link's opening ceremony in Hong Kong. "The bond connect meets global in-



Norman Chan, chief executive of the HK Monetary Authority (left) and Pan Gongsheng, deputy governor of the PBOC, strike a gong during the launch ceremony of the China-Hong Kong Bond Connect

vestors' rising demand."

HSBC Holdings Plc, Standard Chartered Plc and Citigroup Inc. were among banks that said yesterday that they had completed their first deals as market makers in the

new system.

Previous moves to open the country's interbank bond market to institutional investors have failed to boost foreign holdings of onshore debt. Overseas institutions' holdings of

Chinese bonds dropped to 830 billion yuan (\$121 billion) as of the end of March, from 853 billion yuan three months earlier, People's Bank of China data show. That's less than 1.5 percent of 66 trillion yuan of outstanding notes, according to Bloomberg calculations based on the central bank data.

The link's start comes at a time when domestic investors are growing more bullish on the nation's bonds, after a rout spurred by a government deleveraging campaign. The yield on 10-year debt fell the most in a year last month, while a Bloomberg News survey of fixed-income traders and analysts predicts that the yield will drop to 3.40 percent at the end of September.

Yields offered by Chinese government bonds are among the highest in the world's major economies, and the highest among those rated A1 by Moody's Investors Service and A+

by Fitch Ratings. Onshore yields last week were 81 basis points lower than the corresponding Chinese government debt offshore, known as Dim Sum bonds, at 4.38 percent.

While the link will initially only allow Hong Kong-based investors to trade on the mainland, Charles Li, chief executive officer of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd., said that the company would consider opening a channel into the city if investors showed an interest.

"We are doing this simply out of market demand," he said of bond connect's northbound start. "Due to the interest rate gaps, there could be little interest over southbound at this moment, we don't have timetable for southbound yet."

"But if southbound demand increases, we'll do southbound," he said at the opening ceremony. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Tarnished Abe plunged into crisis after Tokyo election loss

SCANDAL-HIT Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe faces one of his biggest tests since coming to power in late 2012, after his ruling party lost to an upstart outfit in an election for Tokyo's assembly.

The Liberal Democratic Party lost more than half its seats to end up with 23, the lowest number ever in the capital, in a vote that could be a harbinger for national elections. Voter turnout was up about eight percentage points on the previous poll four years ago.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike's Tomin First (Tokyo Residents First) party won 49 spots in the 127-seat assembly, up from six beforehand. That will give her a majority after she formed a local alliance with parties including Abe's national coalition partner Komeito.

Somber-faced party executives sat in silence at the opening of an extraordinary meeting yesterday morning to discuss the defeat.

"At times like this we must pull ourselves together and reflect on the things that should be reflected on, then move ahead carefully but decisively," Abe said Monday in remarks carried on NHK. "It's been almost five years since the administration was launched and there was severe criticism that we might be lax. We have to accept that with sincerity."

A poll conducted by the Asahi newspaper over the weekend found support for Abe's cabinet had fallen three percentage points to 38 percent, while 42 percent of respondents said they did not support him.

A spate of scandals has eroded support for Abe, and the election



result may stir more criticism within the LDP, where potential rivals are positioning themselves to try and end his run as Japan's third-longest serving premier since World War II. The loss could also hamper his controversial push to revise Japan's pacifist constitution by 2020.

Several executives of the party's Tokyo chapter are expected to resign, the Nikkei newspaper reported yesterday, and Abe is likely to reshuffle his Cabinet as soon as August.

"Basically what we've had here is a smack upside the head for the prime minister," Nicholas

Smith, a strategist at CLSA, told Bloomberg TV. Voters want Abe to "stop faffing around with the constitution" and instead focus on the economy, he added.

Abe's rush to change the constitution to make clear the legitimacy of the country's Self-Defense Forces has "handed his critics a cudgel with which to attack his leadership," according to Tobias Harris, a Japan analyst at Teneo Intelligence in Washington.

"Criticism over constitutional revision could be the thin end of the wedge for broader criticism of Abe's leadership," Harris said.

"I wonder whether we'll also see Abe backed into a Cabinet reshuffle that is sooner than he wanted and more extensive than he wanted."

The defeat could also hurt the party's chances in a national election due next year. In 2009, a big loss for the LDP in Tokyo preceded a landslide general election defeat months later.

Yosuke Takagi of Komeito's Tokyo chapter said there would be no change to the coalition with the LDP in the national parliament. Still, the Buddhist-backed party may become a more vocal critic of Abe, both on the

scandals and constitutional issues, according to Harris.

Koike, who defected from the ruling party last month, campaigned on a platform of open government and cutting wasteful spending in the city of 13.7 million, which accounts for about a fifth of Japan's economy. One of her first moves as governor was to halve her own salary.

The LDP sought to portray her as indecisive for delaying the relocation of the iconic Tsukiji fish market over pollution concerns and insisting on reviewing the ballooning cost of the 2020 Olympics.

“At times like this we must pull ourselves together and [...] then move ahead carefully but decisively.”

SHINZO ABE
JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

"Tokyo citizens' expectation that we would reform the outdated assembly enabled us to become the biggest party," Koike told a press conference yesterday, where she expressed willingness to work with Abe.

In the 2009 Tokyo poll, the LDP and Komeito lost their dominant position in the assembly - months before a resounding defeat to the Democratic Party of Japan in a general election that led to more than three years in opposition. This time, however, Abe doesn't have to call a vote until December 2018, a few months after the LDP is due for a formal leadership election.

"It's almost a foregone conclusion that someone will run against Abe" in the party poll in 2018, Harris said. "The question is whether someone with a real chance of winning runs.

MDT/Bloomberg

WITH a landmark goods and services tax (GST) now rolling out across India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to turn his focus to job creation and other key economic reforms.

Further big structural steps, such as revamping India's land acquisition and labor laws, are unlikely to occur before the next national election, scheduled for 2019, as Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party still lacks a majority in the upper house of parliament.

Instead, analysts suggest the BJP is likely to focus on creating jobs while it pursues smaller reforms, including on administrati-

Modi's reform agenda not yet done

ve measures, anti-corruption policies and tax evasion. While India remains one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, employment creation was the slowest on record in 2015, with just 135,000 net new jobs in the formal sector of the economy against the 12 million estimated new entrants to the workforce, government data show.

At the same time, Modi's administration will also have to dedicate considerable resources to ensure the success of the new, nation-wide GST, which took

effect on July 1 after a midnight launch ceremony and has already caused some economic disruption.

More urgently, Modi's party will need to make sure the GST implementation goes smoothly and does not lead to a spike in inflation or sustained economic chaos. Despite a relaxation of initial filing requirements, there are early signs that businesses remain confused and consumers might be putting off purchases.

"Politically selling the GST and ensuring there

are no wrinkles will take the best part of the next six months, if not longer," said Ashok Malik, a distinguished fellow with the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation think-tank.

"We are likely to continue seeing a preference for an incremental approach towards reforms, one that prioritizes administrative reforms over structural ones," said Pratyush Rao, a Singapore-based senior analyst for South Asia at Control Risks, a consultancy. MDT/Bloomberg



Krystal Chia, Keith Zhai
and Melissa Cheok

Lee family feud damaged Singapore's reputation, Premier says

A dispute between the children of late Singaporean leader Lee Kuan Yew has damaged the country's reputation and could dent public confidence in the government if it continues, according to his son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Lee spoke in parliament yesterday in a bid to lay to rest a spat with his two siblings over the estate of the country's first prime minister, who died in 2015. Still, in his speech he acknowledged the dispute was unlikely to ever be resolved fully.

"I know many Singaporeans are upset by this issue," Lee said. "They are tired of the subject, and wish it would end," he said. "I too am upset that things have reached this state."

"As your prime minister, I deeply regret that this has happened and apologize to Singaporeans for this. As a son, I am pained at the anguish this strife would have caused my parents to feel if they were still alive."

The spat burst into the public eye in the early hours of June 14 when the prime minister's siblings issued a six-page statement on Facebook. Lee Wei Ling and Lee Hsien Yang accused their brother of maneuvering behind the scenes to undermine their father's instructions to demolish the house he lived in for decades. They also criticized the prime minister's wife, Ho Ching, who is chief executive officer of state investment firm Temasek Holdings Pte.

The tensions have gripped



Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

the island state for weeks with tit-for-tat accusations on social media, casting a shadow over Lee and his People's Action Party-led government. Still, the PAP has a strong hold on power: It dominates the seats in parliament and increased its share of the popular vote in the last election.

Lee Kuan Yew was prime minister from 1959 to 1990, turning Singapore into Southeast Asia's richest nation by opening the island to foreign investors. He ran a tightly con-

Tit-for-tat accusations on social media have cast a shadow over Lee and his government

trolled state that emphasized incorruptibility and stability. Lee stepped down from the cabinet in 2011.

Lee Hsien Loong said he denied allegations by his siblings of nepotism and attempts to misuse his power.

"Regarding the house, and how its continued existence enhances my aura as prime minister, if I needed such magic properties to bolster my authority after thirteen years as prime minister I must be in a pretty sad state," he told parliament. "And if Singaporeans believe that such magic works in Singapore, I think Singapore will be in an even sadder state." **MDT/Bloomberg**



Thai labor rules sending migrant workers home

Fearful that Thailand's new labor rules will get them into trouble, tens of thousands of migrant workers are returning to neighboring Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, causing hardship to themselves and their Thai employers. Labor regulations that took effect June 23 could give foreign workers without proper permits up to five years in prison, while their employers could face fines of up to 800,000 baht (USD23,500). Officials and workers' advocates estimate that roughly 30,000 workers have returned home since the rules took effect. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, under pressure from industries employing the migrants, says he'll institute a 120-day extension of the deadline for worker registration.

Vietnam buffalo fight suspended

A traditional water buffalo fight in northern Vietnam was suspended after an animal attacked and killed its owner, in the first human fatality since the sport resumed after the Vietnam War. The buffalo was killed and samples were taken to determine whether the animal had been given a stimulant to make it more aggressive, said Do Van Viet, a local official in the resort town of Do Son where the fight took place. The buffalo at first chased the owner of the other animal but failed to catch him and then turned on its owner, who died several hours later from multiple wounds, Viet said. State media identified him as 46-year-old Dinh Xuan Huong, who trained fighting buffaloes for other owners for 10 years and this year had owned and trained a buffalo for himself for the first time.

Anger over ex-CIA contractor's memoir

Pakistan intelligence and security officials reacted angrily to the release of a memoir by an ex-CIA contractor, saying his 2011 acquittal in a high-profile murder case and subsequent return to the U.S. was an arrangement between Pakistan and the U.S., not among individuals. Raymond Davis' book exposed the alleged role of Pakistan's former spy chief Shuja Pasha in quashing a murder trial against Davis by paying USD2.4 million to the families of two men Davis killed while working for the CIA in Pakistan in 2011. The incident triggered a diplomatic crisis when police arrested Davis for the killings. But, seven weeks later, the families of the slain men told a court that they pardoned Davis, ending a tense showdown between the U.S. and Pakistan.



This image taken from undated video shows the purported leader of the Islamic State group Southeast Asia branch, Isnilon Hapilon (center)

PHILIPPINES

Top militant believed hiding in war-torn city

THE leader of the militants who laid siege to a southern Philippine city is suspected to be hiding in a mosque there, the Philippines' defense chief said yesterday, days after Isnilon Hapilon

was reported to have fled the bombed-out city. "According to our latest info he is still inside Marawi," Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told a news conference in Manila. "There is informa-

tion we got this morning that he is hiding in one of the mosques there in Marawi."

He said government informants have been watching for Hapilon's arrival in his stronghold

of Basilan island but have not seen him there. Hapilon was not among three fighters from Marawi who arrived in Basilan a week ago, Lorenzana added.

The militants aligned with the Islamic State group attacked Marawi on May 23 and are confined in a small area but still putting up resistance to government forces who've retaken most of the city.

The violence has left at least 459 people dead including 39 civilians, 336 militants, and 84 soldiers and policemen. At least eight foreign fighters are believed to be among the dead, Lorenzana said.

Hapilon is the Islamic State group's purported leader in Southeast Asia. The Filipino militant is on Washington's list of most-wanted terroris-

ts, with a USD5 million bounty on his head. His whereabouts are the subject of intelligence reports the military continues to try to verify.

Lorenzana said displaced residents will be allowed to go back to cleared areas of the city, with the government assisting in the rebuilding of their homes, and to other areas as soon as the fighting stops. But he said some 1,500 homes still need to be cleared of explosives and soldiers are able to clear only 70 to 100 homes a day.

The rebuilding of the city's business district may also take more time and funds because it has been badly damaged by government airstrikes on the attackers' positions and the militant's torching of buildings and houses. **AP**



Civilians flee through an alley as Iraqi Special Forces continue their advance against I.S. militants



Smoke billows over the Old City after several strikes

IRAQ

With fight for Mosul in final stage, militants strike back

Susannah George, Andrea Rosa

WITH the fight for Mosul in its final stage yesterday, Islamic State militants sent female suicide bombers hidden among fleeing civilians, while Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led coalition unleashed punishing airstrikes and artillery fire that set dozens of buildings ablaze.

At least one Iraqi soldier was killed and five were wounded in the two separate suicide attacks, the military said. On Sunday, a bomber in women's clothing killed 14 people at a camp for displaced residents in Anbar province, a provincial official said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

"These tactics don't surprise me," said Sgt. Ahmed Fadil, who patrolled Mosul's Old City just 50 meters from the front.

The closer we get to victory, the more suicide bombers they will send.

SGT. AHMED FADIL

The militants "have nowhere to go. They're trapped," he said.

Yesterday's two suicide bombings against Iraqi soldiers followed three other such attacks by women — some of them teenagers — in the previous two days, said Sgt. Ali Abdullah Hussein.

A soldier displayed the school ID card retrieved from the body

of one of the bombers, showing her to be only 15. The photo was of serious young woman in a white hijab and indicated she had studied in Bangladesh.

"Most of the people who blew themselves up today are women," said special forces Lt. Col. Salam Hussein. He added that seven women strapped with explosives approached the troops Monday, "but thank God, our units stopped [them]."

Government troops advancing through the Old City were using rougher tactics to clear the remaining pockets of IS forces.

The tempo of airstrikes was so great yesterday that coalition aircraft couldn't keep up with the requests for air support from Iraqi ground forces. Instead, they sought approval for artillery strikes. Associated Press drone footage showed the

result: dozens of buildings burning in the Old City.

While shops have reopened and civilian traffic fills streets in retaken neighborhoods, thick black smoke continued to rise just a few kilometers away from IS-held territory on the bank of the Tigris River that divides Iraq's second-largest city. The area controlled by the militants is less than a square kilometer (less than half a square mile).

Islamic State militants swiftly overran Mosul in 2014. The U.S.-backed offensive to retake the city was launched in October and has proceeded slowly, even though Iraqi political and military officials had vowed to declare victory by the end of 2016.

Iraqi forces began their push to retake the Old City in mid-June. Even though the militants

are squeezed into smaller and smaller territory, the danger remains for units like Fadil's.

When they heard cries from civilians just around the corner, he and his colleagues rushed their commanding officer to safety into a nearby home that already had been cleared. They yelled at the group of sobbing women and children to hurry past.

Fadil explained the reason for their caution. "They cry and then — boom! They explode themselves," he said. "The closer we get to victory, the more suicide bombers they will send."

At one screening point, soldiers anxiously held civilians back at gunpoint, shouting at men and boys to strip to their underwear.

Hussein, of the special forces, and a group of about a dozen men searched on foot yesterday for more suicide bombers. An informant pointed out a house occupied by IS fighters.

A soldier kicked in a door, shouted a warning and threw two grenades into the front room. A second soldier stuffed a rag into a plastic jug of gasoline, lit it and threw it inside.

"There are some suicide bombers who refuse to leave the houses, so we're forced to deal with them with smoke and fire and hand grenades," Hussein said, noting that the troops burned only the basement, not the house.

His men seized five suspected IS fighters, binding their hands with electrical wire and blindfolding them with scraps of cloth. At least one of the five was arrested.

For most of the soldiers in Mosul, the final days of the grueling battle caps more than three years of fighting the militants.

Hassan Ahmed, a soldier with the special forces deployed in the Old City, said he can't deny that the war has changed him. "It's like I'm heartless — I don't feel anything," he said. "But we are still good people. We have mercy." AP

FRENCH President Emmanuel Macron vowed yesterday to lift a state of emergency that has been in place since 2015, but also to harden permanent security measures to fight Islamic extremism and other threats.

Laying out his political, security and diplomatic priorities at an extraordinary joint session of parliament at the chateau of Versailles Macron said his government "will work to prevent any new attack, and we will work to fight [the assailants] without pity, without regrets, without weakness."

At the same time, he insisted on the need to "guarantee full respect for

FRANCE

Macron says he will lift state of emergency

individual liberties" amid concerns that new measures would allow police too many powers.

Macron vowed to maintain France's military interventions against extremists abroad, especially in Africa's Sahel region and in Iraq and Syria. He also insisted on the importance of maintaining "the path of negotiation, of dialogue" for long-term solutions.

Macron also announced Europe-wide public conferences later this year in an effort to reinvigorate the

European Union after Britain's vote to leave.

He said he understood why many Europeans see the EU as bureaucratic, distant and uncaring.

"I firmly believe in Europe, but I don't find this skepticism unjustified," he said.

He also said European countries should work more closely to help political refugees while fighting migrant-smuggling and strengthening borders against illegal migration.

Critics who fear Macron

is trying to amass too much power organized protests over yesterday's event.

Lawmakers from the far-left party of Jean-Luc Mélenchon and communists decided not to attend the speech in protest against what they call a "presidential monarchy".

After his new centrist party dominated parliamentary elections and split the opposition, political rivals are comparing Macron to Napoleon, or the Roman king of the gods, Jupiter.



They are especially angry that he wants to strip worker protections through a decree-like procedure, allowing little parliamentary debate.

Macron also broke with

tradition in convening the Versailles parliament session just one day before his prime minister is to face — and likely to win — his first confidence vote in parliament. AP

Catherine Lucey

US

Trump tweets mock video of him beating CNN, sparks criticism

PRESIDENT Donald Trump crowned his weekend rage against the news media with a mock video that shows him pummeling a man in a business suit — his face obscured by the CNN logo — outside a wrestling ring.

It was not immediately clear who produced the brief video, which appears to be a doctored version of Trump's 2007 appearance on World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. The 28-second clip was posted on Trump's official Twitter account Sunday morning, with the message: "#Fraud-NewsCNN #FNN."

Trump, who has branded the media as the "opposition party" and CNN as "fake news," stayed on the attack later in the day, stating on Twitter that "the dishonest media will NEVER keep us from accomplishing our objectives on behalf of our GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE!"

On Monday, he continued the attacks on Twitter: "At some point the Fake News will be forced to discuss our great jobs numbers, strong economy, success with ISIS, the border & so much else!"

Bruce Brown, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the

■ CNN accused Trump of engaging in 'juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office'

Press, condemned the video as a "threat of physical violence against journalists." He said Trump's tweet was "beneath the office of the presidency."

A White House aide insisted the tweet should not send a chill across the media landscape.

"I think that no one would perceive that as a threat," homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said. "I hope they don't. But I do think that he's beaten up in a way on cable platforms that he has a right

to respond to."

CNN accused Trump of engaging in "juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office."

White House officials traveling with Trump during his weekend stay at his New Jersey golf club did not immediately respond to questions about the video. It appeared to be a doctored version of an appearance Trump made on a World Wrestling Entertainment Inc. show called "Battle of the Billionaires" in 2007, in which Trump appears to attack WWE CEO Vince McMahon.

McMahon's wife, Linda, who founded and built the company with her husband, now heads the Small Business Administration for Trump and was a donor to his campaign.

The video was posted several days ago by a Reddit user with the title, "Trump takes down fake news." It was not clear whether that was where it originated or how Trump found



it. Still, the user wrote Sunday about being "honored" Trump had tweeted the video. The user who posted the video has a history of posts using anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language.

The president's verbal shots

against news outlets and individual members of the media have grown increasingly personal in recent days even as lawmakers in both parties say the insults only threaten to undermine his political agenda. **AP**

GERMANY

18 confirmed dead in fiery Bavarian bus crash; 30 injured

A bus carrying German senior citizens on vacation crashed into a truck yesterday on a highway in Bavaria and burst into flames, killing 18 people and injuring 30 others, some seriously, officials said.

The accident took place around 7 a.m. when the bus rear-ended a trailer-truck at the end of a traffic jam on the A9 highway near Muenchberg, not far from the Czech border. The accident led to long traffic jams on the A9, the main thoroughfare from Berlin to Munich.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, but prosecutors have opened an investigation.

The bus seemed to have caught fire immediately upon impact with the truck, Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt told reporters after touring the crash site. The truck's trailer also burst into flames.

"Two people are still in life-threatening condition," Dobrindt said.

Two drivers and 46 pas-

sengers were on the bus. The remains of all bodies were recovered from the bus, including that of the driver at the wheel during the crash, police said. Police said the truck driver was not injured.

Some 200 emergency crews rushed to the scene and five helicopters whisked the injured to nearby hospitals. Simple wooden coffins were wheeled in for the remains recovered from the blackened, twisted wreckage of the bus.

Police said the ages of those on the bus ranged from 41 to 81 and they were primarily from the eastern German state of Saxony. The news agency dpa reported that all the passengers were German.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel thanked the emergency crews involved.

"Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and we wish all those who were injured a speedy recovery," she said.

Dobrindt said when fire-



An aerial view shows the place of the accident on the motorway A9 near Muenchberg

fighters first arrived, the fire was so hot that they couldn't get anywhere close to the burning vehicle to rescue those stuck inside.

"All they could do was extinguish the fire," he said. "The heat was so strong that nothing that's inflammable is left from the bus — only the steel frame."

The A9 highway remained closed on both sides for hours. Police tweeted later that the A9 highway going south would be shut down for the day. **AP**



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what's ON



MACAO ILLUSTRATED - EXHIBITION OF CITY PLANS AND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MACAO ARCHIVES' COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 3, 2017

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

COLOUR SHAPE LOVE - WORKS BY JOAQUIM FRANCO

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

A GOLDEN WAY OF LIFE - TRES'ORS

TIME: 12pm-9pm (Closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: September 3, 2017

VENUE: Level 2, MGM Art Space (via Grande Praça)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

MACAU ARTS WINDOW 2017 - HUNDRED SPECIES - WORKS OF PEGGY CHAN

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 13, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LOVE OF MACAU - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

A GLIMPSE OF MACAU - BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LEI

TIME: 2pm - 7pm

UNTIL: July 22, 2017

VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

Offbeat

LAUNCH FAILS FOR CHINESE HEAVY-LIFT CARRIER ROCKET

A Chinese rocket launch failed on Sunday evening due to abnormality during the flight following what appeared to be a successful liftoff, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Experts will investigate the cause of the glitch for the launch of the Long March-5 Y2, China's second heavy-lift carrier rocket, from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in the southern province of Hainan, Xinhua said.

Video from the live broadcast showed the rocket lifting off and shooting into the sky, with a voice-over indicating everything was going well. It was not clear from the live broadcast whether anything had gone wrong. It also was not clear whether the rocket, which was carrying a communication satellite, had entered its orbit.

Several launches of the Long March-5 were scheduled in preparation for China's lunar probe, manned space station and Mars probe missions, according to Xinhua. Sunday's launch was to be the last drill before the rocket was to carry a lunar probe later this year. It was not immediately clear how Sunday's failure will affect planned missions.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 3
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr 1
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

29 JUN - 5 JUL



DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 1

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

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min



THE MUMMY

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

MACAU TOWER

22 JUN - 5 JUL



TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 1

2:00, 4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

this day in history



Idi Amin was humiliated by the surprise raid

1976 ISRAELIS RESCUE ENTEBBE HOSTAGES

Israeli commandos have rescued 100 hostages, mostly Israelis or Jews, held by pro-Palestinian hijackers at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

At about 0100 local time (2200GMT), Ugandan soldiers and the hijackers were taken completely by surprise when three Hercules transport planes landed after a 2,500-mile trip from Israel.

About 200 elite troops ran out and stormed the airport building. During a 35-minute battle, 20 Ugandan soldiers and all seven hijackers died along with three hostages.

The leader of the assault force, Lieutenant Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu, was also shot dead by a Ugandan sentry.

The Israelis destroyed 11 Russian-built MiG fighters, which amounted to a quarter of Uganda's air force.

The surviving hostages were then flown to Israel with a stopover in Nairobi, Kenya, where some of the injured were treated by Israeli doctors and at least two transferred to hospital there.

Speaking at the Israeli Knesset (parliament) this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who ordered the raid said: "This operation will certainly be inscribed in the annals of military history, in legend and in national tradition."

The crisis began on 27 June, when four militants seized an Air France flight, flying from Israel to Paris via Athens, with 250 people on board.

The hijackers - two from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and two from Germany's Baader-Meinhof gang - diverted the plane to Entebbe, where it arrived on 28 June.

The hijackers - who were joined by three more colleagues - demanded the release of 53 militants held in jails in Israel and four other countries.

Uganda's President and dictator Idi Amin arrived at the airport to give a speech in support of the PFLP and supplied the hijackers with extra troops and weapons.

On 1 July, the hijackers released a large number of hostages but continued to hold captive the remaining 100 passengers who were Israelis or Jews. Those who were freed were flown to Paris and London.

Among them were British citizens George Good, a retired accountant and Tony Russell, a senior GLC official, who arrived in London on Friday.

The crew were offered the chance to go but chose to stay with the plane. The remaining hostages were transferred to the airport building.

The hijackers then set a deadline for 1100GMT for their demands to be met or they would blow up the airliner and its passengers. But their plan was foiled by the dramatic Israeli raid.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The mission, originally dubbed Operation Thunderbolt by the Israeli military, was renamed Operation Yonatan in honor of Netanyahu - elder brother of Benjamin Netanyahu, who was Israel's Prime Minister from 1996 to 1999.

The raid continues to be source of pride for the Israeli public, and many of the participants went on to high office in Israel's military and political establishment.

Among them was Dan Shomron, who was in overall command of the rescue operation. He became Chief of Staff of the Israel Defence Force. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated during his second term in office in 1995.

Idi Amin was humiliated by the surprise raid. He believed Kenya had colluded with Israel in planning the raid and hundreds of Kenyans living in Uganda were massacred soon afterwards.

But from this time, Amin's regime began to break down. Two years later Idi Amin was forced into exile in Saudi Arabia. He died in Jeddah in August 2003.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't worry about the rumors. Yes, the powers that be may be thinking of making some big changes, but they have their eye on you for some bigger and better things.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You've gone out of your way to pacify them, keep them happy and do whatever you can to be cooperative. Still, members of your family don't seem to be all that appreciative of what you've done for them lately.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

All of a sudden, the urge to keep spending money has passed -- and passed quickly, too. The shopping buddies you refused to let out of the gate will probably get a big kick out of seeing you like this.

Libra

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You may not be happy with the way the day starts, but if you resolve to go with the flow, stay calm and let the heavens handle the details, by later in the day an awful lot could change to your liking.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's been tough going between you and a dear one lately. You may even be so badly at odds that you're beginning to wonder if the damage isn't irreparable. Well, it's not.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Spending money will come easily to you now, even if you don't really have it to spend. That doesn't mean you shouldn't treat yourself to something you'd enjoy.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Romance could well be on the agenda for you now, but there may be a few roadblocks along the way. Of course, roadblocks are only impassable if you refuse to work your way around them.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

There may be a very easy way to forgive yourself. Now that you've looked over your purchases, you're not quite as enthused about them as you were. Why not pull out those sales receipts and return them.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

This would definitely not be the best day on record to pick a fight with you. Not only won't you appreciate it, you'll be more than game to take on anyone -- and with your verbal skills are running on high at the moment.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Stop feeling guilty about allowing yourself to actually relax for a little while. You've been doing nothing but working hard for months now, and you haven't whined or complained a bit.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

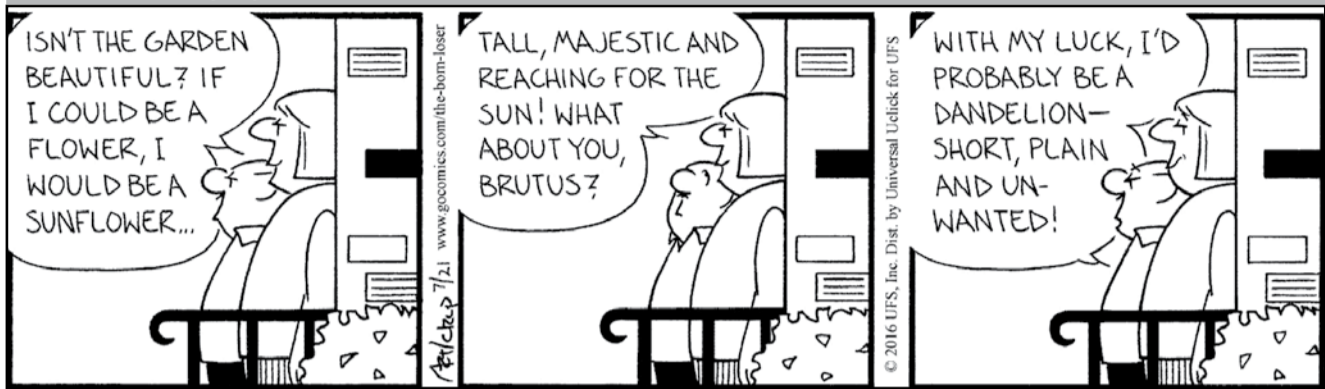
You've been thinking about how to better yourself -- thinking very seriously about it. Of course, that's not an easy thing for you to do. You're famous for taking advantage of every opportunity that comes along.

Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Someone who's been a member of your current crew for a while now may be at odds with the rest of the gang over a really petty issue. It may seem that you only have two options.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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		5	6		9			
			1	3				

Easy+

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Medium

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8			2	7		4		

Hard

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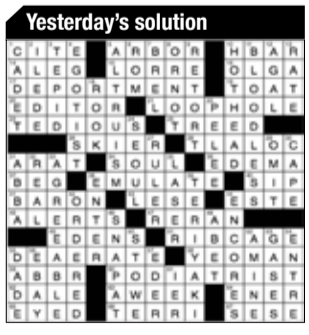
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	31	thundershower
Harbin	19	32	clear
Tianjin	24	32	shower
Urumqi	20	30	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	23	37	cloudy
Lhasa	11	22	moderate rain/shower
Chengdu	24	33	overcast
Chongqing	26	36	cloudy
Kunming	17	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	24	31	overcast/thundershower
Shanghai	26	34	overcast/thundershower
Wuhan	25	33	cloudy/shower
Hangzhou	27	34	overcast/thundershower
Taipei	26	32	heavy rain/thundershower
Guangzhou	27	31	shower
Hong Kong			
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	clear/drizzle
Frankfurt	14	24	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	12	25	clear
London	12	20	cloudy/overcast
New York	20	30	drizzle/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Long and Peeples; 5- Poker Flat chronicler; 10- Thick slice; 14- A Chaplin; 15- Alternate; 16- Israeli dance; 17- Bating Babe; 18- ___ say more?; 19- Novelist Bagnold; 20- Designer Mizrahi; 22- Capital of South Australia; 24- Campus mil. group; 27- River of Flanders; 28- You're on!; 32- Has to have; 36- Genetic messenger; 37- Swashbuckler Flynn; 39- Church instrument; 40- Very small quantity; 42- Sleight of hand; 44- Lab fluids; 45- Dictation taker; 47- Roofing items; 49- Sun. speech; 50- Hopper of Hollywood; 51- Real estate register; 53- Catchall abbr.; 56- Prison room; 57- Threshold; 61- Red fluorescent dye; 65- Pub potables; 66- Curved moldings; 69- Moisturizer ingredient; 70- Hawaii's state bird; 71- Mazda model; 72- Granny; 73- Continue; 74- Dry stalks; 75- At all times;

DOWN: 1- Me neither; 2- Chits; 3- Architectural pier; 4- North African desert; 5- Sweetie; 6- Broke bread; 7- Perlman of "Cheers"; 8- Woman's one-piece undergarment; 9- Great Lakes tribesmen; 10- Wool-clippers; 11- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"; 12- Parched; 13- Summoned; 21- Write software; 23- Carson's successor; 25- Division of a school year; 26- Unit of weight in gemstones; 28- Whiskey type; 29- Govt. security; 30- Satisfied; 31- Reasoning; 33- Discharge; 34- Challenger; 35- Entrap; 38- Pale purple; 41- Hans Christian; 43- Surrender; 46- Cereal grain; 48- Garage event; 52- Everett of "Citizen Kane"; 54- Tiny particles; 55- On the up-and-up, briefly; 57- "Consarnit!"; 58- Toast topper; 59- Vintner's prefix; 60- Fleshy fruit; 62- Pole, for one; 63- Actress Skye; 64- At hand; 67- JFK posting; 68- Cutting tool;



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- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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Russia upbeat as Confederations Cup goes off smoothly

James Ellingworth

RUSSIA'S dress rehearsal for the World Cup is over, and it looks comfortable in the spotlight.

When FIFA's Gianni Infantino sat with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the opening game on June 17, the host nation was under a cloud — facing pressure over widespread doping in multiple, fan racism and a reported 17 deaths during construction of World Cup stadiums.

But by yesterday's final [Macau time], Germany's champion team was giving glowing reviews. Captain Julian Draxler wrote an open letter to Russian fans saying: "Russia passed the test with flying colors," while coach Joachim Loew was also full of praise.

"Thanks very much to Russia, I think they were great hosts," Loew said after his team beat Chile 1-0 in yesterday's final. "In the different cities where we played, and in the stadiums, we saw excellent conditions. This tournament has been brilliantly organized, and we have met outstanding people, which is very important too."

It wasn't hard for Russia's host cities — Moscow, St. Petersburg, Sochi and Kazan — to outdo the last Confederations Cup, given that in 2013 Brazilian police were tear-gassing protesters outside the stadiums.



Julian Draxler holds the trophy after Germany won 1-0 in the Confederations Cup final match between Chile and Germany

Next year will be tougher, though, with seven more cities and many more foreign fans. Russia's predicting a million visitors during the World Cup, compared to 27,000 foreigners who FIFA says bought tickets for the Confederations Cup.

Russia is keen to show the world smiling, well behaved fans, not the muscle-bound thugs who rampaged through the French city of Marseille at last year's European championship.

Cheering is practically a matter of government policy. "We have

proved Russia is a football country," Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Mutko told Russian state news agency Tass on Sunday. "The final was staged at a high level, the tournament was staged at a high level, the fans cheered at a high level."

With government-issued Fan IDs required to attend a game, Russia was able to control the atmosphere at stadiums. The authorities barred not only fans with convictions for stadium disorder, but also those with looser links to "ultras" groups from Russian clubs, including many who insisted they were

not troublemakers.

Russia's Confederations Cup crowds were good-natured, even if they rarely engaged much with the action when Russia wasn't playing. Many were local families on days out, keener to join in Mexican waves than cheer the players or rage at the referee. Games routinely started with a stadium half-full, only to fill up as late arrivals cleared the security scanners or stragglers left the concession stands.

There were also no racist incidents at games, despite their prevalence in the Russian league in recent

years. For the tournament Russia recruited around 5,500 volunteers, largely university students, who guided fans around venues, though English skills were sometimes limited. Transport links, including free "fan trains" between host cities, also worked well.

There were a few organizational problems for teams, with Cameroon in particular complaining of time wasted in traffic snarl-ups. Cold and wet weather in Moscow and St. Petersburg means teams already seem desperate to secure the few training bases in Russia's sunnier south for next year's World Cup.

“Thanks very much to Russia, I think they were great hosts.”

JOACHIM LOEW
GERMANY COACH

Rather than Russia, it often seemed FIFA was under the microscope. The rollout of its controversial video referee system saw some clear fouls not reviewed and a blatant elbow in the final judged worthy only of a yellow card.

As it fights its own battle to keep video reviews, Infantino is relieved not to have more Russia-related headaches.

"If a problematic tournament looks like this tournament," he said Saturday, "well, then I want many of these problematic tournaments going ahead." AP

FOOTBALL

Sporting president claims bribery, fraud in player market

Tariq Panja,
Henrique Almeida

AT first glance Portuguese football has never been healthier: The national team is the champion of Europe, star player Cristiano Ronaldo has been voted the world's best and international clubs are shelling out millions for talent produced in the country.

But for Bruno de Carvalho, president of 18-time champion Sporting Clube de Portugal, those successes are undermined by a dark underbelly of bribery and corruption that can only be tackled by outside intervention and regulation.

"For four years I'm here saying the government needs to put a hand on this," Carvalho, an outspoken voi-

ce since his election to office in 2013, said in an interview at Sporting's Jose Alvalade stadium in Lisbon. "The government needs to say: 'enough'."

Portugal's top three clubs compete for popularity in the nation of 10 million people, and it's not uncommon for their leaders to engage in public spats. This month, Benfica, Portugal's biggest club and Sporting's arch rival, was accused of inappropriate contact with referees following a leak of emails to local media. That came about a decade after a corruption scandal that ended with Pinto da Costa - long-standing president of 2004 European Cup winner Porto - being given a two-year suspended football ban in a non-criminal investigation

for attempted bribery.

Benfica denies any allegations of acting improperly. Portugal's Publico newspaper reported public prosecutors are looking into the matter.

Sitting at a wooden desk that's overlooked by oversized photos of Ronaldo and Luis Figo, who like Ronaldo was a former Sporting player who went on to become a football icon with clubs including Real Madrid, de Carvalho raised his voice in frustration as he described how football's USD5 billion global trading market is open to fraud, with unethical and illegal behavior particularly common in Portugal.

"It's very easy to steal money from a club," he said, before going on to describe

the process of illicit payments being made. "You don't even need to open a bank account, it's very easy."

Carvalho's comments come a year after Joao Vale e Azevedo, a former Benfica president, was released from jail after serving time for crimes including the embezzlement of funds from the transfer of players. Separately, authorities in Spain, France and the U.K. are investigating player transfers and contracts following a massive leak of documents that provided a rare glimpse of the often opaque world of football finance. Carvalho alleges that unscrupulous agents sometimes offer bribes to club officials.

A spokesman for Portugal's top league declined to



Bruno de Carvalho

comment on the allegations made against Benfica, citing the ongoing investigation by the public prosecutor's office. He said he couldn't immediately comment on Carvalho's comments.

Sporting's prowess at producing players is well known in Europe - 10 of the 14 players used by Portugal in the Euro 2016 final came through its academy. Yet until recently it lagged behind Porto and Benfica in attracting the biggest fees for its top athletes.

Carvalho says clubs should rethink the amount they spend on agents, revealing

he didn't use one when he concluded the biggest sale in Sporting's history, the 45-million euro (\$51 million) trade that took midfielder Joao Mario to Inter Milan last year. Benfica, which earned about 80 million euros in player sales last year, also paid 30 million euros in agents fees, a figure that's far higher than the record amount it's ever paid for a player.

"It's possible to form relationships with agents if they understand that they have to find a way to not eat the whole cake," Carvalho said.

Bloomberg

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



WHO GOES TO THE WUSHU MASTERS CHALLENGE?

The second edition of the Wushu Masters Challenge will take place from August 10 to 13. The four-day challenge will include a wide range of activities, such as lion and dragon dances, competitions of several styles of martial arts, combat challenges, and parades featuring traditional Chinese martial arts.

In a press conference at end of last month, the Sports Bureau (ID) claimed that all equipment used in the second Wushu Masters Challenge has been upgraded. Moreover, ID revealed that last year it conducted a survey while the event was still ongoing. The bureau's leader informed that the survey showed that the public, including both residents and visitors, in general gave positive feedback about the events. The sports authority's official expressed ID's confidence for this year's event, as ID itself believes that "it will be better."

According to the ID survey conducted last year, a total of 15,000 visitors attended the events during the four days. The bureau collected 1,002 questionnaires, 600 from local residents and 402 from tourists. Surprisingly, 78.3 percent of the interviewed tourists claimed that they would be willing to visit again Macau just for Wushu-related events...

Now, wait a minute! Does the Macau government really believe in the answers of 78.3 percent of the visitors or does it have to act like it believes, even if it does not?

Personally, I would overlook these 78.3 percent who claimed they would be willing to return to Macau to attend a Wushu-related event.

Since I assiduously focus on Macau's mainland market, I am going to present my reasons why I do not believe what these interviewees claimed.

During the past many years, more and more parents have sent their children to learn Taekwondo, Karate, and other types of martial arts that were not established in China. Believe it or not, this is similar to many other trends, as more and more Chinese parents are sending their children to study piano, violin, among other western instruments, as well as performing arts.

There is a feeling that the faith in many traditional Chinese things is fading away, and while in some cases it might be positive, in others it is negative. But I digress. You are in your right to argue.

However, when talking about Wushu, why is it that mainland communities are putting their trust in it less and less?

The more the martial arts became popular in mainland China, the more people would talk about the practical factors of traditional Chinese martial arts.

People nowadays strongly argue that traditional Chinese martial arts can only be used for exercising purposes, not for self-defense. Why does the practical factor matter so much to Macau's Wushu Masters Challenges?

In my opinion, I would like to start by saying that it is because of the definition given to the Chinese traditional martial art. In many movies, Chinese martial arts have been depicted as a skill that can tear down the tree and can blow the sea. Having been shaped this way, people's judgmental criteria are also shaped in a way they might argue whether Chinese martial arts are useful for combat or not. They will not talk about these arts as a kind of skill that helps you exercise.

Consequently, having been shaped by such judgment, audiences lost their interest in seeing a Chinese martial arts show because these shows will be far from the excitement that can be offered, for instance, during a boxing match.

This is probably the main reason why Chinese martial arts shows are enjoyed more by the non-Chinese rather than by residents of mainland China.

THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE TALKS BUZZ IN POLAND FACE DIVISIVE TOPICS

Officials have opened the 41st annual UNESCO World Heritage Committee's conference in Poland.

The meeting will run through July 12 and debate contentious issues like Palestinian motion to deny Israel sovereignty over Jerusalem and the level of protection Poland gives its pristine Bialowieza forest.

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and Polish Culture Minister Piotr Glinski opened the session Sunday in a ceremony at the Renaissance

Wawel Castle in Krakow, a historic city on the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Earlier, they viewed Poland's most precious painting, Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with an Ermine," which the state bought last year from the aristocratic Czartoryski family.

The government says the session is among Poland's top cultural events this year. It brings together 21 member states, more than 170 observer nations and many non-governmental organizations.

MACAU

Leong's list announces political platform



NEW Union for Macau Development (NUDM), led by lawmaker Angela Leong, has announced its political platform for the 2017 Legislative Assembly (AL) election. According to a statement issued by the association, the NUDM list was also submitted to the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau yesterday.

In the statement released yesterday, the association pledged to adhere to the national strategies of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area development plan, both as part of the city's economic

diversification.

In regard to Macau workers, NUDM said it would seek to improve the quality of life for employees from the gaming industry, including the opportunity for upward career mobility. However, the association did not provide any details as to how this might be achieved.

It also stated that it would aim for the "betterment of public housing policies [...] to ease the young people's housing needs," as well as the revamp of the public transportation system, "whereby easy access of public transport vehicles and

a traffic jam free [environment] are attained."

Moreover, the association expressed that it is keen to promote the social integration of various communities in the MSAR. The statement noted that the association will seek to encourage the integration of different ethnicities. "The respective cultures of these groups are cherished and their special needs [will be] cared for," it read.

In the 2013 AL elections, NUDM secured a single seat with 8.94 percent of the popular vote.

The 2017 AL election will be held on September 17.

British teen jailed for plotting London bomb attack

A British teenager was sentenced yesterday to at least 16½ years in prison for plotting a bombing whose potential targets included an Elton John concert on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Haroon Syed, who was arrested last year, had admitted planning terrorist acts at an earlier court hearing.

Passing sentence at London's Central Criminal Court, judge Michael Topolski said 19-year-old Syed had been intent on "carrying out an act of mass murder in this country."

Sentencing Syed to life with no chance of parole for 16½ years, the judge said the young man had been "deeply committed to the ideology of a brutal and barbaric organization that sought to hijack

and corrupt an ancient and venerable religion for its own purposes" — the Islamic State group.

Prosecutors said Syed tried to buy weapons and explosives online from an extremist named "Abu Yusuf," who was actually a series of British intelligence agents.

He said he was considering targeting London's busy Oxford Street shopping district and searched online for potential locations, including an Elton John concert in Hyde Park on Sept. 11, 2016.

Defense lawyers said Syed had been vulnerable to radicalization, especially after the arrest of his elder brother Nadir. Nadir Syed was sentenced last year to a minimum of 15 years in prison for plotting an Islamic State group-inspired beheading to



Haroon Syed

coincide with Remembrance Sunday war commemorations.

Haroon Syed was arrested in September 2016. When police asked for the password to unlock his phone, he said: "Yeah, I.S.I.S. You like that?" AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	25-45 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	20-40 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA-RUSSIA Chinese President Xi Jinping has arrived in Russia for talks focusing on expanding cooperation with Moscow just as tensions have flared up in U.S.-China ties. Moscow and Beijing will sign dozens of agreements to deepen their cooperation during Xi's two-day trip.

SYRIA A top Syrian official says the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons refused to visit key sites linked to a nerve gas attack, casting doubt on the international monitor's credibility.

GERMANY A bus carrying German senior citizens on vacation crashed into a truck yesterday on a highway in Bavaria and burst into flames, killing 18 people and injuring 30 others, some seriously, officials said. *More on p15*



FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron has announced Europe-wide public conferences later this year in an effort to reinvigorate the European Union after Britain's vote to leave. *More on p14*

PORTUGAL Nine Portuguese firefighters were injured yesterday while tackling two wildfires near where 64 people died in a forest blaze last month, emergency services said.

BRAZIL Police say they have captured a major drug lord known as "White Head" who used plastic surgeries to help him evade authorities for nearly three decades. Authorities seized about USD10 million worth of the drug lord's assets, including planes, properties and luxury cars.