



### KWAN LONGS FOR TRADE UNION LAW

Ahead of her retirement, Kwan Tsui Hang called the press to talk about her regrets and achievements as a lawmaker

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### CONCERNS OVER VIDEO GAMES ADDICTION

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### 'CHINA IS NOT TO BE BLAMED'

China yesterday said it shouldn't be held responsible alone for solving the North Korean nuclear standoff

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**INDIA** As the government yesterday blamed separatist rebels for gunning down seven Hindu pilgrims and wounding 19 more in Kashmir before fleeing into the night, rebel groups in the disputed region condemned the rare, deadly attack on civilians and insisted they had no part in it. Meanwhile, a "top secret" memo that was circulated to regional police, military and paramilitary units two weeks ago indicates Indian security officials had been expecting an attack. **More on p12**

**THAILAND** A group of gunmen barged into the home of a local official in southern Thailand and killed eight members of his family, including three children, by shooting them in the head. The police chief of Krabi province, told reporters he believed the killings involved a dispute over land or political issues, but an investigation was ongoing.

AP PHOTO



**NORTH KOREA** Kim Jong Un was feted at a concert replete with pop music and thunderous applause marking last week's successful launch of his country's first intercontinental ballistic missile.

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## TOURISM EDUCATION

# Vienna wants to attract local students

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## Artisan hopes to keep traditional lantern-making alive in Macau

P7 MDT REPORT



## 500 local representatives run for 12 NPC positions

More than 500 Macau representatives are qualified to become Macau delegates in the 13th National People's Congress of China (NPC). The NPC's Standing Committee has already issued a notice to these candidates informing them to register for the congress. The delegates of the 13th Chinese NPC will be elected between October 2017 and February 2018, with the quota distribution being the same as that of the previous NPC. Macau will continue to have 12 delegates included in the sessions taking place from 2018 to 2023. This year, the NPC's SAR delegates are required to swear allegiance to China and to the SAR, and are prohibited from receiving foreign funds.

## MOP14m granted for building repairs

The Housing Bureau allocated MOP14.27 million in funds for building repairs in the first half of 2017. In total, the bureau received 161 applications. According to the bureau, 40 percent of the approved applications (corresponding to 73 cases) were for the maintenance of low buildings, with the total funds allocated amounting to MOP7.03 million. Sixty-three applications were for buildings' management, amounting to MOP270,000. Four applications requested funding to help tear down certain facilities. The Housing Bureau hopes to increase the transparency of its administration.

## Smoke breaks out in hotel

Early yesterday morning at 4 a.m., smoke broke out at the Lan Kwai Fong hotel. The smoke was a result of an accident that took place in the computer room on the first floor of the hotel's casino. Within the computer room is the hotel's electricity storage, according to the Fire Service Bureau. One of the computers' circuit board started releasing smoke, which triggered the alarms. The bureau stated that a total of 60 people were evacuated, with no injuries reported.



Walter Ruck



Carisa Chan

# Vienna wants to become tourism education hot spot for local students

Daniel Beitler

**T**HE President of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce and Industry was in Macau yesterday to promote the Austrian capital as a top-tier location for tourism and hospitality education.

Walter Ruck's single-day visit to Macau reinforces the routine work of his frontline colleagues - Consul for Commercial Affairs Franz Rössler and Special Project Consultant Monica Ng - at Advantage Austria, the country's official trade promotion authority.

"One of the reasons for my journey is to promote the Austrian educational system for tourism in East Asia," said Ruck in an interview yesterday. "I am convinced that a location like Macau, which is totally focused on tourism, may have a big demand for education in this field."

"We are very proud that we already have five or six students from Macau [now studying] in Vienna, and about 100 from the [China] region," he added.

Austria's chambers of commerce are individual and decentralized entities, each representing one of the country's nine federal states.

The Vienna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representative of the metropolitan Austrian capital, draws its support from the mandatory membership of approximately 150,000

companies. This backing has made the organization highly influential in Austria, its representatives claimed yesterday, becoming the third-largest provider of education in the country, after the government and the Church.

**“We are very proud that we already have five or six students from Macau [now studying] in Vienna**

WALTER RUCK  
VIENNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY

One such institution, MODUL University Vienna, was co-founded by the Chamber ten years ago, with a specialization in tourism, new media and business management education. It currently has an exchange program with City University of Macau.

Monica Ng leads a project promoting Austrian trade and education - in particular MU Vienna - from her Hong Kong base, where she represents the region of southern China. She

said that her mission to promote Viennese education in Macau began only a year ago, but several hospitality students from the territory are already taking courses at MU Vienna.

However, while Ng may be responsible for attracting tourism students, she insisted that she has no quota to fill and MU Vienna "only selects very high quality students."

One Macau student, Carisa Chan, has just finished her first year of a hotel management and operations course at the University. She said that "nobody knows MODUL University in Macau," adding that there are just two other students from the MSAR on her course.

Chan explained that she had considered studying hospitality and tourism-related courses in Macau, but she received her high school diploma from an institution outside of the MSAR, meaning a slightly more complicated application process than her Macau-educated peers experienced.

In any case, "It's also a new thing for people to go to Vienna for hotel management, and I wanted to try it," she said.

Neighboring Switzerland has long been famous for the quality of its hospitality and hotel management education. Ng said that there was no comparison between the two, with MU Vienna being an academic university, "whereas, in Switzerland, most of the hospitality

institutions are hotel schools."

But the president of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the differentiating factor was the relative affordability of the two locations, with the Austrian capital providing greater value for the education on offer.

"I looked at the hotel management program in Switzerland and Austria and I found that the cost is more affordable for me," agreed Chan, unprompted in a separate conversation.

Meanwhile, commenting on the quality of tourism and hospitality education in the MSAR, Ruck said that they operate "at an excellent level" in his opinion, "because that's the core business in Macau."

On the other hand, there is a need to diversify this education if the tourism sector is to become broader in its scope, he said. "There is the challenge to diversify in the future... I am not sure if they [Macau institutions] can help to [diversify] the tourism here."

Other parts of the world could offer a different approach to tourism education, he argued. "If you look all over the world, you will find Austrian hotel managers [and senior staff] at every destination. You must remember that Austria is a small country [...] and therefore we are very internationalized in the tourism sector and we have a lot of experience in it," he said.

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AHEAD OF RETIREMENT

# Kwan longs for trade union law implementation

Julie Zhu

**S**OON to depart lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang said that the lack of implementation of a trade union law and universal minimum wage are two letdowns in her career as a lawmaker.

During a press conference organized yesterday by Kwan, she noted that the structure that comprises the current Legislative Assembly (AL) does not allow the trade union law to be established in Macau.

“Especially when some of the lawmakers have misunderstood the trade union law, which they believe only protects the workers,” said Kwan, adding that “the trade union should receive a legal confirmation.”

Kwan pointed out that Macau’s law regarding minimum wage only affects employees from the cleaning and buildings’ security sectors. She hopes that the government will do more regarding the minimum wage.

Besides expressing her regrets,

Kwan also voiced her opinion on the defamation of lawmakers.

“Not only should we pay attention to election behavior driven by profits, lawmakers also should not tolerate any intentional defamation,” declared Kwan, adding that she is a “direct victim of defamation.”

**Lawmakers have misunderstood the trade union law, which they believe only protects workers.**

KWAN TSUI HANG

Kwan recalled that during AL’s election period in September 2009, she was said to oppose cash-sharing programs. She reported this to the election com-



mittee and to the police as well. However, no results were reported regarding the parties who committed the defamation.

In 2011, according to Kwan, a few people visited her office and publicly insulted and defamed her. Kwan said that these defamatory remarks “were indirectly spoiled by the authority’s omission.”

“As a victim, I hope that Macau can have a fair election environment, and I hope that the culture of defamation does not interfere with the election’s impartiality. Moreover, I hope that the Macau governmental

departments will enforce the law effectively,” she said.

Kwan, who is also the chairman of the AL sub-committee responsible for reviewing legal bills, said that she experienced one major difficulty being chairman. Specifically, when she introduced the committee’s bill-reviewing process, many people misinterpreted her delivery and believed that the content and suggestions were Kwan’s own opinions.

In 96 days, Kwan will officially step down from the AL.

Kwan said that since her first day of participating in the workers’ movement, striving for the labor force’s legal rights and social welfare has become her life-long goal.

“In my 21 years of AL work, I had gains and losses, and I have borne many criticisms and malicious attacks. [...] I have also always received consistent understanding, support and encouragement, and I have built a sincere team and real friends. I acquired a precious experience, which not only enriched my life, but also tested my determination,” said Kwan.



## IC mobile library resumes operations

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has completed its inspection and maintenance works of its mobile library, which will resume operations today. The mobile library is a lorry that accommodates 31 layers of bookshelves with 2,800 books on home economics, medicine and novels. Parking locations and opening hours will remain unchanged following the maintenance works. The mobile library opens between 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and 12.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The mobile library is parked at three locations, namely Rua Nova da Areia Preta, Avenida de Artur Tamagnini Barbosa and Avenida de Vale das Borboletas (Coloane).

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# Alliance Française celebrates 30th anniversary, French National Day

Renato Marques

**T**HE Alliance Française de Macao (AF) is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Macau. At the same time, the French association will take the opportunity to celebrate the French National Day (Bastille Day) that is officially commemorated on July 14.

Director of AF, Xavier Garnier, explained to the Times that this year, in light of this important milestone, there will be a few novel aspects to the celebrations.

AF will introduce a new website with added features and a "more modern and functional outlook," Garnier said. "The [French language] school is still one of our main activities but we want to continue to contribute more in terms of cultural activities, as we have been doing for the last six or seven years, with the support of the Macao Foundation."

According to Garnier, "the main challenge is to be able to attract more students to continue studying French at intermediate and even advanced levels." He re-

marked that many start learning French but after some time fail to continue studying the language, noting that "we have many students at a basic level but only a small group [of students] studying French long enough to be highly proficient [for over 20 years in some cases]."

For the celebrations, the organization decided to create a short remembrance of the times by inviting "people who have been somehow related to the association in Macau in the past."

One such person is the French video director, Robert Cahen, who will present a video installation (done over the past week), which aims to present both a symbolic and a human representation of the importance of certain people in AF to the territory. As Garnier explained, "The work is presented as a triptych, composed of three screens that will be located in Sofitel Macau's lobby." The triptych will present a succession of landscapes revealing three aspects of Macau: its modern aspect, its historical aspect and its dynamic aspect. It will also



Xavier Garnier

portray the portraits of 30 men and women, the same number of people as the association's age, connected to Alliance Française. The installation is titled "Crossing of Time" and also includes a voice-over in Chinese, French and Portuguese to accompany the pictures with messages about the significance of having an AF in Macau.

This event will take place on Saturday, July 15, at 4 p.m., which is the celebration day. It will be followed by a concert by French Bangkok-based artist Laurent Couson. Together with some colleagues, Laurent will present a

tribute to French singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg, an iconic artist and one of the most relevant artists in last century's French popular music.

The concert will be held in Promenade Function room, a room of small capacity, to create an appropriately intimate atmosphere. Both the events are opened to public and free of charge.

The program will be followed by a cocktail reception attended by French Consul General for Macau and Hong Kong Eric Berti and [representing the Macau SAR government] the Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan. The reception will be followed with the usual dinner that will also include a performance by Couson and his colleagues to further entertain guests at the event. "We are pretty full already but there is no problem, all people who want to join can do so by dropping by and buying their entry ticket at the door and we can accommodate them," Garnier said. The buffet menu will include several delicacies representing different regions of France.

## Ho Chio Meng's verdict to be delivered on Friday

The final verdict of the trial of former Public Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng will be delivered on Friday by the collective of judges presided by Sam Hou Fai. The verdict and sentence will be handed down during a court appearance scheduled in the afternoon at the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), after two months of deliberation. The trial of Ho occurred between December last year to May. Ho faces over 1,500 charges for several crimes that allegedly occurred during the 15 years that he led the Public Prosecutions Office. Ho will not have the right to appeal the decision, since he is being tried at the Court of Final Appeal.

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### 1,592 children have difficulties with studying

In the 2015/2016 school year, a total of 1,592 special students were registered in Macau, with 949 of them studying in inclusive classes. The education director at the Salvation Army, surnamed Cheong, revealed that some parents do not accept that their children need special education. According to Cheong, these parents think their children are just being lazy, and do not acknowledge the real needs of their children. Cheong also said that some parents, after their children are diagnosed with such study-related difficulties, do not agree with the evaluation results. Cheong suggests the public should not treat special education needs as problems. In her opinion, these needs should be regarded as a person's study needs, and these children should be assisted in order to help them find the right way of studying.

### Mayor of São Miguel, Cape Verde visits IACM

The Mayor of the municipality of São Miguel in Cape Verde, Herménio Fernandes, visited Macau. He met with the president of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), José Tavares, according to the Bureau. During the meeting, which occurred last week, topics related to the operations of both municipalities and municipal institutions were discussed. Fernandes was en route to a visit of the Chinese city Fuzhou in Fujian province, and thus had the opportunity to visit the MSAR. The Bureau noted that meeting between Fernandes and Tavares strengthened relations between both regions, which share a long-term historic link.

# Video games addictive nature causes concerns

**R**egulatory control on such "social games" such as Tencent's "Honour of Kings" may be impending in mainland China. The official newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party, People's Daily, singled out the game, for an unusually high-profile criticism, saying that it has an addictive nature. The day before the editorial was published, Tencent announced measures to make it more difficult for children to play its games.

The debate is spreading to Macau, where guests of TDM's weekly talk show, Macau Forum, warned that many local teenagers are addicted to video-games.

Representative of the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, Natalie U Weng Ian, noted that many people in society have already trended towards playing video games online.

However, according to U, local parents in general are unfamiliar with the internet, and will misguidedly think that using the internet is solely used for playing



video games.

U elaborated that parents don't grasp the difference between using the internet and playing video games, making it difficult for children to communicate with them, which in turn leads youth to become addicted internet users.

Representatives of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Leong Yee On, said that it is impractical to ban young people from using internet.

Leong suggested that local parents guide their children in reaping the benefits of using the internet.

The president of the Macau E-Sports Industry Association, Leong Ka Fai said that e-Sports should be supported by the local government.

The vice-president of the New

Macau Association, Sulu Sou, noted that the public should not think that only young people are addicted to playing video games. Sou pointed out that the fast-growing e-Sports are a world trend and that e-Sports will be included in the 2022 Asian Games.

Sou suggested Macau's Sports Bureau be aware of this trend, and to further develop "elec-

tronic sports." He also urged the education and social welfare sectors to catch up with the new reality.

"The world's trend is telling us, [...] there will be more than USD300 million in terms of economic output," declared Sou.

However, another speaker, member of the Ilha Verde Community, Chan Fong, expressed doubts that playing video games could lead to a bright life. "I want to ask: what is a bright life? What can people do after retiring from e-sports?" asked the Ilha Verde Community representative.

Fong noted that e-Sports and playing video games are two different areas, suggesting that it was important for parents to guide their children well.

The representative of the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office responded to Fong by saying that there are many youngsters who can attain a good balance between playing video games and doing schoolwork.

#### INTERNET CAFES SEEN AS THREAT

**IMMERSIVE ROLE-PLAYING** games, popular among students at ubiquitous internet cafes, are seen as a particular threat by the Chinese government. Bloomberg reported that 16,000 internet cafes were shut in 2004. Four

years later, the opening of new internet cafes was banned. According to Bloomberg, over the past decade, some 250 internet addiction "boot camps" have opened; one has treated at least 6,000 patients using electroshock therapy.

AD



*In Loving Memory of Mr Barry Bland*

The Automobile General Association Macao-China (AAMC) informs that Mr Barry Bland, who has been responsible for coordination at Macau Grand Prix Formula 3 for more than 30 years, passed away on July 5 at the age of 71 at his residence in UK accompanied by his wife Irmgard and his sons Chris, Alex and Ben. The memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 12 at 6 pm in the Igreja da Sé.

Thanks to all in advance for participating.

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## Seminar Design for Drastically Changing China

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Lynzy Valles

**T**O preserve the technique of rabbit lantern-making in Macau, Albergue SCM is hosting the 19th edition of the lantern-making workshops on from July 17 until July 28.

Lanterns play an important role in the long history of Chinese culture. Chinese lanterns were the earliest portable lighting devices, invented during the Western Han Dynasty.

Although lanterns have many forms and can be built from different materials such as paper, plastic and electronic equipment, the paper-and-silk rabbit form is the most traditional.

With the aim of keeping this tradition alive, instructor of the workshops, Alfredo Ceynas, will teach interested participants the skills required to create such lanterns.

Speaking to the Times, the Filipino artisan shared that there is an absence of lantern making workshops in the region. As such, he aims to preserve the tradition of creating lanterns by presenting a diverse range of techniques to his students.

Ceynas was taught by Albergue SCM director and local architect Carlos Marreiros.

The artisan said that he only learnt the craft after Marreiros coached him for the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, following

# Artisan hopes to keep traditional lantern-making alive in Macau

the presentation of the "Little Rabbit Lantern" Macau Pavilion.

"So from then on, I learnt how to step by step make rabbit lanterns," he said, adding that his skills were honed every time the "Little Rabbit Lanterns" exhibitions were held.

Ceynas' workshops teach how to create structures resembling a rabbit with different kinds of papers, fabrics and iron wires.

At the time of invention, lanterns were only produced with bamboo and rice paper but due to innovation, Ceynas explained that there are new ways to design and create the lanterns, a feature that further attracts participants.

The instructor also noted that he has taught residents who share the same passion for preserving the techniques of lantern-making.

"The participants are interested. Some are very keen and motivated to learn how to make such lanterns," Ceynas, who is able to build different lanterns from sketches, said.

"Since the participants are coming from work, they are really

sacrificing their time so I think they are interested and motivated to have this workshop," Ceynas noted.

Moreover, the artisan is looking forward to more participants this year. "I'm expecting a larger number of participants this year," he affirmed.

Ceynas explained that his interest in lantern-making did not come from any particular interest in the past, however Macau's Mid-Autumn Festival, along with Marreiros' coaching, inspired him to gain knowledge of the craft.

In Chinese culture, lanterns have become the symbol of festivity, particularly during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Lanterns were known to symbolize the prosperity of a family, and thus Chinese share a special affinity for lanterns.

Asked whether there will be changes in his teaching approach compared to the past, Ceynas said that this edition would be an advanced edition as the participants are expected to create rabbit structures themselves.

Unlike the previous editions,



where he would provide the students with the structures required to form a rabbit, this time students will start from scratch.

"I used to make the designs, help them make the shapes and just give them the materials and they'd just connect the structures; but this time they are going to make everything, even the structures," Ceynas explained.

For the 19th edition of the workshop, Ceynas pledged to hold an "excellent and wonderful" event as he seeks to produce more "vibrant designs."

According to him, the workshops are also a way for him to hone his skills, and he pledged to find more ways to encourage the youth to help preserve the tradition.

According to Ceynas, Albergue SCM is a platform wherein local residents can also practice traditional techniques by only working with specific materials such as split-bamboo, rattan, wrapping paper, colors, wire and fabric.

Sponsored by Macau Foundation, the event has an admission fee of MOP150.

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# The New Tiguan2. All grown-up



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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

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**A**MONG the sneakers, diapers and pet food for sale on Taobao, China's biggest e-commerce platform, is a listing that may take up a little more space in the online shopping basket.

For 4.15 million yuan (USD610,000), customers on the site owned by e-retailing giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. can bid for the debt of a steelmaker from Zhejiang, a coastal province in eastern China. The company has failed to pay back a 9.95 million-yuan loan, including interest, so a distressed asset manager is auctioning it off to the highest online bidder.

It's not the only bad debt for sale on Taobao, which translates roughly as digging for treasure.

Used by millions of Chinese to buy everything from clothes to food and electronics, the platform, known for its bargains, typically markets more than 1 billion yuan of soured assets a day, according to Bloomberg calculations. Recent listings include a portfolio of 118 non-performing loans from some companies in Yunnan province, a villa seized by a bank in the southern canal city of Shaoxing, and a property in central Beijing that's also in default.

"Financial technology and e-commerce in China has reached a high level of sophistication," said Xia Le, chief Asia economist at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA in Hong Kong. "Online platforms are leveling the playing field in the distressed debt market as it means everybody gets access to the same information."

China's embrace of e-retailing is helping it tackle another byproduct of the country's rapid economic evolution: the rise of bad debt.

Slowing growth and an uptick in corporate defaults has fueled the market, with NPLs at commercial banks more than doubling over the past two years to 1.6 trillion yuan as of the end of

# Shoppers buy bad loans online with their groceries



March. As Beijing pushes lenders to find market-oriented ways of dealing with soured loans, interest in distressed debt has climbed, spurring banks and asset managers to look beyond traditional venues like auction houses and exchanges to dispose of the assets.

China Cinda Asset Management Co. - one of the country's biggest distressed asset managers, and the firm marketing the steel company's debt - said last month that it's collaborating with Alibaba to set up a special section on Taobao to auction its wares. Though Alibaba declined to provide data on actual sales, the advertising of such loans shows how interest in the market for China's distressed debt is developing.

Following Taobao's lead, more than 50 other websites marke-

ting their services to banks and other sellers of bad loans emerged in China in the first half of last year, according to a March report from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. More than 20 financial institutions are listed as partners on Taobao's auction platform for soured assets, including Shenzhen-based Ping An Bank Co., Beijing's China Minsheng Banking Corp. and China Citic Bank Corp.

But bad-loan investing isn't like trading equities or even ordinary debt, which raises questions over the opening up of the market to rank-and-file investors.

Interaction with the seller is important in an NPL transaction and the deals can take months to complete, says Andrew Brown, a partner for macro and strategy in Hong Kong at ShoreVest Capital

Partners Ltd., which invests in Chinese bad loans.

"The online auction sites open the marketplace up to potential buyers that may not be as diligent in the required analysis that we deem appropriate to price a portfolio," he said. "If you are developing a platform for NPL portfolios, the question is does it allow for appropriate time and access to do the research? It's not like buying and selling stocks."

## More than 50 other websites marketing their services to banks and other sellers of bad loans emerged in China in the first half of last year

On Taobao, distressed assets are typically advertised several weeks or months before the auction date. The listing for the Zhejiang steelmaker's debt says interested investors can call a local branch of Cinda for information on the offer, and includes details and photos of the collateral: a 240 square-meter (2,580 square feet) apartment in the city of Hangzhou.

Both Alibaba and Cinda declined to comment for this story.

Industrial Bank Co., a lender based in Fujian province, signed

an asset disposal cooperation agreement with Alibaba in May. The bank sold 232 million yuan of NPLs on Taobao between May 20 and the end of June, according to Fang Zhiyong, general manager of the special asset management department.

E-commerce platforms provide access to more investors and the lender has garnered interest for assets marketed on Taobao that failed to yield inquiries offline. But while they can bring a level of transparency to bad loan trading, sites like Taobao also attract individual investors who don't typically have the skills needed to do full due diligence on an NPL deal, Fang said. Nonetheless, Taobao will be a "key" channel for the bank in disposing bad debt.

Chinese bad-loan prices are up more than 30 percent this year: read more.

For Song Lingling, a partner at Beijing-based distressed debt fund DCL Investments, disposing of NPLs on web platforms can be less complicated than via auction houses, which usually charge commissions. Her firm has used Taobao to buy and sell soured assets.

Supply of bad loans in China is likely to increase further, with most coming from trust companies, internet financing firms and peer-to-peer lenders going forward, according to Bald Eagle Asset Management.

"Conducting NPL auctions online has increasingly become a trend," Song said. "More investors are using Taobao as a platform because of the simplicity, transparency and confidentiality of the bidders' identity." **Bloomberg**

# FWD is said poised to renew Thai bank pact as M&A talks fizzle

Jonathan Browning, Joyce Koh and Elffie Chew

**H**ONG Kong tycoon Richard Li's FWD Group is poised to renew a distribution deal with Thailand's TMB Bank Pcl, after talks to acquire the life insurance operations of another lender in the country fell apart, people familiar with the matter said.

A 15-year agreement to sell FWD life insurance products through TMB's branch ne-

twork could be announced as soon as this week, the people said, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are private. The accord with TMB Bank, which is part-owned by ING Groep NV, could fetch at least USD500 million, people with knowledge of the matter said in May.

FWD had separately been negotiating with Siam Commercial Bank Pcl to acquire a stake in the lender's life insurance operations in

what could have been the biggest-ever acquisition of a Southeast Asian insurer, the people said this week. Those talks fell apart because of differences over valuation, according to the people.

TMB Bank appointed Bank of America Corp. earlier this year to help negotiate the so-called banc assurance agreement. International insurers have recently been seeking ways to expand their reach in Asia by selling products

through lenders' branch networks. A new deal with TMB Bank would follow a 15-year agreement that Allianz SE announced in January to distribute products through Standard Chartered Plc's Asian outlets.

A spokesman for FWD declined to comment. Boontuck Wungcharoen, TMB Bank's chief executive officer, didn't immediately answer phone calls and a mobile phone text message seeking comment.



Arthid Nanthawithaya, CEO of Siam Commercial, said the lender has been in talks with potential partners for its life insurance business but declined to comment on talks with specific parties.

FWD was created through the 2013 purchase of ING's Thai, Macau and Hong Kong life insurance operations by Li's Pacific Century Group, which then rebranded the business. **Bloomberg**



Gerry Shih, Beijing

AS China's government faces mounting international pressure to grant imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo his wish to leave the country for treatment of advanced liver cancer, it's fighting back with a familiar strategy: information control.

From coordinated leaks of hospital surveillance video to a near-total news blackout for Chinese-language media and social media, the Chinese government's sprawling propaganda apparatus has revved up efforts to contain the controversy surrounding its most prominent political dissident.

In an update yesterday afternoon, the hospital treating Liu said he remains in critical condition and is now on dialysis and organ support.

Liu was convicted in 2009 of inciting subversion for his role in the "Charter 08" movement calling for political reform. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize a year later while in prison.

Chinese media have hardly mentioned repeated calls by the U.S., the European Union and others for Beijing to let Liu leave on humanitarian grounds. Instead, state media provided extensive coverage this past week of President Xi Jinping's recent achievements, especially his travels to Russia and Germany, which they portrayed as a massive public relations triumph for China.

Yesterday, state newspapers including the official People's Daily and the English-language China Daily trumpeted Xi's call to "unswervingly advance" China's judicial reform and improve the military. Meanwhile, the daily barrage of questions about Liu fired off by the international press at foreign ministry news briefings has been excised from the ministry's published transcripts, as if they were never asked.

The few mentions of Liu in the state media's overseas-oriented English editions in recent weeks contained denunciations and tough language aimed at foreign audiences.

"It is probably out of politics that some people and forces are requesting Liu to be treated abroad," the nationalistic Global

# Beijing controls information about ailing Nobel Prize laureate



Times tabloid, published by the People's Daily, said in an editorial Tuesday headlined "Liu's cancer treatment mustn't be politicized."

"Today's China is stronger and more confident, and will not yield to Western pressure," it said, accusing unidentified overseas forces of "squeezing Liu for their political goals."

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang reiterated yesterday that China hopes other countries can "respect China's judicial sovereignty and not use such an individual case to interfere in China's domestic affairs."

The response is a reflection of the party's fear of showing weakness "either at home or abroad," said Andrew Nathan, an expert on Chinese history and politics at Columbia University.

Any sign of giving way "would only encourage domestic enemies and foreign critics," Nathan said, adding, "Been tough up to now, better continue being tough to the end."

A more subtle effort to shape the narrative came this week

when a video from Liu's hospital room emerged just as the government was saying that he was too sick to be transported abroad and was already receiving world-class treatment in China.

Surveillance video from Saturday leaked to English-language Chinese state media showed two foreign doctors at Liu's bedside telling his wife, Liu Xia, that the medical team assembled by China's government was doing its "utmost" for her husband.

However, in a subsequent statement that was ignored by Chinese media, the German and American doctors said Liu was capable of traveling abroad, and the German Embassy in Beijing lashed out at China for "selectively leaking" the video to state media in a breach of doctor-patient confidentiality.

"It seems that security organs are steering the process, not medical experts," the embassy said. "This behavior undermines trust in the authorities dealing with Mr. Liu's case, which is vital to ensure maximum success of his medical treatment."

The hospital video leak followed a familiar pattern.

After Liu's diagnosis was made public in June, a jailhouse video montage quickly found its way onto YouTube that showed him playing badminton with a prison guard, chatting with his wife during a visit and sitting for a teeth cleaning — all intended to show a decent quality of life behind bars at Jinzhou Prison. At one point, he was shown remarking about the "great care" that prison authorities have shown for his health.

Watson Meng, who runs the overseas Chinese-language media site Boxun that reposted the video, told The Associated Press that he believed it must have been released by the authorities as part of their propaganda campaign.

Outside of official channels, unauthorized discussion of Liu has been swiftly punished. A police document that surfaced on the Internet this week described how a 38-year-old man in central Hunan province had been detained for seven days for discussing

Liu's situation on WeChat, a social media messaging app.

Local police in the city, Zhongjiajie, said they could not respond to questions about the case and referred inquiries to the provincial propaganda and foreign affairs offices, which did not respond to queries.

News searches for Liu's name on Baidu, China's largest internet search engine, have turned up no hits since February. Searches on WeChat also turn up empty.

■ The daily barrage of questions about Liu fired off by the international press at news briefings has been excised from official transcripts

Many supporters of political reform inside China have instead taken to Twitter, which is inaccessible in China without special software, to circumvent government censors. Bao Tong, a 85-year-old former top Communist Party official who has been under house arrest for decades, began learning to tweet this week because he has been forbidden from giving media interviews or publishing articles about Liu, according to his son, Bao Pu.

"China's state-run media [...] won't even report relevant information," the elder Bao fumed in one tweet. In another, he commemorated Liu's calls for freedom, referring to the first line of China's national anthem, "Rise up, all those who don't want to be slaves." AP

## Auto sales rise 2.3 percent in June

CHINA's auto sales rebounded in June on the strength of SUV demand but rose just 2.3 percent from a year earlier following a sales tax hike and weak economic growth.

Drivers in the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold bought 1.8 million sedans, SUVs and minivans, an industry group said Monday. Sales in May shrank 2.6 percent.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 3.6 percent to 2.2 million, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

SUV sales rose 15.7 percent to 741,000, helping to offset a 4.3 percent contraction in purchases of sedans to 883,000.

Passenger vehicle sales for the first half of the year rose just 1.6 percent from a year earlier to 11.2 million, down

sharply from 2016's full-year growth of 15 percent.

Last year's demand was propped up after a 10 percent sales tax on small-engine vehicles was cut by half. Demand weakened after part of that tax was restored in January, raising it from 5 percent to 7.5 percent.

— General Motors Co. said sales of GM-brand vehicles by the company and its Chinese partners

rose 4.3 percent from a year earlier to 285,191. GM said SUV sales soared 42 percent.

— Ford Motor Co. sales rose 15 percent to 100,561 vehicles in June. First-half sales contracted 7 percent to 537,522.

— Nissan Motor Co., the biggest-selling Japanese brand in China, said its sales rose 8.9 percent from a year ago to 118,769. Year-to-date sales were up 6.7 percent at 650,525.

— Toyota Motor Co. sales rose 11 percent to 106,900



vehicles. First-half sales were up 10.5 percent from a year earlier at 624,000.

— Daimler AG's Merce-

des-Benz said its sales rose 34.5 percent to 292,679. Year-to-date sales rose 13.7 percent to 1.1 million.



# Don't hold us responsible for solving North Korea, spokesperson says

**C**HINA yesterday said it shouldn't be held responsible alone for solving the North Korean nuclear standoff, and accused other countries of shirking their responsibilities in the effort to reduce tensions.

The complaints, made in unusually strident language, follow a phone conversation between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month in which the Chinese leader warned of "some negative factors" that were harming China-U.S. relations, indicating relations between the two countries had hit a rough patch after some initial optimism.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters yesterday that China was upholding its obligations under United Nations resolutions on North Korea, while other countries were fanning the crisis while damaging China's interests by their actions.

"China is not to be blamed for the current escalation of tension, nor does China hold the key to resolve the issue," Geng said at a daily news briefing.

"If China is striving to put out the fire, while the others are fueling the flame [...] how can China's efforts achieve expected outcomes? How can the tension be eased? How can the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue be resolved?" Geng said.

Saying some unidentified parties were circulating the "China responsibility theory," Geng said they were operating with "ulterior motivations" and sought to shrug off their own responsibilities.

**“If China is striving to put out the fire, while the others are fueling the flame [...] how can China's efforts achieve expected outcomes?”**

GENG SHUANG

"Absolving oneself of responsibility is not OK. Tearing down bridges after crossing the river is not OK. Stabbing in the back is even less OK," Geng said.

China is North Korea's only major diplomatic ally and economic partner, and the U.S. and others have called on Beijing to use whatever leverage it has to pressure North Korea into cur-



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang

bing nuclear tests and missile launches that violate U.N. sanctions.

However, China says perceptions of its influence with North Korea are exaggerated. It also refuses to take measures that might destabilize North Korea's hard-line communist regime and lead to violence, massive

flows of refugees into China, and the possibility of a united Korea allied with the United States.

Beijing complained after one of its banks was recently cut off from the U.S. financial system for allegedly helping North Korea launder money, saying other countries' laws shouldn't extend

to Chinese entities.

It also bitterly opposes South Korea's deployment of a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system that Beijing says jeopardizes Chinese security because of an ability to monitor missile launches and other military activities within northeastern China. **AP**

## opinion

### CHINA SHOWS IT CAN REJECT DEMOCRACY AND RISE ANYWAY

Tyler Cowen, Bloomberg

Will China ever become democratic? That question has been a staple of geopolitical discussion since the 1990s, and at times many commentators thought a democratic China was not so far away.

Today, as restrictions on political speech and opposition increase, hardly anyone thinks this is a realistic scenario. Yet it's still worth asking why China might never democratize, and what that can teach us about our own political dilemmas.

The argument that China will become democratic rested on observations of Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, all nearby countries that became democratic or sustained a democracy once they were sufficiently wealthy. The middle classes in these countries wanted accountable government, and ultimately the autocracies were willing to step aside and support democratic transitions,

albeit with the Japanese path being more closely linked to the American postwar settlement and occupation. Much of Eastern Europe and Latin America became democratic too, and so it seemed plausible that China might be next in line.

Conversely, there are two powerful arguments that China will not become democratic. First, China never has been democratic in thousands of years of history, and perhaps that history simply will continue.

Second, the middle to upper middle class is still a minority in China, and will stay so for a long time. A smaller country can build up in percentage terms a larger middle class, by exporting, than can a very large and populous country. There's just not enough demand in global markets to elevate all or even most of the Chinese people, and so Chinese inequality likely will stay high, to the de-

triment of democratic forces.

In essence, many of the wealthier Chinese trust the Communist Party to look after their interests more than they trust elections. Furthermore, the current political performance of the West is not in every way the ideal exemplar for democracy.

Those who predict Chinese democratization typically reply that the regime will need some new source of legitimization as economic growth slows down, as it inevitably must. Winning a democratic election is one way a government can show to a people that it represents their interests.

Yet this argument now looks weaker, in part because of what we are learning about countries other than China, namely that nationalism is often a stronger political motivator than democracy; just look at either Turkey or Brexit or some of the currents within the Trump administration.

So China will grow richer, as the number of democracies in the world (sadly) declines. With global growth continuing at roughly 4 percent a year, the link between income and democracy isn't actually so strong these days.

Indeed, nationalistic currents in China are strong. Whether we like it or not, the Han Chinese often see themselves as an ethnically special group of people who have a destiny to "make China great again."

Before judging this too harshly, keep in mind that truly cosmopolitan attitudes are not common in history, and a lot of observed cosmopolitanism is often faux cosmopolitanism, serving as a veil for particular cultural or economic interests on trade or immigration. The common American belief in American exceptionalism seems self-aggrandizing to many Chinese, just as we might object to their philosophy.

On top of all that, Chine-

se nationalism, whatever its drawbacks, has in fact served as an ideology to... make China great again.

Another argument for predicting Chinese democratization is the claim that autocratic rule is highly unstable and tends to move to either tyranny or democracy. Even if that is true, these days it hardly seems a surprising insight that stability is never guaranteed.

Studying Chinese history, with its ongoing struggles between central rule and chaos in the peripheries, might be a better predictive guide to global futures than the philosophy of Western liberal triumphalism, however dear the latter may be to our hearts. In other words, the Chinese notion of cyclical history might apply to much of the rest of the world.

The best argument for the possibility of Chinese democratization is that China has served up big surprises in the past, including conquest by

the various external parties (for example, the Manchus), the Taiping rebellion, and the Communist revolution and subsequent Cultural Revolution, as well as the reforms starting in 1979.

The chance of Chinese democratization may be a somewhat underrated prospect for this reason, even if the short-run signs appear to be pointing in the opposite direction.

Still, the best bet is that China will remain non-democratic for the foreseeable future and that political history does not consist of a series of linear improvements.

It is again time for the West to learn from China. The emotional force of nationalism is stronger than we had thought, stability is not guaranteed, and the Western democratic status quo ex ante is less of a strong attractor than many of us had believed or at least hoped for.



## INDIA

# Police warned weeks ago of attack on Hindus in Kashmir

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

AS India's government yesterday blamed separatist rebels for gunning down seven Hindu pilgrims and wounding 19 more in Kashmir before fleeing into the night, rebel groups in the disputed region condemned the rare, deadly attack on civilians and insisted they had no part in it.

A memo that was circulated to regional police, military and paramilitary units two weeks ago indicates Indian security officials had been expecting an attack. The memo, marked "top secret," warned that a "sensational attack by terrorist outfits cannot be ruled out" in the mostly Muslim region.

The memo, dated June 25 and verified as authentic by The Associated Press, said "terrorists have been directed to eliminate 100 to 150 yatis [pilgrims] and about 100 police."

It described circumstances eerily similar to what transpired Monday night: "The attack may be in the form of standoff fire on yatra [pilgrimage] convoy, which they [militants] believe will result in flaring of communal tensions throughout the nation."

Police said the attack began with gunmen unleashing a hail of bullets on an armored police vehicle and, soon after, on a nearby police patrol. They said that a bus carrying 60 Hindu pilgrims had been passing through the area when the patrolling police and militants were exchanging fire, and that some bullets struck the bus and its passengers.

The police also said that the bus



Indian students in Ahmadabad hold placards and offer tributes to the victims of a gunfire attack on a bus carrying pilgrims

had been traveling at night, despite instructions to avoid the roads after dark. Though security had been increased along the route for the pilgrimage, the thousands of deployed soldiers and police do not patrol overnight.

Several bus passengers who were wounded gave a different version of events, saying the bus had been targeted from three directions during the attack. They said the driver kept driving the bus as it was being struck with bullets near the southern town of Anantnag on the main highway linking Kashmir with the rest of India.

The annual summer pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine, which began June 29 under heavy security, has been targeted in the past. Opponents of Indian rule in

Kashmir accuse Hindu-majority India of using the pilgrimage as a political statement to bolster its claim to the disputed region.

Yesterday, thousands of Hindus continued the religious pilgrimage undeterred, as Indian soldiers and police increased security along the Himalayan route for buses carrying pilgrims to the base camps where they start walking the path to the high mountain cave.

None of the rebel groups fighting to oust India from the mostly Muslim region has claimed responsibility for the attack, and the three top separatist leaders in Kashmir condemned it.

They demanded an independent investigation into the attack. "This incident goes against the very grain of Kashmiri ethos,"

the separatist leaders — Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Mohammed Yasin Malik — said in a joint statement.

Police were searching for the assailants, who they said were from the Pakistan-based rebel group Lashkar-e-Taiba. India also blames the group for a 2008 attack that left 166 people dead in India's commercial capital of Mumbai.

"We're investigating the attack, but we know certainly that the Lashkar has done it. We'll soon deal with them," police Inspector-General Muneer Ahmed Khan said.

## Police said the attack began with gunmen unleashing a hail of bullets on an armored police vehicle

Lashkar-e-Taiba denied any involvement in the attack, which they called "reprehensible" and "un-Islamic," according to a statement sent to local media in Srinagar, the main city in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The group said India was behind the attack, "to sabotage the freedom struggle of Kashmiris" and fulfill "its nefarious agenda" to crush the popular anti-India rebellion.

"No Kashmiri has ever targeted any pilgrims, and this barbarity and atrocity is the trademark of Indian forces," the group's statement said.

Residents said they were afraid of a possible backlash by Hindu nationalists and Indian forces against Kashmiris elsewhere in India.

"My two brothers are studying in India," school teacher Shagufta Kaunsar said. "I don't know if it's really safe for them there. We're already telling them to come back home."

Omar Abdullah, a former chief minister of Kashmir, asked India's home ministry to protect Kashmiri students and workers across the nation. "Possibility of backlash can't be ignored," he said in a Twitter message.

Most of the pilgrims wounded in the attack were released from hospitals on Tuesday. The bodies of those killed were flown to New Delhi on their way to the pilgrims' west Indian states of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

The attack sparked outrage across Kashmir and much of India.

In the Jammu region of Kashmir, which is dominated by Hindus, hundreds of protesters shouted angry slogans against the militants and burned a faceless effigy meant to represent both terrorism and Pakistan, which India blames for supporting the rebels. Many shops and businesses were shuttered for a protest strike in Jammu.

Meanwhile, students in the Gujarati city of Ahmadabad gathered for a sit-in to protest all religious violence, while peace activists planned a candlelight vigil in New Delhi on Tuesday night.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the last major attack on Amarnath pilgrims occurred in 2000, when gunmen killed 30 people in the Pahalgam area, including local porters carrying pilgrim's baggage up the mountain path. AP

Rahim Faiez, Kabul

AN Afghan-American female pilot on a solo flight around the world seeking to inspire young women across the globe has taken a detour to visit her native Afghanistan — and meet the country's president and civil society activists struggling to safeguard women's rights.

Shaesta Waiz left her single-engine plane in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, to take a commercial flight to Kabul where she arrived on Monday night. The 29-year-old said her Beechcraft Bonanza A36 was not suited for flying over the mountainous terrain of her native country.

Waiz, the first female pilot from Afghanistan, began her journey in Florida

## Afghan-American female pilot seeks to inspire young women

in May and has since made stops in 11 countries, with eight more to complete her mission.

"The whole purpose of this flight around the world is not to set a world record," Waiz said during a welcoming ceremony by government officials and activists in Kabul. "The purpose of this trip is to inspire young girls and boys to believe in themselves, to believe on what they are capable of doing, regardless of where they are from or the challenges you had faced in your life."

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani welcomed Waiz at his office later on Monday evening and told her how much he admired her cou-

rage. Waiz, in turn, promised Afghan women that once her world trip is done, she would come back and find ways to help them.

Much has changed for Afghan women since the Taliban were ejected from power 16 years ago. During their rule, women were not permitted to attend school or work, were largely confined to their homes, and subjected to public beatings for violations of strict rules on what they could wear in public.

Now millions of Afghan girls go to school, compared to practically none in 2001, and many women work for the government and security services, run their own business, and

are elected to parliament.

Waiz and her family moved in 1987 to the United States where she got her pilot's license, becoming the youngest certified female pilot from Afghanistan.

She took off from Daytona Beach in Florida in May and has mapped out a route that will take her aboard approximately 25,800 kilometers (16,000 miles) around 19 countries, including Canada, Spain, Britain, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Bahrain, India, Singapore and Australia, before ending the trip back in the U.S. in August.

Waiz's father, Fahim Waiz Atghandiwal, who accompanied her on the visit to Kabul, said each and every



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani shakes hands with Afghan-American female pilot Shaesta Waiz at the Presidential Palace in Kabul

girl needs the support of her family — especially the support of her parents — to achieve her goal and turn dreams into reality.

After returning to Dubai,

Waiz said she will continue her voyage to India as she seeks to become the first Afghan-American woman to accomplish a solo flight around the world. AP



Margie Mason

**O**N the day they were freed from slavery, the fishermen hugged, high-fived and sprinted through a stinging rain to line up so they wouldn't be left behind. But even as they learned they were going home, some wept at the thought of returning empty-handed.

Two years have passed since an Associated Press investigation spurred that dramatic rescue, leading to the release of more than 2,000 men trapped on remote Indonesian islands.

They were initially tricked with the promise of good jobs in Thailand, but instead ended up trafficked thousands of miles away to the island village of Benjina. Many were beaten and forced to work nonstop for years with little food and no pay.

Since returning home, some stories of happiness and opportunity have surfaced. But the men's fight to start over has largely been narrated by shame and struggle.

Still, they are thankful to be alive, living as free men. They are slaves no more.

#### SICK AND UNEMPLOYED

Mon State, Myanmar — Myint Naing stares silently at a computer alongside his mother and sister, watching flickering images of their extraordinary reunion. The memories are still raw of Myint collapsing into his wailing mother's arms, ending 22 years of separation after he was taken to Indonesia and nearly beaten to death by a captain who refused to let him go home.

Myint, now 42, desperately wants to work, but he's simply not able. He tried manual labor, but the muscles on his body's right side were weakened by a stroke-like attack in Indonesia.

He dreams of opening a little snack shop to contribute to the family's income, but there is no money to start it.

"I don't really know how to keep going like this," he says.

Though he insists life is better, he stays with his sister and her husband, who together earn less than USD5.50 a day to feed three children and three adults.

In Indonesia, Myint

# Despite winning freedom, many former fishing slaves struggle

eventually escaped his captors and lived in the jungle for years, farming vegetables with help from sympathetic local families.

If his former captors would just pay him what he's owed, he says he could help his sister instead of making her life harder.

"If I ever saw them again," he says of the captains, "I might kill them."

#### STILL A FISHERMAN

Yangon, Myanmar — After Phyto Kyaw was rescued, he worked a few months on the gritty outskirts of Yangon driving a bus and a motorbike taxi, but the money wasn't good and his bike was stolen.

Several of his friends from Benjina already had returned to Thailand to find better-paying work and encouraged him to join them. So Phyto traveled to the same port town where he was first trafficked and boarded a trawler with 13 other Burmese men.

He was scared of being trafficked again, but decided to risk it. "I don't think it's fair, but it's my choice to go," says Phyto, now 31. "My father is the only financial provider here."

Phyto didn't know where he was going or how long he would be at sea. He also had no idea if he was fishing legally or poaching, a dangerous practice that can land an entire crew in jail.

The days were still long but, this time, he got a few more hours of sleep — four or five a night — and he wasn't beaten.

After six months at sea, the trawler returned to Thailand. Phyto should have made nearly \$1,600, but was left with just \$350 after deductions for fees, food and supplies.

He could have earned nearly double that amount driving the motorbike taxi back home. Still, he's thinking about going back out to sea. Fishing is what he knows.

"If I can get a better job here, I won't go," he says. "But if I don't have

anything, I will go on a fishing boat."

#### FORGIVENESS AS A MONK

Samut Sakhon, Thailand — Wrapped in flowing saffron robes, Prasert Jakkawaro speaks calmly as he looks back on his lost life. He says he spent eight years fishing off Benjina, working around the clock and never getting paid what was promised.

The rage that once sent him searching for solace at the bottom of a bottle has died. He now finds comfort praying in a monastery as a Buddhist monk.

"I feel that I have to give forgiveness and kindness back," he says. "I have another chance. There's no point in dwelling on the past. The anger will only follow me in this life and into the next."

Finding peace wasn't easy: He was first forced to confront the evil he experienced.

Food wasn't guaranteed on the boat, and he saw one crew member die due to a lack of medical attention. Sleep was a luxury.

Once after asking his captain for more money, Prasert was tossed into a tiny cell with about 20 other men. They were ordered by security guards to beat each other up.

"You would get hit so hard that you could see the handprints on your face," says Prasert, now 53.

After he returned home to Thailand, he received a settlement of about \$2,250 from the boat owner — far short of the nearly \$9,000 he says he was owed. But he knows most men received nothing.

The anger continued to swell but, with encouragement from his sister, Prasert spent three months studying at a Buddhist temple.

Slowly, the hatred melted. "When I attend ceremonies, people really look at me as if I can shine a light on their life, and it makes me feel that I am useful again," he says. "I feel like I can have real happiness at last." AP



In this April 3, 2015 file photo, Burmese fishermen raise their hands as they are asked who among them wants to go home at the compound of a fishing company in Benjina, Aru Islands, Indonesia



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Fighters from the Islamic State group parade in a commandeered Iraqi security forces armored vehicle down a main road at the northern city of Mosul

# Islamic State built in staying power with global jihadis

Lori Hinnant

**T**HE Islamic State group's mix of a local insurgency and digitally-connected global jihadis gives the group staying power and the means to relaunch its future, from small cells of extremists escaping the war zone in Iraq and Syria to those who never went there in the first place.

The impending loss of Mosul and Raqqa cuts out the urban heart of its self-proclaimed caliphate, but the extremist organization has built-in plans to endure and has shown a degree of flexibility that will be difficult to counteract.

For more than a year, Islamic State has acknowledged the possibility of losing the territory that propelled it to the forefront of the global jihadi movement — and drew thousands of foreign fighters. Islamic State's goal since then has been to maintain its local and global support base in the face of overwhelming defeat. Whether it succeeds depends on what happens well after today's battles are over.

## ESCAPE CELLS

A first group of Islamic State fighters from Syria and Iraq numbering more than 100 arrived in Afghanistan at the beginning of February, followed by a smaller group, around 20, at the end of March, according to a U.N. report released last week. The group is unpopular among average Afghans, but shows traction among the young and, most importantly, receives ample funding from Is-

lamic State's central command to pay new fighters triple what the Taliban offers — USD500 to \$600 a month.

The U.N. report said Islamic State has warned its Afghanistan contingent that it will soon need to be self-financing, an ominous sign for the organization that once pulled in millions of dollars in oil money, ransoms and extortion.

## ■ The U.N. report said Islamic State has warned its Afghanistan contingent that it will soon need to be self-financing

Other groups of foreign fighters are feared to be trying to make their way back to Europe or North Africa, to ether plot attacks there or simply await orders.

In Europe, this has fed fears of extremists hiding among the influx of migrants, while North Africa is "really unstable. [...] It's awash in weaponry," said Colin Clarke, an analyst with the RAND think tank.

Islamic State is "a global group but it's more regionally anchored. I don't see them taking up and traveling wholesale to another place. They're going to go where

they have roots. They're going to seek out these weak states. They're going to insinuate themselves in local conflicts," he said.

## HOSTILE TAKEOVER

Al-Qaida and the Islamic State group split in 2014, driven apart less by ideology than by a dispute over timing and tactics.

Now known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in its latest rebranding effort, al-Qaida is on the rise in some parts of Syria and in recent days has begun targeting what it calls "organization cells" of the Islamic State group in Idlib and other Syrian provinces.

The two groups have considerable crossover — and both claim the mantle of Osama bin Laden. The al-Qaida campaign could be a precursor to demands for a merger or hostile takeover, complete with a choice of death or repentance from rank-and-file defectors.

"The differences between these groups are more in style and tone than in substance," said Bruce Hoffman, the head of Georgetown University's security studies program and author of "Inside Terrorism."

Many of Islamic State's foreign fighters, especially those from Europe, headed to Syria with the expectation of joining al-Qaida's branch there, then switched to what they believed was the winning side. Changing back will not be very difficult, Hoffman said.

"Al-Qaida has been waiting in the wings and been letting ISIS take all the heat," Hoffman said, using an alternative acronym for IS.

## FIGHTING — OR HIDING — IN PLACE

Iraq and Syria themselves offer plenty of safe havens for local extremist fighters biding their time. At its height, IS held vast stretches of territory by promising not just brutality, but a religious government beyond corruption that would protect against arbitrary punishment, theft and graft in the service of a global movement for Sunni Muslims everywhere. The promises tapped especially into the grievances of Iraqi Sunnis, who felt abandoned by the Shiited government in Baghdad and were suspicious of the Kurdish government in Irbil.

Many in the U.S. have called on the Iraqi government to ensure that Sunnis share in the country's gains going forward — a step that will prove especially complex given that Sunni areas have seen widespread destruction in the fight against the extremists. Block after

block of shattered homes line the roads of Mosul, Fallujah and Ramadi.

"It's almost at a new level of divisiveness and an unrelenting decade of bloodletting has made any sense of rebuilding a civil society unbelievably challenging," Hoffman said. Islamic State retains a powerful presence in Iraq's Anbar province and in the city of Tal Afar.

Islamic State's leadership still has a core of leaders from Saddam Hussein's Baathist organization, known for their survival skills and the support networks they built — something the group's spokesman, Abu Muhammad Adnani, noted in a message before he was killed last summer in a U.S. airstrike: To survive "whether Allah blesses us with consolidation or we move into the bare, open desert, displaced and pursued."

## REVENGE ATTACKS

A major aspect of Islamic State's propaganda narrative has been to offer a haven to Sunnis worldwide and until recently its videos and photos made a point of tempering extreme brutality with images of abundant harvests, children at play and efficient, free medical care.

Recently, however, its videos have depicted airstrikes destroying the caliphate, providing a powerful new message — vengeance.

Last month's attack at London Bridge was claimed by Islamic State as revenge against the U.S.-backed coalition, and the group pledged more violence to come. With supporters from around the world linked by social media and thousands of pieces of propaganda, security officials in Europe and the U.S. fear similar attacks are in the offing.

At its height, Islamic State had tens of thousands of fighters at its disposal, though estimates varied widely. Airstrikes killed a vast percentage, the streams of Europeans heading to the war zone have dried up, and new recruits from the region are growing scarce, but its survival may not depend on numbers alone.

"The numbers may never be their 60,000 fighters or whatever, but the attraction of terrorism is the disproportionate effect a few people can have on the enemy societies and that'll be enough to keep it alive," Hoffman said. "The most visceral emotion we know is revenge. It is cathartic and self-satisfying and it becomes a duty." **AP**



This undated file image made from a video released by Islamic State militants, April 19, 2015, shows a group of captured Ethiopian Christians taken to a beach before they were killed.



## UNITED STATES

# At least 16 die in military plane crash in rural Mississippi

A U.S. military plane used for refueling crashed into a soybean field in rural Mississippi, killing at least 16 people aboard in a fiery wreck and spreading debris for miles, officials said.

Leflore County Emergency Management Agency Director Frank Randle told reporters at a briefing yesterday [Macau time] that 16 bodies had been recovered after the KC-130 spiraled into the ground about 135 kilometers north of Jackson in the Mississippi Delta. A witness said some bodies were found more than a mile from the crash site.

Marine Corps spokeswoman Capt. Sarah Burns said in a statement that a KC-130 "experienced a mishap" yesterday but provided no details. The KC-130 is used as a refueling tanker.



U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, who represents North Carolina, said the plane was from the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina. Tillis, who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, said in a statement that he and his wife were extending their deepest condolences

to the families of the Marines killed, as well as to the Cherry Point station.

In a tweet yesterday, President Donald Trump offered condolences.

"Marine Plane crash in Mississippi is heartbreaking. Melania and I send our deepest condolences to

all!" Trump wrote.

Andy Jones said he was working on his family's catfish farm just before 4 p.m. when he heard a boom and looked up to see the plane corkscrewing downward with one engine smoking. "You looked up and you saw the plane twirling around," he said. "It was spinning down."

Jones said the plane hit the ground behind trees in the soybean field, and by the time he and other reached the crash site, fires were burning too intensely to approach the wreckage. The force of the crash nearly flattened the plane, Jones said. "Beans are about waist-high, and there wasn't much sticking out above the beans," he said.

Jones said a man borrowed his cellphone to report to authorities that there were bodies across U.S. Highway 82, more than a mile

from the crash site.

Greenwood Fire Chief Marcus Banks told the Greenwood Commonwealth that debris from the plane was scattered in a radius of about 5 miles (8 kilometers).

Jones said firefighters tried to put out the fire at the main crash site but withdrew after an explosion forced them back. The fire produced towering plumes of black smoke visible for miles across the flat region and continued to burn after dusk, more than four hours after the crash.

Aerial pictures taken by WLBT-TV showed the skeleton of the plane burning strongly. "It was one of the worst fires you can imagine," Jones said. He said the fire was punctuated by the pops of small explosions.

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point is about 185 kilometers southeast of Raleigh and about 30 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean.

The station was authorized by Congress just before the start of World War II. It supports the 2nd Marine Aviation Wing, providing, among other services, KC-130 aircraft used for in-flight refueling. The station covers 115 square kilometers and has nearly 14,000 Marines, sailors and civilian employees. **AP**

# France insists battle for post-Brexit banking jobs isn't over

Fabio Benedetti-Valentini

FRANCE'S financial lobby insists the battle for post-Brexit banking jobs isn't over.

Leaders of big European and global banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon and HSBC Holdings Plc's Stuart Gulliver met in the French capital yesterday for the annual forum organized by Paris Europlace, its main financial lobby group, to discuss the future of banking in Europe. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, who last week announced three finance-friendly initiatives, gave the keynote address over lunch.

Until now, stiff firing and hiring rules, high taxes and a spike in political risk during this year's presidential election held back Paris's efforts to win jobs as the U.K. prepares to quit the European Union. While Frankfurt and Dublin have garnered several relocation commitments, HSBC is the only major international bank that has publicly expressed a preference for Paris. But French politicians and executives say they have more cards to play as President Emmanuel Macron, a former investment banker, prepares

to cut taxes and overhaul French labor law.

"We want Paris to become the No. 1 financial hub after Brexit," he said in English to a conference hall notably fuller than it has been in recent years. "The government is committed to making Paris more attractive" to finance and business.

Societe Generale SA plans to move up to 400 roles from London to Paris, mostly in corporate and investment banking, a spokeswoman said Tuesday, confirming an earlier Reuters report. Frederic Oudea, CEO of France's third-largest bank by market value, had said after last year's Brexit vote that for his company "flexibility" to move hundreds of jobs between its London and Paris hubs was "not a complex operational issue."

While banks including Standard Chartered Plc and Nomura Holdings Inc. have picked Frankfurt as their new EU base, any flow of jobs out of London is likely to be slow and scattered across several cities, meaning that Paris, home of four systemic lenders and a large asset-management industry, can get a slice of the pie, said Arnaud de Bresson, Paris Europlace's managing director.

"We have a bank here, we have critical mass, we also recognize that there is a very critical mass of real-economy companies," Gulliver said. HSBC's French bank has "all the licences" it needs to serve clients across EU-27 nations and "it would be actually irrational for us to look at another location," he said.

Paris is hoping to lure 20,000 jobs from the U.K. as firms seek EU locations to secure continued market access to the bloc, according to Paris Europlace. HSBC, which has a French retail bank, has said it may relocate as many as 1,000 traders to the French capital. JPMorgan, the U.S.'s largest bank, plans to move hundreds of London-based bankers to Dublin, Frankfurt and Luxembourg "in the short term," Daniel Pinto, head of its investment bank, said in May.

"Where your legal entity is based is not where your people are based," Dimon said. "The people could be in Paris, in the Netherlands, or Madrid or anywhere in the EU. We haven't decided yet," he said, adding that he sees "enormous leeway" for France's new government.

Paris ranks 29th on the ranking of Global Finan-

cial Centres Index by Z/Yen Group Ltd., just above Casablanca and behind Munich. London tops the list, followed by New York and Singapore. The index, which is updated every six months, was compiled from an on-line survey of more than 3,000 financial professionals and it also uses gauges in areas such as business environment, human capital and infrastructure.

Paris, long burdened by the French tax and labor-law systems, suffered an additional image blow when Francois Hollande,



Pedestrians walk across a plaza as skyscrapers stand in La Defense business district of Paris

Macron's predecessor, took power by calling finance his "enemy."

Virtually all executives and bankers consider Macron's election as shifting sentiment following last year's Brexit referendum and as Donald Trump became president of the U.S. after cam-

paing on a protectionist promises. Macron's action to reform the job market is seen as critical. Last month, a Brexit report from a committee at France's senate warned that three bankers could be hired in Frankfurt for the cost of two in Paris. **Bloomberg**

AD

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## what's ON



CONSTELLATION - WORKS BY NICOLAS DELAROCHE

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: October 8, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

THE ART OF ZHANG DAQIAN

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

UNTIL: August 6, 2017

VENUE: Macau Art Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

EXHIBITION OF CHAN IU PUI

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: August 7, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lazaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

STORY OF CANNON MAKING - CHILDREN

EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: August 20, 2017

VENUE: Exhibition Gallery, 3rd floor of Macao Museum

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

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 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

## MADONNA AT OPENING OF CHILDREN'S WING OF MALAWI HOSPITAL

Madonna is in Malawi for the official opening of a hospital children's wing that her charity funded.

The Mercy James Institute for Pediatric Surgery and Intensive Care, located at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in the city of Blantyre, was built in collaboration with Malawi's health ministry. It has already started some activities and the pop star said last week that the institute had completed its first surgery.

President Peter Mutharika was to attend the official opening yesterday.

Madonna has adopted four children from Malawi: David Banda, Mercy James, Stelle and Estere. The children's wing was named after 11-year-old Mercy.

Madonna's charity, Raising Malawi, has built schools in the southern African country and funded the new pediatric unit, which began construction in 2015. Madonna, 58, visited the site last year.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Revenge Sr 3
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## Cinema



## CINETEATRO

7 - 12 JUL

## SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

ROOM 1

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

ROOM 3 (3D)

7:15

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min



## DESPICABLE ME 3

ROOM 2

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

Director: Eric Guillon, Kyle Balda, Pierre Coffin

Starring: Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Trey Parker

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 90min

## THE MUMMY

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:45pm

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Wallis

Language: English

Duration: 148min

## TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT

ROOM 3

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

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Anthony Hopkins, Josh Duhamel

Language: English

Duration: 148min

## MACAU TOWER

6 - 26 JUL



## SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING

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

Director: Jon Watts

Starring: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton, Robert Downey Jr.

Language: English

Duration: 133min

## this day in history



## 1990 YELTSIN RESIGNATION SPLITS SOVIET COMMUNISTS

The populist politician and president of the Russian parliament, Boris Yeltsin, has resigned from the Soviet Communist Party.

The resignation has also led to a declaration from the small but influential radical reform group Democratic Platform that they would also break away. The split leaves Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev with a party in tatters.

It was thought that Mr Gorbachev had appeased the reformers by ensuring the defeat of hardline conservative Yegor Ligachev in the race for the deputy leadership yesterday.

His favored candidate, the pro-reform Vladimir Ivashko, was elected instead. But it was not enough. Within hours of another vote to approve new party rules which still restrict factions operating within it, Mr Yeltsin stood up to address a hushed auditorium.

"In view of my great responsibility towards the people of Russia and in connection with the move towards a multi-party system I cannot fulfil only the instructions of the party," he said.

"As the highest elected figure in the republic, I have to bow to the will of all the people." He then turned and left the chamber without another word. Some delegates shouted "Shame", while a few clapped.

Mr Gorbachev, clearly expecting the move, was heard to say, "That ends the process logically," before instructing delegates to withdraw Mr Yeltsin's congress mandate.

The departure of a group of Democratic Platform delegates less than an hour later confirmed the split - the first since the Bolshevik-Menshevik divide which put Lenin in power in 1903.

Among those leaving are the popular new mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, and the mayor of Moscow, Gavriil Popov.

Mr Yeltsin has been a figurehead for radical reform of the party system for the last 18 months, and has been a trenchant critic of President Gorbachev for not going far enough with party reforms.

Despite that, he has remained at the center of the Communist Party structure. His name was put forward for inclusion in the new Central Committee to be chosen this evening. His real strength lies in his popular support among ordinary Russian people.

In an opinion poll carried out by the Moscow News newspaper earlier this month he scored an 84% popularity rating, making him by far the most trusted figure on the Soviet political scene.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Days later, tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered beside the walls of the Kremlin to voice their opposition to the Soviet Communist Party. In August 1991, the rivalry between reformist and conservative elements of the congress erupted in an attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. Boris Yeltsin became a national hero after he mounted a tank to rally the people against the coup.

After the formal collapse of the Soviet Union later in 1991, Boris Yeltsin, who was already president of Russia, found himself at the head of a world superpower.

His presidency was marked by rapid economic and political reform.

He took on the remnants of Soviet conservatism again in 1993, in an armed clash in which the Parliament building was shelled and 100 people died.

He went on to win the first post-Soviet presidential election in 1996, despite plummeting popularity ratings.

In the same year, he underwent major heart surgery, and there were serious concerns about the state of his health. Amid growing criticism of his erratic behavior, including several embarrassing gaffes on the international stage, Yeltsin stood down from the presidency on 1 January 2000.

His chosen successor, Vladimir Putin, won the next election a few months later.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're the most impulsive fire sign of them all - which is saying something. So it's really not tough to distract you, especially when you're doing something that you'd really rather not do.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got two good things going for you. First, you're in total relaxation mode - reading the paper in bed, sipping overpriced caffeine and ignoring the phone. It's your day to devote to total hedonism.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 In your own intellectual and articulate way, you've never taken the issue of closeness lightly, regardless of whether it's physical, emotional or intellectual. You see getting to know someone as a commitment.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The next couple of days could be extremely stressful - or extremely romantic. Since you of all signs know that what's in your heart often ends up as what happens around you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've been working hard, diligently putting your nose to the grindstone for some time now. And now the stars are setting up such an amazing set of influences

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You've got one more day left to have some serious fun, and you're quite ready to take full advantage of the situation. With several astrological influences putting love in the spotlight, you're ready for whatever comes.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your home and family issues need some straightening up, and you're perfectly ready to get the show on the road. Of course, with the stars in a serious mode, you've really got only one option.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You may not have exercised perfect judgment exactly when it came to making a recent financial decision, but now you can rest easy. The stars are on your side

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Some sales may seem innocuous, but what's too good to be true just might be. Why take chances? Take someone along whose judgment isn't easily swayed.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Talk about busy. There's a formidable astrological team on guard duty in your house of personality, and you'll be putting out 'pick me, pick me' vibes when any situation that requires leadership arises.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Better think really hard about it before you even consider letting the cat out of the bag. There's a very serious astrological team standing guard in your house of secrets, and they don't take their duties lightly.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You won't be in the mood for any recreational activity that doesn't automatically include structure, rules and a set leader. Oddly enough, you may actually want to be the leader this time out, and why not?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

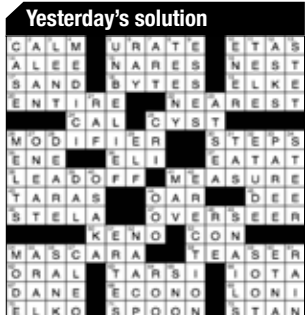
WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World locations, including min/max temperatures and conditions.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Impudence; 5- Shuteye; 10- Scrutinize; 14- Got it!; 15- Actress Berry; 16- Overdue; 17- Actor McGregor; 18- Finished, terminated; 19- Again; 20- Capital of Utah; 23- Liit syllable; 24- Tass (Russian news agency); 25- Universe; 29- Surprise attack; 31- Hosp. readout; 32- Nav. officer; 33- Low-power binoculars; 37- Mighty mite; 40- Zeta follower; 41- Piercing places; 42- Ladder seen by Jacob; 47- Rhine wine; 48- Law in La Paz; 49- Tooth layer; 53- Perches; 55- Now me down...; 57- we there yet?; 58- Transformation of food into body tissue; 61- uproar; 64- Cara or Castle; 65- Came down to earth; 66- Toil; 67- Horse opera; 68- Starchy staple; 69- Shamu, for one; 70- Closes in on; 71- even keel;

DOWN: 1- Midday nap; 2- Teeming; 3- Aquanaut's base; 4- E-mailed; 5- Encase; 6- Sri; 7- Born before, senior churchman; 8- Util. bill; 9- Footstalk; 10- Does in; 11- Tin; 12- Polished off; 13- Of recent origin; 21- Speech issue; 22- Forum wear; 26- Small plateau; 27- Lulu; 28- Flat sound; 30- Man, in Milan; 31- Old oath; 34- Depend; 35- glance; 36- Antitoxins; 37- Partly open; 38- Snack in a shell; 39- Cuatro doubled; 43- Diner orders; 44- Official sitting; 45- Traders; 46- "Only Time" singer; 50- Like some rebates; 51- Beethoven's Third; 52- Pre-Easter; 54- Decaf brand; 55- man with seven wives; 56- Cruise ship; 59- Dies; 60- Poi source; 61- Jima; 62- Neither partner; 63- Rainbow shape;



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Telephone - Report 1000
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Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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OLYMPICS

# LA, Paris present plans ahead of 2024-2028 decision

Graham Dunbar, Lausanne

**A**FTER Los Angeles and Paris laid out their Olympic hosting plans yesterday, their mayors said they could work together on a deal to ensure both cities host a Summer Games soon.

Both cities used 45 minutes of videos and speeches, including French President Emmanuel Macron promoting the Paris cause, in a closed-door session with International Olympic Committee members to explain how they would host the 2024 Olympics.

Those members should vote soon to add the 2028 hosting rights and make both cities winners when the IOC next meets in September.

That will likely need IOC leaders to broker a consensus deal within weeks in talks which start with Paris widely seen as the 2024 favorite.

"We look forward to working together maybe not in competition but collaboration with



French President Emmanuel Macron

Paris," LA Mayor Eric Garcetti said at a news conference after his city's bid officials opened the campaign event.

Garcetti and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo have long touted their good working relations on other issues such as climate change.

"We are all at the disposition and by the side of the IOC which was right to ask itself this

question," Hidalgo said at the Paris news conference, citing her friendship with Garcetti as potentially a "key element" to reaching an agreement.

The dual award can give the IOC a decade of stability with two world-class cities touting financially secure bids with, in LA's case, zero risk of white elephant venues. This follows

years of overspending by Olympic hosts and political defeats to sink potential candidates.

**“We lost three times, we don't want to lose a fourth one.”**

EMMANUEL MACRON

The win-win option also guards against a 2024 loser refusing to bid again for 2028m and avoids inflicting a third recent defeat on Paris — which lost with bids for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics — and the United States. New York and Chicago both lost heavily for 2012 and 2016, respectively. Paris also failed with a 1992 bid.

"We lost three times, we don't want to lose a fourth one," Macron said. "I'm here to convey the message that there's a strong unity to back this candidacy."

Minutes after Macron spoke, U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on Twitter: "Working hard to get the Olympics for the United States (L.A.). Stay tuned!"

Garcetti said the Olympic movement "can't afford to lose the United States."

"Both of us will find it more and more difficult to convince cities — whether it's Paris, Los Angeles or other American cities — to really go into this process if one of us gets turned down," the mayor said.

Still, it could be a 2028 Olympics in LA that will be the first American-hosted games since 1996 in Atlanta.

IOC President Thomas Bach has said the idea of a double award was presented to him at a lunch last year by friends whom he declined to identify in a recent interview with French sports daily L'Equipe.

The LA bid team declined to comment yesterday whether the suggestion came from its supporters.

"He [Bach] has good friends who gave him good advice," LA bid chairman Casey Wasserman said.

If the vote passes as expected, the Bach-chaired IOC executive board could be empowered to broker a future deal on picking the 2024 host ahead of a Sept. 13 meeting in Lima, Peru. **AP**

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## TENNIS | WIMBLEDON

# 2-time champ Nadal loses 15-13 in 5th set

Howard Fendrich, London

**F**IRST, Rafael Nadal erased a two-set deficit. Then, he erased four match points. Nadal could not, however, erase the fifth.

After digging himself out of difficult situations over and over during the course of a riveting encounter that lasted more than 4 and a half hours, Nadal suddenly faltered, getting broken in the last game and losing to 16th-seeded Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 15-13 in the fourth round of Wimbledon.

"It's tough to say what, exactly, made the difference at the end," Muller said. "To be honest, I haven't really realized what just happened."

The surprising defeat extended Nadal's drought without a quarterfinal berth at the All England Club to six years.

He has won two of his 15 Grand Slam championships at Wimbledon, and played in the final three other times, most recently in 2011. But since then, Nadal's exits at the All England Club have come in the first round (2013), second round (2012, 2015) and fourth round (2014, 2017).

All of those losses, except the latest, came against men ranked 100th or worse. The 34-year-old Muller is not exactly a giant-killer: He had lost 22 consecutive matches against foes ranked



Spain's Rafael Nadal leaves the court after losing



Luxembourg's Gilles Muller celebrates

in the top five. And he'd only reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal once before, at the 2008 U.S. Open.

"If I had lost that match," Muller said, "it would have been tough to digest."

But Muller's powerful serve and crisp volleys make him what Nadal called "uncomfortable" to play. And Muller — who already owned one victory over Nadal at

Wimbledon, back in the second round in 2005 — managed to pull this one out, unfazed despite allowing opportunities to pass him by.

Nadal served from behind throughout the final set and was twice a point from losing in its 10th game. He again was twice a point from losing in the 20th. Only when Muller got yet another chance to end it did he, when

Nadal got broken by pushing a forehand long.

"When you are in the fifth, against a player like him, [the outcome] just depends on a few balls," Nadal said, shaking his head. "Actually, he was a little better than me on a few balls."

One key: Nadal converted only 2 of 16 break points. That included going 0 for 5 in the fifth set, four in one game, and was a big

reason that the No. 4-seeded Spaniard lost despite remarkable totals of 77 winners and 17 unforced errors.

**■ Muller's powerful serve and crisp volleys make him 'uncomfortable' to play, Nadal said**

Nadal entered the match having won 28 consecutive completed sets in Grand Slam play, equalling his personal best and a total exceeded only twice in the Open era. He arrived at the All England Club coming off his record 10th French Open championship, and 15th major trophy overall, and seemed primed to be a factor again at the grass-court tournament.

From 2006-11, Nadal reached the final in five consecutive appearances at Wimbledon (he missed it in 2009 because of bad knees), winning titles in 2008 and 2010. But now he heads home, while Muller's next opponent will be 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic. **MDT/AP**

## BOXING

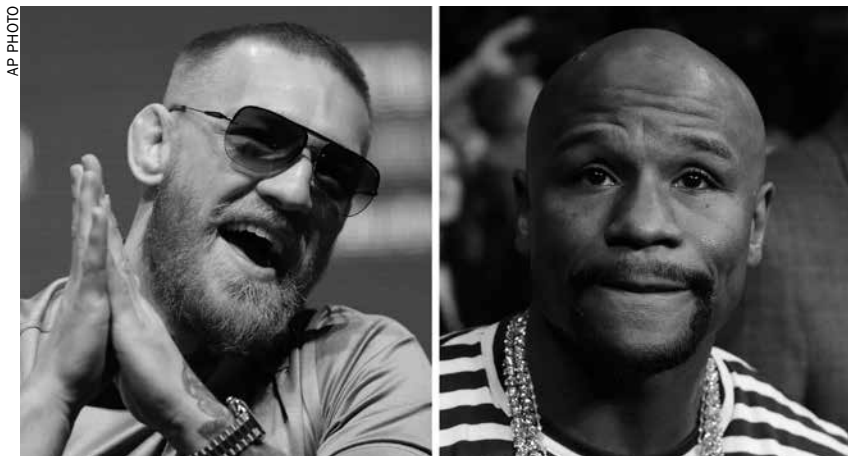
# Mayweather-McGregor set for T-Mobile after deal with Big3

Brian Mahoney

**FLOYD** Mayweather's boxing match against Conor McGregor will be held at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas after promoters reached an agreement with Ice Cube to move the championship game of his Big3 basketball league.

The final game of the 3-on-3 season of former NBA players will now be held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Aug. 26, with a 4:30 p.m. Eastern start. The bout is at night.

The Big3 said yesterday it reached a financial and promotional deal with MGM Resorts, Mayweather Promotions and UFC.



Conor McGregor (left picture) and Floyd Mayweather

Terms weren't disclosed, with the rapper-actor and Big3 co-founder Jeff Kwatinetz simply calling it a "generous offer that we could not refuse."

"We are happy we could work together to create an opportunity for our fans to ex-

perience both events, making Aug. 26 the most exciting day in sports and entertainment Las Vegas has ever seen," they said in a statement.

Mayweather and McGregor are set to begin a four-city tour this week to promote

the fight.

Mayweather will be returning from retirement to face the Irish mixed martial arts star and UFC President Dana White had said the match would be held at T-Mobile, the largest venue in Las Vegas. But the

arena had continued to list the basketball game on its schedule of events.

Opened in 2016, T-Mobile Arena lists a capacity of 20,000 for boxing, about 3,000 more seats than the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

The game will be shown live on Fox. Games have been taped and shown a day later on Fox Sports 1 on Monday nights during the season.

The Big3 says those who have purchased tickets will earn priority seating for the MGM Grand Garden Arena event, with additional ticket information to be announced in the coming days. **AP**

## FOOTBALL

# Bayern Munich signs James Rodriguez

**B**AYERN Munich has signed Colombian midfielder James Rodriguez on a two-year loan from Real Madrid with an option to make the loan permanent.

The Bundesliga side says the 25-year-old James will sign his contract once he has successfully completed a medical examination.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge says, "signing James Rodriguez was our coach Carlo Ancelotti's biggest wish, following their successful spell working together in Madrid."

James joined Madrid from Monaco after a fine 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where he finished as the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

He enjoyed his best season at Madrid with 17 goals in 46 competitive games under Ancelotti, but fell somewhat out of favor under his successor Zinedine Zidane.

Altogether he made 111 competitive appearances for Madrid, scoring 36 goals and providing 41 assists. **AP**



opinion

World Views

Leila Abboud, Bloomberg

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT UBER? BRITAIN HAS A FEW IDEAS

It's easy to poke fun at Britain's government dysfunction. But there's at least one policy area where it's having a sophisticated debate with global implications: how to regulate "gig economy" companies such as Uber Technologies Inc. and Deliveroo so they don't exploit workers or skimp on taxes.

Working out new rules for companies that use smartphones to connect buyers and sellers is laudable, if devilishly difficult. Last week, a Theresa May-commissioned panel released its ideas for how to do so. Some recommendations are smart, reflecting an honest attempt to balance flexible working with protecting citizens. Whether a weakened prime minister can pass any of this into law is another question. But at least she's looking at it.

Chief among the conclusions in Matthew Taylor's review is a call for new legislation to better define Britain's three categories of workers: the self-employed, who have few rights; so-called "workers", who get some benefits such as holiday pay and the minimum wage; and employees with full rights. The proposal would rename the middle category "dependent contractor" and more clearly define who it includes rather than leaving it to judges to decide.

Many gig economy workers now deemed as self-employed could be re-categorized with more rights. Already some drivers for Uber have won such employment cases.

Companies don't like this. It means paying more tax to cover benefits, including state pension contributions, that they now avoid. Employers get a 13.8 percent tax reduction from classifying someone as self-employed, according to the Trades Union Congress, depriving the U.K. of 4 billion pounds (\$5.1 billion) in yearly revenue. For the roughly four in 100 working Brits whose boss is an algorithm, not being classed as self-employed could entitle them to sick pay and holiday.

Crucially, the panel didn't say "dependent contractors" should get the minimum wage, siding with companies. Instead, they laid out a fiddly approach that would allow for different wages depending on whether demand was high or low, or paying people by task completed. This is complicated and too trusting of how app-owners decide whether it's peak time.

Uber doesn't garner much sympathy, but you can see why it wouldn't want to pay an hourly wage to drivers sitting around waiting for passengers. Its stratospheric private valuation is based on not spending millions on employee costs.

Still, it's hard to accept that people can work crazy long hours and be denied the minimum wage just because they work for a smartphone app. As the way we work is upended by technology, this stuff needs to be resolved.

So closing the loophole on worker status would only be a good thing - if it happens. Right now, employers have a huge financial incentive to stick people in the lowest category possible, leading to bizarre situations where someone "self-employed" can have their pay docked if they miss a shift. A Deliveroo rider is often asked to choose set work days, wear a uniform and can be kicked off the app for not accepting enough work. Does this sound like being your own boss?

Indeed, there are ways in which Taylor should have gone further. At present, it's up to individual workers to go to employment tribunals to prove that he or she is not self-employed. That should be flipped around. People who meet criteria such as time spent at a company should be presumed to be in the middle category of "worker" or "dependent contractor". Employers can go to court if they think otherwise.

But fair play to Britain for grappling with this one. The Ubers of the world will keep gaming the system if we all collectively allow it. Let's hope the business lobby doesn't kill this before it's started.

THE PORTUGAL CHARGES 18 POLICEMEN OVER ALLEGED RACIST CONDUCT




Authorities in Portugal are bringing charges of torture, assault, providing false statements and other crimes against 18 police officers over alleged racist conduct.

The Lisbon attorney general's office says the crimes refer to an incident in 2015, when police clashed with young black men in a poor neighborhood near Lisbon.

A brief statement on the attorney general's website yesterday said the police officers are suspected of "severe abuse" of their position and neglecting their duty. It accuses them of offensive acts and insults, without describing the alleged crimes in detail.

Authorities launched an investigation after some of the young men alleged police had beaten and insulted them following their arrest. The charges say the police involved lied to investigators about what had happened.

A brief statement on the attorney general's website yesterday said the police officers are suspected of "severe abuse" of their position and neglecting their duty. It accuses them of offensive acts and insults, without describing the alleged crimes in detail.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**US-QATAR U.S.** Secretary of State Rex Tillerson took his mission to break the deadlock between Qatar and four Arab states to the tiny energy-rich nation yesterday, securing a commitment from Qatar to intensify its counterterrorism efforts as he looks to end the squabbling among key Middle Eastern allies.



**IRAQ** Sporadic clashes erupted in Mosul yesterday, a day after Iraq's prime minister declared "total victory" over the Islamic State group, with several airstrikes hitting the Old City neighborhood that was the scene of the fierce battle's final days.

**TURKEY** Authorities have issued detention warrants for 105 information technology experts suspected of aiding last year's failed coup, the state-run news agency reported.



**ZIMBABWE's** President Robert Mugabe is in Singapore for medical reasons, prompting opposition figures to question whether the 93-year-old still has the stamina to run the country.

**EUROPEAN UNION** finance ministers have agreed to collectively address the problem of non-performing loans in the banking sector, which has been an economic problem particularly in Italy and Spain.

**NETHERLANDS** An appeals judge has confirmed that a 12-year-old boy does not have to undergo chemotherapy if he does not want it.

**BRAZIL** A key Brazilian lawmaker has argued that President Michel Temer should be suspended from office and put on trial in the country's highest court on a corruption charge.



Belém Tower, one of Lisbon's landmarks

**FROM** Chinese calligraphy, dragon and lion dances, to annual Chinese New Year galas and popular Chinese language courses - for the Portuguese, to have a bite of Chinese culture in home country can never be easier due to increasing cultural exchange events between both countries in recent years.

The annual cultural event entitled the Candlelight Market in the Candlelight opened recently in Lagoa city, some 270 km southeast of Portuguese capital Lisbon is the latest of the multiple events held since the beginning of this year.

China was invited as the main guest country to attend the event with the theme of Silk Road. The four-day event featured display of Chinese traditional musical instruments as well as the performance of Chinese papercut, calligraphy and dragon and lion dances.

Mayor of Lagoa Francisco Martins said that China and Portugal enjoy long time friendship.

Since the beginning of this year a series of cultural exchange events have been held in both Portugal and China. The first Luso-China Literature Forum was held in the Macau Science and Culture Center in Lisbon. Well known writers of both countries exchanged their views on literature, society and accommodation.

On June 25, the China Day was held during the 30th Lisbon International Handicraft Fair to help the Portuguese people learn more about the exquisite traditional Chinese handicraft.

During the celebration of the year of Rooster, the lunar new year of China that fell on Jan. 28, a huge rooster, the symbol of Portugal, created by famous Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos, was ferried to China from Lisbon to congratulate the Chinese with New Year greetings.

On Jan. 21, the New Year gala was held in downtown Lisbon with the participation of both Chinese and Portuguese performers including those from a high school of Macau. It was the fourth consecutive year for the event to be held and the gala has become a brand program for the New Year celebration.

According to officials, China and Portugal signed an accord on establishment of

culture centers in each other's countries last year.

Counselor for Culture of Chinese Embassy in Portugal Shu Jianping said China is preparing for the construction of the China Culture Center in Lisbon, expected to be complete by the end of next year.

Amid frequent cultural exchanges between Portugal and China, Chinese language learning has been increasingly popular in Portugal in recent years. Chinese language courses are offered at Portuguese universities, high schools and primary schools. Chinese is also taught in the four Confucius institutes and one confucius classroom in Portugal. **MDT/Xinhua**

ZHANG IN LISBON

**CHINA'S TOP** legislator Zhang Dejiang is paying an official friendly visit to Portugal, Poland and Serbia from July 10 to 19. Zhang, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, will visit the three countries at the invitation of their respective parliaments.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Wong Maye-E



An acrobat does a flip mid-air during a media preview of Cirque Du Soleil's Kooza, which opens in Singapore today. Kooza is a return to the origins of Cirque du Soleil, combining two circus traditions of acrobatic performance and the art of clowning.