



GOV'T SETS UP A TALENT DATABASE

The announcement was made yesterday during the second ordinary meeting of the Talent Development Committee

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MACAU ALLURE MAY FADE AS TOURISTS GO FARTHER, PANSY SAYS

As Chinese tourists travel more frequently and farther afield, the city could gradually lose its appeal, said Pansy Ho in a TV interview in HK

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INDONESIA DIVIDED IN CLOSE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA will allow gambling in Sochi in a bid to make continued use of the facilities that were built in the Black Sea resort for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Russia spent USD51 billion on the Games, leaving many companies that invested in the city wondering how they were going to recoup their money.



MYANMAR Hours after Shamsu Nahad gave birth to her second child, a beautiful baby girl, her husband was digging its grave. For tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims trapped in displacement camps in western Myanmar, it is a scene that is becoming all too familiar. More on p12

JAPAN A powerful typhoon pummeled the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa yesterday, paralyzing transport and prompting U.S. forces based there to cancel all outdoor activity. Much greater damage is likely from torrential rains if the typhoon hits land as expected tomorrow or Friday. Authorities in China and Taiwan also warned ships to stay clear of the storm. More on p13

More on backpage

AD

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Alexis Tam calls democracy referendum 'illegal' and 'invalid'

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Sulu Sou elected New Macau Association president

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Macau-mainland trade down by over 10 pct

Trade between Macau and mainland China decreased by 11.2 percent year on year to USD1.37 billion during the first five months of the year, the Ministry of Commerce said yesterday. The mainland's exports to Macau dropped 4.7 percent year on year to USD1.28 billion during the January-May period. Macau's exports to the mainland totaled USD90 million, a decrease of 54.8 percent year on year, according to the ministry's figures. In May, the mainland's trade with Macau decreased by 1.6 percent from the previous month to reach USD270 million, the ministry said. According to Xinhua news agency, mainland authorities approved 127 investment projects from Macau businesspeople during the period, a year-on-year increase of 11.4 percent. Meanwhile, the MSAR investment in the mainland increased by 31.7 percent year on year to hit USD240 million.

Proprietors accused civil servants of lying, Carion denies

The Jardins Sun Yick proprietors committee has released CCTV footage refuting accusations from the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSPOT) that the committee's staff assaulted officials from the bureau while on official duty. Meanwhile, DSSPOT director Jaime Roberto Carion claimed that it is best to resolve the issue in court. Members of the Sun Yick proprietors committee claimed that DSSPOT officials had not clearly shown their identification documents or any other documents that would authorize their investigation. They said that only one of the DSSPOT officials showed their identification document, and, even then, for a very short period of time.

Gov't sets up a talent database

Grace Yu

The government will set up a talent database which could work as an agent connecting employers and qualified jobseekers. A talent information registration webpage was announced yesterday.

According to the Talent Development Committee, the official body created to manage the "talent issues," the data is collected based on voluntary registration. The committee encourages local residents with technical qualifications, professional certification, higher education degrees, or other specialties, to register on the website (www.scdt.gov.mo/register) by entering their information, which the committee promises will be treated with confidentiality.

The aim of establishing the registration process is to collect data for a future talent database, which will contribute to the development of related policies. The website is only available in Chinese at the moment, but English and Portuguese versions will be available by mid July.

Promotional leaflets on the registration process will be sent to residents aged from 18 to 64, along with this year's cash cheque handout.

The announcement was made during the second ordinary meeting of the Committee yesterday. The meeting was offi-



Chui Sai On chairs the second ordinary meeting of the Talent Development Committee

ciated by the head of the body, Chief Executive Chui Sai On.

The Committee's secretary general, Sou Chio Fai, who also heads the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES), stressed that the talent database would not overlap the GAES database of higher education. "The database of higher education is part of the talent database."

The Committee announced the establishment of three ad hoc groups in its previous meeting. Yesterday's meeting specified the respective responsibilities of the groups: to evaluate plans; to cultivate talent; and to encourage talented people to return to Macau. These three groups will be led by Dr. Eric Yeung Tsun Man (President of the Board of

Directors of The Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre), Mr Wu Zhiliang (President of the Administrative Committee of Macao Foundation), and Mr Lau Pun Lap (Head of the Macau SAR Policy Research Office), respectively.

Yeung explained that the database could work as an agent when public departments and enterprises are looking for talented people. Staff of the database shall provide support by contacting qualified candidates registered and matching up enterprises with suitable talent.

Mr Lau noticed that some residents are staying in other regions. "In this case, we are in a contradictory situation. On one hand, we say that Macau

is lacking talent; on the other hand, we waste this talent. If the government steps out first, it could hopefully set up a demonstration effect."

Members of the committee also suggested in the meeting that the government should adjust the degree requirement set for public servants and professional authentication, taking degrees from other developed areas into account, so as to attract Macau talent to return to the city.

Investment in local training, especially a long-term mechanism, has been prioritized in the 2014 Policy Address, which was announced by the CE last year. The document categorized talented people into "elite," "professional" and "application-oriented persons."

Macau Fashion Parade today in HK

SOME 1,250 exhibitors from 19 countries and regions are participating in the 21st HKTDC Hong Kong Fashion Week for Spring/Summer, which opened on Monday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, and continues through to July 10. The four-day fair, organized by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), welcomes first-time exhibitors from Madagascar, Morocco, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Seven group pavilions are also on hand, led by the Chinese mainland, with the fair's biggest pavilion, and newcomer Thailand.

Under the theme "Cruise Sensation," Fashion Week offers buyers a wide variety of theme zones, including: Emporium de Mode; International Fashion Designers' Showcase; World of Fashion Accessories; Bridal & Evening Wear; and Infant & Chil-



Local designer Vincent Cheang Chi Tak will present his creations in Hong Kong

dren's Wear.

This year, two new areas have been added to the fashion mix: Activewear & Sportswear; and Cashmere & Wool. In

addition, the Small-Order Zone shines a spotlight on 130 garment racks and showcases, targeting buyers who are looking to source products in quantities from five to 1,000 pieces. The Small-Order Zone is also accessible online at smallorder.hktdc.com, with instant payment via PayPal and shipping arrangements available for select products.

In all, more than 40 events are being showcased at the fair, including eight fashion parades and nine house shows. They include this morning's brand spotlight on Clara Tan, Ika Butoni and Zeevan-Co by Meggie, and today's Macau Fashion Parade. In addition, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong Design Institute and the Hong Kong Raffles School of Continuing Education are all putting forth collections of student designers.

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Alexis Tam calls democracy referendum 'illegal' and 'invalid'

Grace Yu

THE chief-of-cabinet of the CE office and government spokesperson, Alexis Tam, said yesterday that a civil referendum on the Chief Executive election that was proposed this week by three groups is "illegal" and "invalid".

Three groups – the Macau Conscience, the Macao Youth Dynamics and the Open Macau Society – are joining forces to form the "Electoral Affairs Commission on the Civil Referendum 2014 on Chief Executive Election."

Along with Tam's remarks, the government spokesperson's office issued a statement saying that Macau is a region ruled by laws, and that any kind of "referendum" lacks "constitutional legal basis," and is "illegal" and "invalid".

"The MSAR government is strongly against the fact that some small groups are intending to challenge the legal basis of Macau," read the statement.

The government states that the election on the Chief Executive will strictly follow the Basic Law and the amended election law that took effect on September 11, 2012.



When asked which law and article the referendum has violated, Tam said, speaking at the end of a press conference on the APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting: "The so-called 'civil referendum' target is the Chief Executive election. But the election has legal effect and is conducted according to the amended election law. (...) If there is a civil referendum focused on

the election, it does not follow the electoral law."

However, Tam said that the government would not take action at this moment. "Related departments will follow up on the referendum later," he added.

In response to the government's announcement, Jason Chao, one of the organizers of the referendum, said that the referendum is not "illegal," but

rather only lacks legal effect. "As the spokesperson, he [Tam] should be very familiar with the law. (...) The results [of the referendum] will not be legally binding, but it is not illegal."

Questioning why the government is so compelled to issue a statement regarding the referendum Chao accused authorities of trying to confuse citizens by "playing with different concepts" and trying

to "threaten" residents from joining the referendum. "(...) Since you see such fierce criticism, citizens should cherish this opportunity to take part in the referendum." Chao expected that there would be more attacks and obstructions, but

Some small groups are intending to challenge the legal basis of Macau

GOV'T STATEMENT

the organizers would continue with the campaign.

The proposed civil referendum will take place between August 24 and 30 via online voting and physical polling stations. Votes will be counted on August 31, 2014, the official Election Day for the Chief Executive. The activists joining forces will announce the results of the referendum after the result of the official Chief Executive Election is announced.

Asia-Pacific tourism ministers meet in Macau

OVER 500 guests, including tourism ministers or representatives from 21 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members, will participate in the tourism meeting that will take place in Macau from September 8 to 14. The event's budget is MOP75 million, according to yesterday's announcement.

The 2014 TMM will coincide with the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, which is to be hosted in Beijing, despite previously being scheduled to take place in Hong Kong. The focal point of the event, the 8th Tourism Ministers Meeting (TMM), will take place on September 12 and 13 at the international conference center of the Macau East Asian Games Dome.

Representatives from

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) will attend.

The Government Spokesperson's Office held a press conference yesterday to present the meeting that focuses on establishing tourism cooperation throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Topics will relate to tourism market integration, transformation and growth of the industry, tourism intelligence via modern technology, low-carbon tourism and so on. A document titled "Macau Declaration" will be discussed and passed around in the meeting, but details were not available in the press conference yesterday.

The gov't spokesperson



Alexis Tam, said yesterday that the MSAR is ready for the meeting. "With regards to anti-terrorism and those types of threats, related departments, especially the safety departments, will act according to the laws."

The 45th tourism meeting will be held before the TMM as an APEC convention. The meeting

will take place from September 8 to 11, taking place in the Four Seasons Hotel.

The Macau Government Tourist Office (MFTO) will organize a tour for guests to visit the historic sites of the city. "The APEC meeting gives us a chance to present Macau's world-class tourism facilities, high-standard receiving

ability, and the unique character of joining cultures of east and west," said Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the MGTO director.

She also said that there will also be a fireworks demonstration on September 13.

A specific website for the event (www.apec-tourism.gov.mo), will be open this Friday at 9

a.m., containing aspects like the meeting's agenda, venue information and registration for participants and media. All information will be available in English only.

Established in 1989, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. It has 21 members – referred to as "member economies" – which account for approximately 40 percent of the world's population, approximately 55 percent of world GDP, and about 44 percent of world trade.

APEC's 21 Member economies are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States of America and Vietnam. **GY**

MUST SURVEY

Locals increasingly gloomy on buying houses

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) yesterday published the consumer confidence index of the second quarter this year, which showed a minor drop in the local consumer confidence. The result also suggested that residents are becoming less confident in buying houses.

The consumer confidence index in Q2 is 85.32, which has dropped 0.67 points compared to the previous quarter, and remains below the benchmark of 100 points.

Among all eight sub-indexes, house purchasing was once again the lowest, scoring only 39.38 points, one point lower than the first quarter this year. This, the research team suggested, showed that residents have become even more pessimistic regarding the prospect of buying houses.

Moreover, the sub-index of local economy has recorded a 5.55-percentage, or 6.36-point, fall to 108.27, the biggest drop among all the sub-indexes. Though it still remains



above 100, which means that residents are still optimistic, the figure indicated that consumers are becoming more cautious regarding the economy of Macau.

Another two sub-indexes, employment and living quality, also saw drops of 1.28 and 0.71 points respectively, with living quality also landing below 100 points. This means that residents are still optimistic about employment, but feel pressure on their daily lives

due to inflation.

It is worth mentioning that the sub-index of commodity quality has risen 3.77 points to 58.8. The research team explained that this showed that residents are expecting weaker inflation.

Another index that recorded a rise is the stock investment sub-index.

The research team commented that consumers are becoming more cautious when it comes to the economy of Macau. The team suggested that, in the second half of 2014, the government should reduce the uncertainty in the local economy; strengthen the result on curbing the inflation; reduce the pressure on residents that is brought by the commodity prices; facilitate the balance in the supply and demand of the housing market; focus more on education and training; as well as create more employment opportunities. These, the team believes, are the ways to strengthen the consumer confidence index.

Trade between China and lusophone countries rises

TRADe between China and Portuguese-speaking countries totaled USD53.345 million between January and May of this year, rising 9.28 percent against the same period of 2013, according to official figures from China.

The figures published by Forum Macau show that, in the first five months of 2014, China sold goods to the eight Portuguese-speaking countries worth USD16.995 billion (+4.56 percent) and bought goods worth USD36.349 billion (+11.63 percent), leading to a trade deficit with the Portuguese-speaking countries of USD19.354 billion.

Trade with Brazil totaled USD34.173 billion (+8.58 percent) in the period, of which USD13.487 billion

(+1.56 percent) were Chinese exports and USD20.686 billion were Brazilian exports to China.

The second-biggest trading partner for China among the lusophone countries was Angola. With total trade amounting to USD16.491 billion (+8.46 percent), there were Chinese sales to Angola totaling USD1.71 billion (+10.39 percent), and Angolan exports to China – mainly oil – were worth USD14.781 billion (+8.24 percent).

Portugal came in a distant third place with a two-way trade of USD1.896 billion (+25.71 percent). In the period, China sold goods to Portugal worth USD1.232 billion, while Portugal sold goods to China worth USD663 million (+20.42 percent).

AD

Macau Daily Times contest

National Ballet of China Making Triumphant Return



at The Venetian Macao

Tickets give-away

Question for readers:

What is the National Ballet of China celebrating this year?

Please email the answers to:
balletofchina@macaudailytimes.com
 Along with your name and contact details.

Five sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 2 days (Wednesday and Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP380 for a total prize value of MOP3,800.



The prestigious National Ballet of China is celebrating the 1964 debut performance of The Red Detachment of Women, by staging this original, well-known Chinese classical ballet once again in major cities throughout mainland China. The Venetian® Macao will be the last

stop of the once-in-a-lifetime tour In Memory of the 50th Anniversary of the Premiere of The Red Detachment of Women by the National Ballet of China, with the last three of the total 50 performances being held at The Venetian Theatre, Friday-Sunday, July 11-13, 2014.



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和社會都極具意義的活動

TIME

08:00 for 30 km Corporate Challenge (Registration time: 07:00am)
10:00 for 10 km Family & Fun Course (Registration time: 09:00am)

Cut off at 16:00pm

時間

30公里挑戰線 於早上八時正開始 (登記時間：早上七時正)
10公里樂遊線 於早上十時正開始 (登記時間：早上九時正)

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Finisher medal will be granted to the finishing teams

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10公里樂遊線參賽費用為每隊澳門幣/港幣 1,200 圓

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João Pedro Lau

SULU Sou Ka Hou, 23, was elected the New Macau Association (ANM) president last night. The newly elected leader was chosen by the association's council and claimed that he will participate more in social movements and strive to unite the association.

The election of the new president is the first item in the council meeting's agenda, with Sou Ka Hou the sole candidate nominated.

Before the motion to elect him was put to vote, one of the council members said that he had noticed the situation where the former leaders of ANM were also members of other civil groups. Some other members, including Au Kam San, also said that they hope the new ANM president can focus more on the association's development.

In response, Sou Ka Hou said that he wants to continue helping other civil groups, even after being elected. However, he has promised to gradually withdraw from other groups.

Eventually, out of 11 council members, nine of them voted for Sou and one against, with the last one being a blank ticket.

Two vice-presidents, Bill Chou and Cheng Ming Hin, were also elected, both receiving nine votes.

After the council meeting was finished, Sou Ka Hou told the media that he has a heavy responsibility and a long road ahead after becoming the new ANM president.

"This is an immense responsibility that is related to the future civil society and democratic development of Macau (...) I hope that there will be more chances for me to participate in community work. In the past, ANM has always tried to occupy the moral high ground and [focus on]

Sulu Sou elected New Macau Association president



Sulu Sou and Jason Chao (both standing)

■ Sulu Sou was the sole candidate nominated

political ideas. But this has led some residents to feel that there is a huge distance [between ANM] and themselves."

The president said since he had not been part of ANM for long, he was not constrained by traditional conventions and practices. As a result, he said that ANM will continue to coo-

perate with other international organizations and participate in social movements.

"I also hope that I can get in touch with more young people through ANM. I won't rule out making contacts with universities and, if possible, secondary schools," Sou Ka Hou said.

Moreover, the new ANM president said that it is crucial to enlarge the scale of the civil society, and to encourage more people who participate in politics and social movements to come out and organize different groups that focus

on the issues they are concerned about.

As for whether ANM will become more radical, he said that it is simply a matter of comparison to the condition of society. "Macau is like a dead pond. Even a fly can cause a huge wave. It depends on the situation of the society to determine whether we are radical or not."

Sou Ka Hou added that he would not exclude any forms of action, as long as there is a united goal. "I believe that ANM is not a talk-only organization that discusses politics. We will

also fight for [our demands] through different measures, no matter how mild or radical they are."

He concluded that ANM is not a dot on the political spectrum and there should be differences in a democratic group. "We have to see if everybody has the same goal... As long as we have the same goal, we can use different methods to strive for the goal in unity."

Last night's election result was not a surprise, as Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San have already indicated, when compiling a petition yesterday afternoon, that Sou Ka Hou will become the new president. They even referred to Sou as the president-elect before the council meeting.

Ng Kuok Cheong revealed that council members have already discussed Sou Ka Hou prior the election. "We have a common belief to support, as much as we can, young people to fill the positions such as president, in order to provide them with a better reputation in society, and to bring their talent into full play."

As for their expectations of the new president, the lawmaker said that he expected Sou Ka Hou to "continue Sou's style." "He will learn more and have a better image. But now, he may maintain his style and maintain his work."

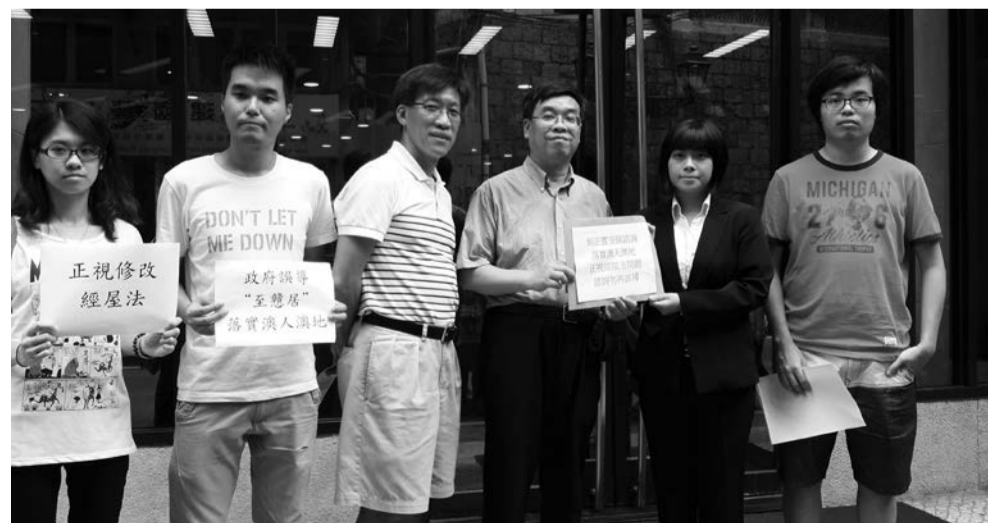
Ng added that ANM, under Sou Ka Hou, will not be the most radical association in the society, "but one of the very active and rational."

Petition handed to "right the wrong" housing policies

BOTH New Macau Association (ANM) lawmakers, Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San, have called on the Macau government to correct the allegedly misleading contents of the public consultation regarding the scheme that allows residents to acquire residential property (the scheme).

The lawmakers submitted a petition stating that the government must not avoid some crucial issues, such as the re-establishment of a waiting list, when consulting the public in a review of the affordable housing law.

Ng Kuok Cheong argued



that many residents have come to the ANM office, and pointed out that the consultation on the scheme for residents to acquire

residential property is highly misleading. They believe that the crucial issue concerns the land resources, which they said

the government had only "gently touched" on in the consultation.

"[The government] has not provided the chance

for residents to express their opinions on whether they want to include all the future reclamation lands and the 43,000 units on it into the Macau Property for Macau Residents (MPMR) policy, as well as using them as resources for different types of public housing projects."

Ng Kuok Cheong said that many residents have already criticized the government over the issue. He hopes that the administration can correct their mistake and turn the scheme back to focusing on MPMR in the future reclamation lands.

"[Questions include]

how much affordable housing, or other new types of public housing, is the government planning [to put on] the future reclamation area, as well as when they are going to be built. The government must give details to the residents over these issues."

Moreover, the lawmaker predicted that the government will start consulting the public regarding the review of the affordable housing law. Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San want the government to focus on the real issues of the law, including whether the points system and a waiting list should be re-introduced. **JPL**

GAMING

Macau allure may fade as tourists go farther, Pansy Ho says

Vinicy Chan

MACAU is facing threats to its growth from China's slowing economy and greater foreign competition, escalating the need for the world's largest gambling hub to diversify from its casino gaming roots.

"I'd say the slowdown in the economy and the fact that now the foreign destinations might become competitors" are the biggest risks to Macau's growth, Pansy Ho, co-chairman of MGM China Holdings Ltd, said in an interview with Betty Liu on Bloomberg Television in Hong Kong.

As Chinese tourists travel more frequently and farther afield, the city could gradually lose its appeal, said Ho, who's nicknamed "casino queen" by local media. "We're already beginning to see that the customers coming through our doors are more demanding, they now know how to differentiate."

We're already beginning to see that the customers coming through our doors are more demanding, they now know how to differentiate

PANSY HO



Pansy Ho

Chinese tourists have been powering the growth of Macau which leapfrogged the Las Vegas Strip in 2006 to become the world's largest gambling hub. Casino operators such as Ho's MGM China and Sands China Ltd. have added shops, restaurants and entertainment shows to draw mainland travelers as high-stakes gamblers cut spending amid a cooling Chinese economy.

Ho, whose father Stanley Ho held a 40-year gambling monopoly in Macau until 2002, is helping lead a drive to transform the city into a global tourism destination. The 51-year-old sees the need to cut the territory's reliance on gaming halls that raked in USD45 billion of casino revenue last year.

The city has been affected by a slowdown in gambling growth in recent months as bettors cut spending amid a cooling economy and a nationwide crackdown on corruption in China. China's President Xi Jinping's clampdown on lavish spending has hurt sales of luxury goods such as Rolex watches and Prada bags.

Macau's casinos have borrowed from other cultures to re-create features in the past and now mainland customers can afford to travel overseas to experience

the original, "real things," said Ho.

To draw more Chinese patrons, MGM China, the Macau unit of MGM Resorts International, has been adding local flair by playing up the Macanese and Portuguese influences at its properties, said Ho. Sands China competes with Italian singing gondolas and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. with Parisian cabarets.

While Pansy is in charge at Shun Tak, her younger brother Lawrence Ho, whom she described as a "friendly competitor," has gone his own way. He set up Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. in a joint venture with Australian billionaire James Packer. "For me, I try to step out of my father's shadow and do something on my own," Lawrence said in a separate interview at City of Dreams, Melco's biggest casino in Macau. "I've been trying to prove myself."

"Lawrence really wants to grow his gaming enterprise beyond Macau and grow his portfolio," said Pansy, his elder sister. "In my case, I'd like to really do more for the general well-being of Macau, promoting Macau as a destination." **Bloomberg**

EXTENDING TO HENGQIN

HO IS now extending her family's footprint to Hengqin. She will achieve that with Shun Tak Holdings Ltd., a property to transportation conglomerate set up by her father in 1972 and now run by her. "We're building hotels, serviced apartments and a shopping center," Ho said of a \$118 million project. "We're immediately connected to the custom checkpoint, so we're almost the first stop once you clear customs."

ENVIRONMENT

UN proposes building blocks of new global climate deal for 2015

Alex Morales

THE United Nations proposed a set of building blocks for a new global climate agreement, laying the groundwork for a deal to be reached at the end of next year.

The UN presented options for the format of the deal including emissions reductions, climate financing from developed to developing nations and how the agreement will be enforced. The information was included in a document posted on the website of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The document emphasizes the divergence that exists in the talks to craft a successor to the emissions-limiting Kyoto Protocol. The U.S. and other rich nations seek to break down a wall in the Kyoto deal, which set binding targets only for them. Developing nations including China, the biggest emitter, say it's up to developed ones to act first.

"A substantial amount of work remains ahead of us in order to arrive, within more or less the next nine months, at a draft legal text of the proposed agreement," the two diplomats chairing the talks, Kishan Kumarsingh of Trinidad and Tobago and the European Commission's Artur Runge-Metzger, wrote in a separate note.

The document also lays out options for developed countries to ramp up annual climate aid to poorer countries to the USD100 billion level they've pledged to reach by 2020. It calls for predictability of finance. Options range from not quantifying individual commitments to doing so on an agreed percentage formula.

Negotiators intend to complete a full legal draft of the deal six months before a conference in Paris in December 2015. They aim to gather emissions pledges from all major economies by the end of the first quarter next year. The agreement would take effect from 2020, when the current set of commitments under the Kyoto Protocol expire. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CONRAD MACAO NAMED ON THE EXPEDIA INSIDERS' SELECT LIST

Conrad Macao, Cotai Central, has announced that it has been named on the Expedia Insiders' Select list for 2014, which is an annual ranking of the best-reviewed hotels. Pulling from nearly two million verified guest reviews gathered throughout the preceding year, the Insiders' Select list recognizes the top-ranked hotels available worldwide on Expedia.

The 2014 list names only 650 hotels as Insiders' Select hotels from among the more than 290,000 bookable properties available on Expedia, Inc. websites worldwide.

"We're very pleased to be included in this year's Insiders' Select rankings," said Bede Barry, general manager, Conrad



Macao. "Our goal has always been to deliver the best possible overall experience to our guests, and it is rewarding to see our commitment to superior customer service and guest satisfaction recognized in this way."

"The hotels included in the Insiders' Select list represent the best of the best in the eyes of Expedia travelers," said John Morrey, Expedia's vice president

and general manager. "This list recognizes the hotels around the world that have worked to provide outstanding value and customer service, as well as regularly exceed guest expectations. Expedia strives to empower travelers with the best possible accommodation on any budget, and the Insiders' Select list is another tool they can use to make more informed travel decisions."

A year after internationally acclaimed magician Franz Harary's outdoor stunt with Hong Kong sweetheart Fiona Sit, the artist is back for the "Franz Harary Mega Magic 2014" on August 8 and 9 at City of Dreams Macau – a show that is designed to create a magical evening full of extraordinary feats. Last summer, the magician brought his magic performance to the Macau stage. This year, he will join forces with three other worldwide performing magicians: Christopher Hart, Les Arnold and Dolly Kent.

Awarded the title "Illusionist of the Decade" by the International Magician Society, Franz Harary has taken his magic to all parts of the world. He is considered a pioneer of magic on a grand scale. His most famous acts include the disappearance

CITY OF DREAMS PRESENTS MEGA MAGIC 2014



of the Taj Mahal in India and the Sphinx in Egypt, and the transformation of a car into an elephant in the Singapore Zoo, leaving the audience in awe in all cases.

Ever since his collaboration with Michael Jackson in the "1984 Jacksons Victory Tour,"

the flamboyant illusion master has worked with countless superstars, including Janet Jackson, Justin Bieber, Justin Timberlake, Usher and Ayumi Hamasaki, breaking new ground with innovative live illusions and introducing magic as a viable element in today's concert productions.

Wave of investments precedes first Xi Jinping visit to Brazil

A wave of large Chinese investments is preceding the long-awaited first visit to Brazil by the President of China, Xi Jinping, which is expected to seal a number of important commitments between the two governments.

The president's five days in Brazil are due to begin on 13 July when Xi Jinping will watch the Final of the World Cup in Rio de Janeiro next to Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff, but the high point of the State Visit will be the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit in Fortaleza, on 17 and 18 July, according to Brazilian press reports.

In Brasilia, on 17 July, political commitments are due to be signed to invest in improving Brazilian soy and ore logistics and for China to use its sovereign funds to support its companies in Brazil, according to Brazilian newspaper Estado de São Paulo.

The Chinese government wants to ensure that Chinese companies are involved in port and rail projects under tender in



The general view of Itamaraty Palace, in Brasilia. The palace was inaugurated on April 21, 1970, and was designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer and served as the seat for Brazil's Foreign Relations Ministry

Brazil and, particularly, those that are part of the South American integration project and that will allow for transport of ore and agricultural products to ports in the North (close to the Panama canal) and neighboring countries on the Pacific.

Taking part in these infrastructure projects also makes it possible to improve exports of Chinese products to the region.

China is also available to set up new development agencies in Brazil, using sovereign funds, by boosting the activities of the Development Bank of China in funding medium-sized companies

and state-owned provincial companies, also involving Brazilian social and development bank BNDES.

China's Foreign Trade Minister, Wang Yi, said in April, after a meeting with Brazil's Foreign Affairs Minister, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo, that Xi Jinping's official visit would be a "new stage" in the relationship between the two countries, 40 years after diplomatic relations were established.

China, Brazil and the Community of Latin American States (Celac) are due to hold a meeting of leaders and at that meeting

plans to establish a China-Celac Forum. The BRICS summit is also expected to create a BRICS development bank.

In Brasilia Wang Yi said there were plans to set up a joint regional strategic plan and an investment fund for development of the region, noting that of the more than US\$90 billion in Chinese foreign investment in 2013, just US\$16.5 billion was channeled into Latin America and the Caribbean.

Amongst the main investment is one by China's BBKA Group, of around USD320 million in a maize processing factory, mainly for export, but the most visible investments have been in factories that produce vehicles that are already a common sight on Brazil's streets.

In the first four months of the year Brazil's trade with China totaled USD25.921 billion (12.69 percent more year on year). Of the total USD10.62 billion was in Chinese exports to Brazil and the remaining USD15.291 billion were Brazilian sales to China. **MDT/Macauhub**

Angola linked to neighboring countries

Road links between Angola and neighboring countries will be in place by 2017, the director-general of the Angolan National Roads Institute (INEA) said. António Resende, speaking to Angolan news agency Angop at the re-opening of the metal bridge over the Luvo River, said that work to rebuild the cross-border roads in the south, north and east of the country was at an advanced stage. According to Angolan state newspaper Jornal de Angola the previous bridge was destroyed by excess cargo on a truck loaded with a large crane.

Japan pays for new fish market in Maputo

Construction of a new fish market in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, was paid for by aid from Japan and the new facility is expected to start operating by August 2015. The market, which is expected to cost around USD11.3m, will have 40 kiosks, 100 stalls with equipment such as cold storage units, ice machines, areas for gutting fish and a solid waste treatment system, along with other services. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided USD8.6m for the project, the Maputo city council has provided US\$1.4 million and the remainder will be secured from the State Budget.

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ECONOMY

Samsung earnings hit by slowing China sales

SAMSUNG Electronics Co. said operating profit declined to a two-year low in the second quarter, hit by the strong local currency and slowing demand for smartphones in China.

The result highlights how dependent the company has become on smartphones for its earnings. Sales growth in high-end Android devices has waned after several years of rapid expansion. Growth remains robust in emerging markets where cheap competitors have sprung up.

The South Korean electronics giant said yesterday its operating income was 7.2 trillion won (USD7.1 billion) for the three months ended June 30, down 24 percent from a year earlier. That was significantly below analysts' expectations of about 8 trillion won. The company releases its full quarterly financial results later in the month.

The figure was the lowest since the second quarter of 2012 when Samsung's income was 6.5 trillion won. Since then, Samsung's operating profit hasn't fallen below 8 trillion won, largely driven by robust sales of Galaxy smartphones.

Quarterly sales fell 10 percent from the previous year to 52 trillion won.

Samsung, which usually doesn't elaborate on its financial performance until its full report later in the month, issued a rare statement to explain its result, which Nomura analyst Chung Chang-won described as "very disappointing."

The company blamed the lower profit on the South Korean currency's appreciation against the U.S. dollar and the euro, as well as most emerging market currencies. The won hit a 6-year



A woman passes by Samsung Electronics Co.'s showroom in Seoul

high against the U.S. dollar earlier this month.

It also said sales of medium- and low-end smartphones were weak in China and in some European countries because of stronger competition and sluggish demand. Fewer consumers in China bought handsets that run on 3G mobile networks as they waited for faster 4G networks.

Samsung, which earlier this year vowed to aggressively expand its tablet sales, acknowledged it faced some challenges in selling tablet computers. Consumers weren't replacing their tablet PCs as often as smartphones, while smartphones with a giant screen of 5 or 6 inches, such as Samsung's Galaxy Note series, replaced demand

for smaller tablets that measure about 7 or 8 inches.

"Expectations have been lowered on Samsung," said Will Cho, an analyst at KDB Daewoo Securities. "With intensified competition in the mid- and low-end smartphones, it will be tough to stay as lucrative as in the past."

About three in every 10 smartphones sold globally were made by Samsung in 2013 and the company's handset sales will likely improve during the current quarter. But Cho said how much profit it can take would be more important than how many handsets it can sell because most sales growth would come from cheap smartphones.

In the cheap smartphone

market, Samsung faces an uphill battle against brands such as Xiaomi and Lenovo.

Xiaomi, an upstart Chinese company that is moving into other Asian countries, surprised the industry with its \$100-level smartphones that were snapped up by fans. Counterpoint Technology Market Research said last month that Xiaomi's \$130 smartphone Redmi was the most-sold mobile device in China in April, beating Apple's iPhone and Samsung's Galaxy.

Samsung shifted its focus to affordable smartphones, tablets and wearable devices, such as the Gear smartwatches, to offset falling profit but they are yet to arrest the declining earnings

from smartphones and components in mobile devices that Samsung supplies such as memory chips and display screens.

Shares of Samsung closed 0.2 percent higher in Seoul as the company gave an outlook that appeared to reassure investors.

"The company cautiously expects a more positive outlook in the third quarter with the coming release of its new smartphone lineup," it said. "Samsung expects stronger smartphone sales and this will have a positive impact on the company's display panel businesses."

But some analysts were not convinced about Samsung's long-term prospects.

"Though we anticipate some positive earnings impact for the component businesses (in the third quarter), we see growing uncertainty over Samsung's future earnings in the long-term," Chung, the Nomura Financial Investment analyst, said in a commentary.

Chung cited Apple's upcoming release of the iPhone 6, the increasing difficulty in standing out from a plethora of other Android devices and the falling appeal of premium smartphones, a reminder of the PC market that came to be flooded with cheap almost identical products.

Samsung is expected to announce an upgrade of the Galaxy Note series in the fall around the time when Apple usually upgrades its iPhone. **AP**

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel called on Chinese youth yesterday to help protect the environment and conserve energy, telling a group of elite university students that sustainability does not have to come at the cost of economic growth and can ensure a better world.

In a speech at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of China's top universities, Merkel said it does not make sense to separate economic performance, environmental protection and social responsibility.

"Sustainable development does not sacrifice economic growth. This is a misunderstanding. Sustainable development gives us a new opportunity to create wealth," Merkel said at the end of a three-day visit to China, where she helped open an

MERKEL TO CHINESE YOUTH

German chancellor argues for sustainability, economic growth



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Chinese Minister for Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei

urbanization forum, met with Chinese leaders and promoted German enterprises.

On Monday, Merkel criticized industrial spying during a news conference with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, but did not single out China in her comments.

Yesterday, she turned to the issue of sustainability when speaking at Tsinghua, saying developing countries such as China and India, need to work together to make the global economy more sustainable. She offered partnerships with German

enterprises in working toward that goal.

But technology alone will not be the solution, as Merkel said rule of law, free dialogue and democracy are essential to building a better, sustainable society. "It's important that citizens believe in the power of law, instead of the law of the powerful," she said.

She took several questions from Chinese students, who asked her about her experience as a female chancellor, her switch from a research scientist to a politician as well as her passion for the German national soccer team, which is set to meet the host country Brazil in a World Cup semifinal.

"It's important to watch the game and support the team tonight," Merkel said. **AP**

US-CHINA

Strategic talks get test this week

Bradley Klapper, Beijing

THE United States and China will spend time over the next couple of days testing whether their annual "Strategic and Economic Dialogue" can produce tough compromises or just serve as a venue to talk about greater cooperation.

The Obama administration comes with a clear set of priorities to this year's meeting in the Chinese capital: closer coordination against climate change, an end to Chinese industrial cyber-espionage and stricter rules governing maritime claims in Asia's contested, resource-rich seas.

But it's unclear whether Washington will be able to forge an effective agreement with Beijing in any of these areas.

All told, the two sides will canvass 60 topics when they meet today through Thursday. Economic friction centers on the valuation of China's currency and claims by American companies of unfair market restrictions in China. Strategic discussions include the threat posed by nuclear-armed North Korea.

U.S.-China gatherings in recent years have vacillated between icy and warm. The dialogue two years ago in Beijing weathered the escape from house arrest by Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng and a U.S. decision to grant him asylum. Last year in California, President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to establish "a new model of major power relations."

Yet on many issues, the U.S.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus, left, and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, right, climb to the top of the Badaling Section of the Great Wall of China in Beijing

and China are mired in disagreement, reflecting natural friction between an established superpower and an emerging one.

The United States, with the world's biggest economy and strongest military, will be led this week by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

China's economy is set to surpass the U.S. in the coming decades and its armed forces are rapidly gaining strength. It will be represented by foreign policy chief Yang Jiechi and Vice Premier Wang Yang.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, the top American diplomat for Asia outlined one area where he hoped to see progress: the restart of a cyberse-

curity working group that China shut down after the U.S. indicted five Chinese military officers. The Obama administration accused the officers of hacking into American companies' computers to steal trade secrets. China demanded the charges be withdrawn; it has no plans to extradite the men.

Such behavior from China "risks undermining the support for the U.S.-China relationship among the U.S. and international business community," Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel said. He said Beijing must address the problem of cyber-espionage.

China isn't playing ball. Its communist government has fumed since the indictments were unsealed in May, ending talks that the U.S. had hailed as a diploma-

tic coup when they were set up after Obama's summit with Xi. Obama is expected to visit China again later this year.

With no cybersecurity breakthrough likely, senior U.S. officials traveling on Kerry's plane refused to outline what would constitute a successful result this week.

Instead, they stressed the long-term importance of the two countries working through their differences for the stability of each, and the rest of the world, noting how several issues have been settled over time.

For example, the proliferation of Chinese nuclear technology, a serious worry in the 1990s, is no longer a central U.S. concern.

The last year has been difficult for U.S.-Chinese cooperation. Beyond the cyber-hacking dispute, ties are strained by Beijing's actions in the South and East China seas.

American allies Japan and the Philippines, as well as Vietnam, have become increasingly worried by Chinese efforts to drill for

oil or assert authority in waters they consider their own. China also has tried to enforce control over contested airspace.

A U.S. push to get China to agree with its neighbors on rules to settle territorial disputes has gained no ground, with Beijing dismissive of what it sees as American interference in its internal and regional affairs.

Progress could come on climate issues, said the U.S. officials, who weren't authorized to speak publicly by name on the talks and demanded anonymity.

The U.S. and China have battled for years over how to rein in carbon emissions. While an accord is improbable on that front, the officials were optimistic of new cooperation on clean energy. They didn't elaborate.

They also suggested a toughening Chinese attitude emerging toward North Korea, given Xi's recent visit to South Korea. China could still oppose any harsh criticism of its ally in the joint statement expected at the end of the meeting. **AP**

US TO PRESS CHINA ON LIBERALIZING HIGH-TECH TRADE

THE U.S. is looking for concessions from China to kick-start international negotiations on liberalizing trade in high-technology products. Trade Representative Michael Froman told reporters the U.S. wants to resolve differences with China over products covered by the Information Technology Agreement during

annual high-level U.S.-China talks in Beijing. Negotiations to update the 1996 agreement have been snared by China's desire to protect dozens of new product categories. Some 70 countries participate in the agreement, accounting for much of global trade in that sector.

Chinese scenic spot plans to sue over 'Transformers'

A company that operates a scenic landscape area in southwest China which features in the latest "Transformers" movie says it will sue its producers for breach of contract.

It is the second Chinese company to make public a dispute with Paramount Pictures over "Transformers: Age of Extinction," which heavily courts the Chinese audience with Chinese locations, actors and products and is on track to become China's biggest-ever grossing movie.

The Chongqing Wulong Karst Tourism Co. Ltd. said in a statement sent to The Associated Press yesterday that the producers had failed to show its logo prominently in the movie

as promised. As a result, it is not clear to viewers that the shots of the scenic spot in the movie are of Wulong, because they are interspersed with scenes from Hong Kong, and other tourist spots are claiming the karst peaks are theirs, it added.

It said it would file a suit at a court in Chongqing city demanding unspecified damages against Paramount Pictures and Beijing-based 1905 Internet Technology Company, one of the movie's Chinese partners. Wulong said it wanted measures taken to mitigate the damage and compensation for direct and indirect economic losses.

Paramount didn't imme-



The dragon-shaped Pangu Plaza, foreground builds in front of the National Aquatics Center, known as the Water Cube, center, and the National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, at rear, in Beijing

diately respond to a request for comment. 1905 said in a statement on its website that Wulong had not paid them on time.

Last month, a Beijing property developer said it had filed a lawsuit alleging that Paramount and two

of its Chinese associates had failed to deliver on pledges to hold the movie premiere at its hotel and feature images of its property in trailers and movie posters. Soon after the developer and Paramount said they had smoothed

out the dispute.

The latest dispute comes as China overtook the U.S. in "Transformers" box office earnings. According to the box office tracking website Box Office Mojo, the movie had earned \$213 million in China and USD175 million in the U.S. as of Sunday. It was released on the same day in both markets.

The movie is expected to become China's highest-grossing movie early this week. Currently, the 2010 movie "Avatar" holds that accolade, having made \$218 million in China.

"Transformers" has been helped by a favorable screening in China, with over half of all screens showing the film at the be-

ginning of its release.

While the first three "Transformers" movies were already good earners in China, director Michael Bay heavily courted the Chinese audience in his latest by employing Chinese stars and basing part of the action in Chinese cities. While this interested many local movie goers, some criticized its numerous product placements, including Chinese liquor and milk.

A commentary in the Beijing Times on Monday said Hollywood movies do not have to "flatter" Chinese viewers and audiences would rather watch an "interesting story than various sorts of product placements." **AP**

MYANMAR

Camp baby a brief chapter in painful story



The hands of Hasina reach down to hold her grand daughter's tiny corpse in Dar Paing

Esther Htusan, Sittwe

HOURS after Shamshu Nahad gave birth to her second child, a beautiful baby girl, her husband was digging its grave.

The tiny corpse, wrapped in white cloth, was placed on a straw mat and lowered into the moist earth, neighbors and relatives bowing their heads as they quietly recited Muslim prayers.

Like the child's life, the ceremony was brief, over in a matter of minutes.

For tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims trapped in displacement camps in western Myanmar, it is a scene that is becoming all too familiar.

The predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million has been gripped by religious violence since it started moving from military rule to democracy three years ago, leaving up to 280 people dead and sending another 140,000 fleeing their homes. Most of the victims have been Rohingya, who are denied citizenship by national law and are looked upon by much of the population with disdain.

The suffering of pregnant women and sick babies goes on silently in

the camps, in dark corners of barrack-style homes and bamboo huts.

They lost their main source of health care when the government kicked the aid group Doctors Without Borders out of Rakhine state in February. The activities of humanitarian workers helping deliver food and clean water were severely restricted after Buddhist mobs attacked their residences and offices a month later.

When complications in childbirth occur, patients cannot go to government hospitals without hard-to-get authorization and hefty bribes. Nearby clinics are usually staffed by just one or two doctors, sometimes for only a few hours a day. Many emergencies are now handled by midwives and workers in ill-equipped village pharmacies.

Nahad didn't even make it out of her makeshift bamboo hut to give birth. The 20-year-old lay on the floor for four days before going into labor, writhing in pain, her body soaked in sweat.

The young family was already deep in debt and could not afford to bribe anyone. And during her pregnancy, Nahad could not afford to eat anything except small amounts of vegetables and rice.

A midwife came, one of just three who serve more than 10,000 Rohingya in Dar Paing camp and surrounding areas. As the contractions intensified, she worked late into the night to finally coax the little girl into the world.

Four hours later, the child was dead.

Nahad was grief-stricken. She broke down into tears with every sideways glance at the small corpse in the corner of the room.

Her only other child, 2-year-old Mohammed Rohim, could not understand why he wasn't allowed to go to his mother, who could barely move because the bleeding wouldn't stop. He looked curiously at the baby, unaware it was his little sister. Finally he was shuttled from the room and placed under the care of neighbors.

When the sun came up, the midwife returned to help prepare the burial. The warm water poured over the little girl's body drained through the slats of the shack's bamboo floor. It was sprinkled with perfume and bundled up in white cloth, as is the Islamic tradition.

Nahad could hardly move. Others took her dead daughter to the mosque, walking along the muddy road between long, bamboo camp homes, sidestepping huge puddles left by monsoon rains. Some neighbors joined the procession, while others peeked out from the windows.

When they reached the cemetery, Mohammed Shafiq, the baby's 25-year-old father, dug into the wet earth with his spade. Other men took over from time to time until the hole was about 1 foot wide, 3 feet long and 3 feet deep.

There were more prayers as the tiny corpse was lowered into the grave and covered with dirt.

Nahad didn't have a chance to say goodbye. **AP**

Australia, Japan sign free trade, defense deals



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, left, poses with his Australian counterpart Tony Abbott

Kristen Gelineau, Sydney

JAPAN'S prime minister Shinzo Abe met with his Australian counterpart yesterday to sign agreements bolstering defense and trade ties between the countries.

The defense deal, which involves the transfer of military equipment and technology, comes a week after Japan's government ushered in a new era for the country's defense force by reinterpreting its pacifist constitution to allow greater use of its military to defend allies.

Abe wants Japan to have a larger role in global security amid China's growing military might. The defense policy change drew criticism from Beijing, which is embroiled in a territorial dispute with Japan.

That leaves Australia in a delicate situation, given that China is its largest trade partner. Prime Minister Tony Abbott sought to downplay any suggestion that Australia's defense deal with Japan — which centers around

plans to jointly develop stealth submarine technology — is a slight against China.

"Australia welcomes Japan's recent decision to be a more capable strategic partner in our region. I stress: Ours is not a partnership against anyone. It's a partnership for peace, for prosperity and for the rule of law," Abbott told parliament in the nation's capital, Canberra. "Our objective is engagement. And we both welcome the greater trust and openness in our region that's exemplified by China's participation in this year's RIMPAC naval exercises."

RIMPAC, or Rim of the Pacific exercises, are the world's largest maritime drills.

Abe, who is on a three-day visit to Australia, also signed a free-trade agreement that will gradually reduce Japan's nearly 40 percent tariffs on Australian exports of beef, and axe Australia's tariffs on Japanese-made vehicles, household appliances and electronics. **AP**

AD



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INDONESIA

Country divided in close presidential race



Indonesian presidential candidates, former special forces commander Prabowo Subianto, right, and Jakarta Governor Joko Widodo share a light moment prior to drawing the electoral number that will represent them in the upcoming presidential election in Jakarta

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

AS the world's third-largest democracy prepares to elect a new president today, Indonesians are divided between two very different choices: a one-time furniture maker and a wealthy ex-army general with close links to former dictator Suharto.

Just a few months ago, the election was considered firmly in favor of Joko Widodo, who rose from humble beginnings to become the governor of Jakarta with a squeaky clean political record.

But the race is now too close to

call after a late surge by Prabowo Subianto, who has wooed legions of supporters with his calls for nationalism despite allegations of widespread human rights abuses during his military career and his connection with Suharto — his former father-in-law.

When the polls open to around 190 million eligible voters today, analysts say those who are undecided will determine the winner.

The two candidates are vastly different in their policies and styles. Widodo, known by his nickname Jokowi, is a soft-spoken man who likes to wear sneakers and casual plaid shirts, listen to

heavy metal music and make impromptu visits to the slums. Seen as a man of the people who wants to advance democratic reform even though he lacks experience in national politics, he represents a break from the past as the first candidate in direct elections with no connection to Suharto-era politics.

Subianto is known for his thundering campaign speeches, a penchant for luxury cars and having trotted up to one rally on an expensive horse. He has the support of the most hardline Islamic parties and has sparked concern among foreign investors

worried about protectionism and a possible return to more authoritative policies.

"Many Indonesian Muslims prefer Prabowo's strong and dynamic character, which can stand up in facing the foreign policies of neighboring countries and the U.S.," said Ikrar Nusabhakti, a political analyst from the Indonesia Institute of Science. "While other people are responding positively to Jokowi's caring and earthy traits."

Black campaigns, as smear tactics are known here, have surfaced in both camps. But Widodo, 53, has blamed his fall in opinion polls — from a lead of more than 12 percentage points in May to just around 3.5 points now — on character assaults that accused him, among other things, of not being a follower of Islam. He has denounced the charges as lies, but says it's hard to undo the damage it caused in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

"I think these black campaigns were effective enough to convince communities," said Hamdi Muluk, a political analyst from the University of Indonesia. "And that has directly ruined Widodo's image."

But he added that Subianto's past, including ordering the kidnappings of pro-democracy activists prior to Suharto's fall in 1998, have not gone unnoticed and some voters fear a return to the brutal dictator's New Order regime. Details about the abductions surfaced recently after the official findings of an army investigative panel were leaked.

"Considering the role models and figures behind Widodo's team, I believe many new voters tend to support Jokowi," Muluk said. "A return to the New Order is not popular among youngsters or new voters. They are interested more in change."

The race is the country's third direct presidential election, and has played out with fury in the social-media crazed country of around 240 million people.

There has been a frenzy of "unfriending" on Facebook pages belonging to users who support different camps.

For the first time in its 31-year history, the English-language Jakarta Post last week endorsed a presidential candidate. In choosing Widodo of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, the paper said it simply could not remain silent because the stakes were too high.

"Rarely in an election has the choice been so definitive," it said in denouncing Prabowo. "Never before has a candidate ticked all the boxes on our negative checklist. And for that we cannot do nothing."

But Subianto, 62, of the Great Indonesia Movement Party, has been gaining allies. Outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's ruling Democratic Party, which said it was neutral earlier in the campaign, openly endorsed Subianto just two weeks before the election.

Yudhoyono, who is constitutionally barred from seeking a third term after 10 years in office, has ordered an increased police and military presence on election day to thwart potential violence.

Subianto's vows of tough leadership and promises that "Indonesia will become an Asian tiger once again" have also gained footing with some voters fed up with Yudhoyono, who has been criticized for being ineffective and weak on some issues, including those involving neighbors Australia and Malaysia. The president's party has also been plagued by a string of recent high-profile corruption scandals.

Yudi Koesnaedi, a 19-year-old college student, said Indonesia now needs a firm and authoritative leader to solve domestic problems and to answer global challenges.

"I'll go and cast my vote for the first time for president," he said. "And I think Prabowo Subianto is the most logical person to lead this country." **AP**

A powerful typhoon pummeled the southern Japanese islands of Okinawa yesterday, paralyzing transport and prompting U.S. forces based there to cancel all outdoor activity.

The Okinawan government said 10 people were injured, one seriously. Separately, a man was reported missing from a fishing boat in rough seas off Kyushu island, to the north.

One of the strongest and biggest typhoons to hit during Japan's summer months, Typhoon Neoguri was packing sustained winds of 194 kilometers per hour and gusts up to 240 kph, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

"Please refrain from no-

JAPAN

Powerful typhoon pounds Okinawa islands

nessential activities and from approaching hazardous areas," said Meteorological Agency official Satoshi Ebihara. "Please show extreme caution."

Local airports were closed and about 593,000 people were advised to evacuate their homes, though most remained put, taking refuge from the destructive winds, waves up to 14 meters (46 feet) high and storm surges that were set to intensify as the storm passed the main island of Okinawa in the evening.

More than half of the



A resident makes the rounds of his greenhouse of mango amid strong winds in Miyakojima, Okinawa, southern Japan

50,000 U.S. troops in Japan are based in Okinawa, the location of several bases, including Kadena, the biggest U.S. air base in Asia. An advisory on its website said the storm was at a level for which all outdoor activity was prohibited.

Television footage showed a building shattered, damaged storefronts and trees toppled as winds picked up in the Okinawan capital of Naha.

Since typhoons track along Japan's coasts, often veering onshore every

summer, the country is relatively well prepared. Much greater damage is likely from torrential rains if the typhoon hits land as expected tomorrow or Friday and moves across the Japanese archipelago.

The storm was moving slowly and diminishing in intensity, but its wide area and slow movement could add to the potential damage, weather forecasters said.

Authorities in China and Taiwan also warned ships to stay clear of the storm. **AP**

GEOPOLITICS

Expedience, pragmatism shape new Asian alliances

Eric Talmadge

MOSCOW is cozying up to its old rival China. China is holding hands with Seoul. Tokyo is striking deals with Pyongyang.

In the ever-shifting game of Asian alliances, where just about everybody has a dispute over something or can actually remember a shooting war with their neighbors, past grudges run deep. But expedience and pragmatism often run deeper.

While U.S. President Barack Obama tries to develop his pivot to Asia policy, the region is rapidly spinning ahead in its own direction, energized by dynamic economies, expanding trade relations and a plethora of longstanding disputes and rivalries.

For sure, the world's mightiest countries, themselves Pacific powers, still throw a lot of weight around. But as they jockey for advantage in the world's most populous region, relations across Asia are fluid. Many countries, both at the center of the power game and on the sidelines, have both a chance to capitalize and a risk of getting frozen out.

TURNING EAST. Washington was long able to capitalize on Cold War rifts between Russia and China, but Dmitry Trenin, the director of Carnegie Moscow Center, recently wrote that the two are rebuilding a relationship likely to grow significantly stronger. This trend has accelerated in part because of Moscow's frustration with the West over its Ukraine sanctions.

"They are not in a clear alliance, and have a number of diverging, even partially colliding, interests. But they both challenge the global order in which the United States is the norm-setter and the sole arbiter," he wrote. "The Chinese do this in a much subtler way than the Russians, but both appear to have come to the conclusion that working one's way into the U.S.-dominated system is not worth it."

Symbolic of Moscow's moves toward Beijing is a USD400 billion deal they signed last month, after decades of negotiations that went nowhere, to supply China with natural gas through a new pipeline. President Vladimir Putin called the deal "epochal" though he reportedly had to accept a lower-than-hoped-for price.

In Russia, the effort to impro-

AP PHOTO



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, is greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping before the opening ceremony at the fourth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) summit in Shanghai

ve relations with China is called Putin's Pivot.

"A strong Russian-Chinese connection has taken shape on the international arena. It is based on a coincidence of views on both global processes and key regional issues," Putin said earlier this month.

Trenin noted that U.S. relations with China and with Russia are substantially worse than bilateral relations between Beijing and Moscow. He said that is in part because Washington has failed to take Russia seriously as a strategic player in the region. Beijing, meanwhile, may come out with access to more resources and a more secure northern front.

"The unique position that the United States has held since the 1990s as the dominant power in Eurasia is now history," Trenin concluded.

TRADING PARTNERS. Here's a puzzle. Why would the president of China, North Korea's closest thing to an ally, snub Kim Jong Un and go to Seoul to woo his archrival, South Korean President Park Geun-hye, which he did to many a raised eyebrow last week?

Fact is, China isn't getting a lot of love from its Asian neighbors these days.

Major trading partner Japan is outraged over what it sees as China's increasingly assertive claim to a set of small, uninhabited islands in the East

China Sea. Vietnam and the Philippines have similar beefs over islands in the South China Sea. North Korea, though still reliant on Chinese aid, trade and political backing on the international stage, continues to develop nuclear weapons, and sidle up to Moscow, regardless of Beijing's grumblings.

So, while recalibrating its own relations with Moscow, why not try to sneak a kiss from one of Washington's better friends?

China's overtures to South Korea — including the Seoul visit — play into its larger ambitions to build a China-centered network of alliances that sidesteps the U.S. and Japan, said Willy Lam, a political science professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He added that China is already South Korea's No. 1 trade partner.

Beijing is also trying to show the South that China, and not the U.S., is the solution to the North Korea crisis, said Christopher Johnson, a former China analyst with the CIA who's now chairman of China studies at U.S. think tank the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Obviously, (the South Koreans) are never going to break away from their alliance with the U.S.," he said. But he added that China has been "trying to convince the South that they, and not the alliance with the U.S. and Japan, are the key to Seoul's North Korea problem."

Increasingly, that is seen as a persuasive argument — China's rise has unmistakably changed the power equation in Asia. Seen in that way, Johnson says, Beijing's choice of Seoul over Pyongyang makes perfect strategic sense.

"Different tactics, different approaches for different partners," Johnson said.

BREAKING RANKS, A LI-TTLE. Washington has had no closer and more reliable ally in Asia than Japan, which depends on the U.S. for protection and trade.

But Japan's increasingly angry reaction to its territorial spat with Beijing, its fears of increased Chinese military might and its stalemate with Russia over a different set of disputed islands up north have made many in Tokyo wary.

Breaking ranks with Washington and Seoul, hawkish Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has revived bilateral negotiations with North Korea over the matter of Japanese abductees in the North. The issue is of key interest to the Japanese public but decidedly back-burner to Japan's allies, who would prefer to isolate the North over its nuclear weapons policy.

Abe also led the charge last week as Japan decided to reinterpret its constitution to allow greater use of military force to defend its allies. The move was welcomed by Washington, whi-

ch is bound by a security treaty to aid the country if Japan ever comes under attack. But it also underscored fears in Japan that it cannot simply expect Washington to come to the rescue anymore, along with hopes among some Japanese leaders for a bigger say in regional security.

"Countries in the region are increasingly concerned about tension over China's high-handed approach, and showing high expectations for Japan's role," said Narushige Michishita, director of the Security and International Studies Program at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo. "Previously, Japan could have said, 'We cannot contribute to the region because we cannot exercise the right to collective self-defense.' Japan now has lost that excuse."

PLAYING THE FIELD. For those who can't throw their weight around like Moscow, Beijing or Washington, India has some words of wisdom — hedge your bets.

India has long maintained a policy of nonalignment, deliberately keeping itself away from strong, exclusive alliances in favor of playing the field and pushing for a multipolar world order that would give India more say in global governance. In the unsure waters of Asia, hedging your bets isn't such a bad idea.

"It's a frenemy kind of relationship," said Sreeram Chaulia, dean of the Jindal School of International Affairs in New Delhi. "Everyone is a frenemy to everyone else. It's a much more complex world. No one can clearly say 'I'm an ally of so-and-so.'"

"Our strategy is a hedging strategy — and every other player is also doing this. These days, the economy has been separated from security issues. You can have booming trade and healthy investment alongside territorial disputes," Chaulia said.

India has more potential to be a major player than most in Asia, and good cause for worry about China. Its main concern — shared in many Asian capitals — is whether the Chinese military will become so mighty that Beijing can effectively dictate orders. India's most obvious partner in this is Japan, and the two have always been friendly.

"India wants to counterbalance China to some extent. India believes that will give it some breathing space strategically," Chaulia said.

"Despite its apparent political stability, China is a powder keg with no outlets for expression and an authoritarian regime," he said, echoing a concern held widely throughout Asia. "It could remain stable and keep on growing, as everyone seems to assume it will. But if it becomes unstable, it will have a huge effect on the region." **AP**

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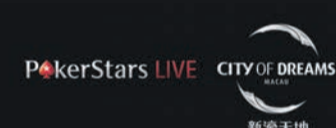
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what's ON



TRANSFORMERS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXPO
TIME: 11am-8pm

UNTIL: October 5, 2014

VENUE: Hall F, Cotai Expo

ADMISSION: MOP100

Enquiries: (853) 2882 8818

PIONEERING THE NEW CULTURE MOVEMENT
- AN EXHIBITION OF QIAN XUANTONG

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admission after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: October 5, 2014

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FRAMES OF TIME - PHOTOGRAPHY
OF OLD BUSINESS UNITS OF MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm

(No admission after 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 13, 2014

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU ARTS WINDOW:

THE POSTURE OF DEATH - POETRY AND
PHOTOGRAPHY BY WONG MAN FAI

TIME: 10 am to 7 pm

(No admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 13, 2014

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE AGE OF HARVEST - PAINTINGS
AND CALLIGRAPHIES OF AU HO-NIEN

TIME: 10am-7pm

(closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)

UNTIL: August 31, 2014

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art,

Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: MOP5

(Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

FAM: COLLOTYPE • RECURRENCE

- SPATIAL CONVERGENCE OF JOHN THOMSON
AND WONG HO SANG

TIME: 10am-6pm

UNTIL: August 31, 2014

VENUE: Macau Museum

ADMISSION: MOP15

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

Offbeat

LOCH NESS MONSTER IT AIN'T:
6-FOOT CROC IN... GREECE!

Greece has its own lake monster — and it's no Nessie. The Fire Brigade and authorities on the resort island of Crete say a 6-foot crocodile was spotted last week in a man-made lake near the seaside town of Rethymno. Crocodiles are not native to Greece.

Regional official Vangelis Mamangakis said this week it was unclear how long it has been there. He told private Antenna TV that parts of the lake have been fenced off and efforts will be made Thursday to remove it. He said the crocodile was probably a pet that grew too big for its owner, who "thought it would be a good idea to dump it in the lake."

Residents are blaming the crocodile for missing lambs and ducks, and souvenir shops are now selling inflatable crocodiles.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
16:45	The Life We Lead (Repeated)
17:30	TDM Interview (Repeated)
18:00	2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil Semi Final: Brazil - Germany (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary Serie
21:30	Cougar Town S3
22:00	The Life We Lead
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Sports
23:45	Miscellaneous
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
04:00	2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil Semi Final: Netherlands - Argentina (Live)

cinema

CINETEATRO

03 JUL - 09 JUL

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION_

ROOM 1

2.30, 9.00 pm (2D)

6.00pm (3D)

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor,

Li Bingbing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2_

ROOM 2

2.15, 4.00, 7.30 pm (2D)

5.45 pm (3D)

Director: Dean DeBlois

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 102min

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION_

ROOM 2

9.15 pm (2D)

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor,

Li Bingbing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

SON OF GOD_

ROOM 3

2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm

Director: Christopher Spencer

Starring: Diogo Morgado

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 138min

MALEFICENT_

ROOM 3

7.30 pm

Director: Robert Stromberg

Starring: Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

MACAU TOWER

03 JUL - 16 JUL

TRANSFORMERS: AGE OF EXTINCTION_ (3D)

2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm

Director: Michael Bay

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor,

Li Bingbing

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

this day in history

2001 SCIENTISTS DISCOVER WHY
WE ARE HERE

A Californian University has thrown more light on why the Big Bang works after nearly 40 years of world-wide research.

Most scientists accept that the universe began with the Big Bang and the existence - in equal amounts - of matter and anti-matter.

The theory has been complicated by the fact that if matter and anti-matter were present in equal amounts they would cancel each other out and there would not be a universe.

Experiments by Stanford University's international team of physicists have provided the most substantial proof yet that matter and anti-matter decay at different rates and this explains the continued pre-dominance of matter.

This process is called charge-parity (CP) violation and derives from research in the 1950s and 1960s by theorists like Andrei Sakharov.

The evidence for CP has rested solely on - increasingly accurate - measurements of the different decay rates of the sub-atomic particle, neutral K meson and its anti-particle.

Now the team working at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (Slac) has observed CP violation in a heavier particle/anti-particle pair related to B meson.

They made their discovery using a 1,200 tonne detector called Babar, designed, built and operated by 600 scientists and engineers, many from the UK.

Babar forces particles to crash into each other and simulate the effects of the Big Bang deep under the Californian landscape.

The findings of the Slac team will be published in the journal Physical Review Letters.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The idea of anti-matter has been around since 1928 when British physicist Paul Dirac suggested the existence of atoms with negatively charged anti-protons at the centre and positively charged electrons - positrons - orbiting them. Ordinary atoms consist of a positively charged nucleus surrounded by negatively charged electrons.

It is very difficult to make anti-matter and requires powerful particle accelerators like Babar.

Scientists estimate that around 20kg of anti-matter like anti-hydrogen - first produced in Switzerland in 1997 - could power a spaceship across the galaxy.

Over the past 10 years particle physicists in Europe, the US and Asia have put together plans for a gigantic, £3bn particle accelerator.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You're not feeling as comfortable as you would like with this new social situation...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're feeling a bit caught up in emotional drama today - so much so that you might feel weird about speaking out loud...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to show those people what you're made of - which could mean almost anything. Willpower is the most important quality...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Someone comes to you with a proposal that sounds too good to be true. Well, that could be because it is - but even if you're sure they're being honest...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your psychic powers are in play today - which probably means that your hunches are a bit more accurate than usual. Follow up on them and see if you can get a leg up on the competition.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 An old ambition turns out to be unrealistic - but that's okay! You pride yourself on your common sense, so choose something that you can actually achieve.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Today is all about money - so make sure that you're paying attention to your accounts. It's a good time for you to rework your budget or look for additional sources of income.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You feel stronger than ever today - and with good reason! Your amazing personal energy helps you to see the difference between where you are and where you want to be.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're stuck in your head for much of today, but that's no big deal - in fact, you really need to make sure that you're exploring inner space.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Feel confident in the decisions you make today - you are sharp enough to see all the angles and think through everything that matters.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 A recent move up (at work or somewhere else) leaves you with mixed feelings. That's not to say that things are bad, just that sometimes you doubt yourself.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Emotions are boiling over today - but you can see that it's all for the best. Things are looking up for you and your people, and this outlet is clearing the path for better things to come.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard, each with a 9x9 grid and some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Vamp Theda; 5- Black key; 10- Persian fairy; 14- ___-deucey; 15- Device with 88 keys; 16- Like the Gobi; 17- Reserved; 20- Errands; 21- Sisters' daughters; 22- Comparative suffix; 23- ___ Fein; 24- Sibelius's "Valse ___"; 28- "Star Trek" role; 29- Small batteries; 32- It comes from the heart; 33- Coil; 34- "Hard ___" (sailor's yell); 35- Direct; 38- Digits of the foot; 39- Breezy; 40- Borden's spookscow; 41- Unit of energy; 42- Poet Pound; 43- Placard; 44- Get ready; 45- Apex; 46- Oblique; 49- Guaranteed to succeed; 54- At the same time; 56- Hue; 57- "Silas Marner" author; 58- Black cuckoos; 59- Word of woe; 60- Raison ___; 61- "All The Way To ___", song by REM; DOWN: 1- Oz creator; 2- Skin eruption; 3- Ohio nine; 4- Affirmative votes; 5- Orbital extreme; 6- More delicate; 7- Colleen; 8- Hill dweller; 9- Screw bean; 10- Communion plate; 11- Slang expert Partridge; 12- Tear apart; 13- March time; 18- Rum cocktail; 19- Hokkaido native; 23- Like breakers on the shore; 24- Flavor; 25- Helicopter part; 26- Like some vbs.; 27- RR stops; 28- Kama ___; 29- As ___ resort; 30- Eagle's home; 31- Passover feast; 33- Bird sound; 34- Hole-making tools; 36- Published; 37- Start again; 42- Sea eagles; 43- Buccaneer; 44- Trousers; 45- Teacher; 46- Official records; 47- Dirty; 48- Director Wertmuller; 49- Bad mood; 50- Extreme reverence; 51- Actress Skye; 52- Undoing; 53- Canadian gas brand; 55- Bar order

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999; Fire department 28 572 222; PJ (Open line) 993; PJ (Picket) 28 557 775; PSP 28 573 333; Customs 28 559 944; S. J. Hospital 28 313 731; Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333; Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300; IACM 28 387 333; Tourism 28 333 000; Airport 59 888 88; Taxi (Yellow) 28 519 519; Taxi (Black) 28 939 939; Water Supply - Report 1990 992; Telephone - Report 1000; Electricity - Report 28 339 922; Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE and FOR RENT advertisement for JML Property, including website and contact info.

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Edf. Kam Lai Kuok, Manhattan E Unit, Chuen Yuen Garden, Hellene Gardens Car Park, Nam Van Peninsula, Hellene Garden, The Praia Tower 3, and A Unit, Fu On.

JML Property logo and contact information, including '卓雅物業' and 'since 1994'.



ANALYSIS

Brazil World Cup killed 'beautiful game'

John Leicester
Sports Columnist, Belo Horizonte

BECAUSE it is turning out better than expected, the World Cup is doing more good than harm to brand Brazil. The opposite is true for Brazil's brand of football.

The national team's grinding route to the semifinals, its play pockmarked with fouls, gamesmanship and win-at-all-costs realpolitik, has driven a stake through the myth of Brazilian football as art and through the hearts of us fools who nurtured and clung to it.

I can't have been the only one before this World Cup who dusted off precious memories of falling under the spell of Brazil's yellow-shirted Selecao. Too young for the era of Pele, Brazilians who bewitched me were Zico and the teams of 1978 and 1982.

Nelinho's thunderbolt in the match for third place against Italy in 1978, arcing off his right foot across the penalty area and bending majestically beyond Italy goalkeeper and captain Dino Zoff. Falcao against the Soviet Union in 1982, letting a pass from Paulo Isidoro run between his legs to Eder, who flicked the ball up and volleyed it in.

Eder celebrated by doing a forward roll. This wasn't just football, it was narcotic. Those teams didn't win the World Cup. But for those of us who weren't Brazilian, that didn't matter. We were hooked.

Even when Brazil reined in the beauty to win in 1994 and 2002, it still did enough to enchant. Beбето's rock-a-bye-baby goal celebra-



Brazil's Neymar falls after colliding with Colombia's Mario Yepes

tion against the Netherlands helped wash down the bile of Brazil drawing 0-0 with Italy in the final and needing a penalty shoot-out to secure its fourth World Cup.

The story of Ronaldo's resurrection, his eight goals with surgically repaired knee ligaments, put glitter on Brazil's fifth World Cup win in 2002. But South Korea won the FIFA award as the most entertaining team at that tournament it co-hosted with Japan.

Naively in hindsight, because of its glorious past, I tricked myself into believing this time that Brazil might want to shine on home soil, that its fine players would want to live up to the standards of predecessors who put the five stars â one for each World Cup win â on the shirts they now wear.

This, the marketers assured us, would be the Copa das Copas â

the cup to beat all World Cups, a return after 64 years to the country that took a game born in England and elevated it to a higher plane. You can be sure that fans hummed Gilberto Gil tunes to themselves on flights over here, heads full of dreamy expectations and flashbacks of Socrates and other futebol sorcerers with one name and two magical feet.

And there has been fabulous football, but only smatterings of it from Brazil, mostly from Neymar, the team's principal entertainer now out with a broken back.

The pre-game soundtrack played in stadiums to whip up the crowds includes "Thunderstruck" by hard-rock band AC/DC, appropriate for the muscular, functional football Brazil played in the group stages and to knock out Chile and then Colombia to advance to the

semifinal against Germany, a team easier on the eye.

Brazil has been a scrappy team, committing more fouls â 96 so far â than any other and collecting 10 yellow cards, again the most with Costa Rica. Against Colombia, Brazil's players ganged up on James Rodriguez, taking turns to foul the 22-year-old because he was central to that team's electric attacks and scored half of its tournament-leading 12 goals.

David Luiz's goal against Colombia, arching over the wall and back down past David Ospina, was a gem, as spell-binding as Zico's free-kick against Scotland in 1982.

Neymar also scored a pretty good goal against Croatia, although the toe-poke from his teammate Oscar at the end of that opening match to make the score 3-1 for Brazil was probably bet-

ter. Oscar's run, however, started with Ramires charging into Ivan Rakitic, clattering him off the ball and to ground, which the referee chose to ignore.

Neymar also scored a couple for the highlight reel against Cameroon.

But other Brazilian goals were unspectacular. Thiago Silva used his knee to bundle in against Colombia. Luiz barely touched the goal FIFA credited to him against Chile. Striker Fred isn't even a pale imitation of Ronaldo, Romario and other illustrious Brazilian goal-getters of the past. Fred's only goal was a header against Cameroon. He hoodwinked the referee into awarding a penalty against Croatia by tumbling over like Bambi on ice.

Brazil has simply become like many other teams in doing these things.

In winning ugly, rather than losing beautifully, Brazil is merely marching to modern football's tune that victory is all that matters. Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and his players have 200 million Brazilians breathing down their necks, expecting deliverance. So the players can perhaps be forgiven for doing whatever it takes to get that weight off their back.

"What's remembered in the history of football is the victory," Zico said on the eve of the semifinal. "Our team in 1982 scored goals because we played beautifully but didn't win, so we're not part of history."

Maybe not, but that team lives on fans' hearts.

If it doesn't win, this Brazil team won't do that. **AP**

Tributes flow for Real Madrid great Di Stefano

TRIBUTES flowed as quickly as the news of Alfredo Di Stefano's death spread across continents, with Pele joining modern stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi among the thousands praising the Real Madrid great as a luminary of the game.

Di Stefano, the Argentine forward who helped lead Madrid in its glorious era in the 1950s and 60s, passed away on Monday aged 88, two days after he was hospitalized following a heart attack.

"Don Alfredo leaves us, but his memory will last forever in our hearts," Real Madrid star Ronal-

do wrote on Twitter. "Legends never die. Thanks for everything Maestro."

Messi, the Barcelona star who is in Brazil preparing to lead Argentina into the World Cup semifinals against Netherlands, said: "The world lost a legend today, Don Alfredo Di Stefano."

"An amazing man on and off the field," Messi added in a Facebook post. "My thoughts are with his family and friends."

Pele posted a tribute on Twitter from Brazil, saying the "the openness between Latin American players and European clubs is very much due to

the work of Alfredo Di Stefano."

"He was a trailblazer, and most of all, he was a legend of the game. God rest his soul."

Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson told Sky Sports News that Di Stefano was among the greatest players of all time due to his balance and poise — "unbelievable he was."

"I was very sad to hear the news. Even at 88 it is a bit of a shock," Ferguson said.

Real's president Florentino Perez said "Real Madrid's best player has left us."



Alfredo di Stefano controls the ball during the first game of the Little World Cup Series, in Caracas, Venezuela



Mike Corder, Rio de Janeiro

Netherlands v Argentina
Home 3.4, Draw 3.5, Away 2.46

MATCH OF THE DAY

Dribblers Messi and Robben face off in semifinal

THE World Cup's best dribblers — Lionel Messi and Arjen Robben — face off when Argentina and Netherlands meet in the semifinals.

In Brazil, Robben has been quick, Messi has been quicksilver.

Today in Sao Paulo [Thursday, 4am], either one could turn the semifinal with a dazzling turn of pace or a weaving run to propel his team to the final.

"We have to cut the supply line to Messi," Dutch defender Bruno Martins Indi told Dutch website Nu.nl.

The Barcelona star led Argentina through the group stage with four goals. He has also made 180 passes in his five matches so far.

The Dutch have shared the goal-scoring duties more evenly — Robben and Robin van Persie each have three, Memphis Depay has two of the team's total of 12 — but the Bayern Munich winger's scintillating sprints with the ball have often been the highlights of Oranje matches.

"We know that we will play against one of the best teams when it comes to counterattacks because of the speed of their men up front," Argentina midfielder Javier Mascherano said. "So we have to take precautions to not give them the possibility to counterattack, to always be well positioned, to not lose balls unnecessarily in areas where there's a lot of risk."

After scoring 10 times in group play, the Netherlands has managed only two in its two knock-out matches and the Dutch will be



Argentina's Lionel Messi

hoping captain Van Persie regains his touch in front of goal. He looked off the pace and missed an easy chance near the end of regulation time in the quarterfinal against Costa Rica.

The Netherlands will again be without their powerful midfield controller Nigel de Jong, who has a torn groin muscle. A possible replacement, Leroy Fer, is recovering from a hamstring injury and it is not clear if he will be fit for today's semifinal at the Itaquerao Stadium.

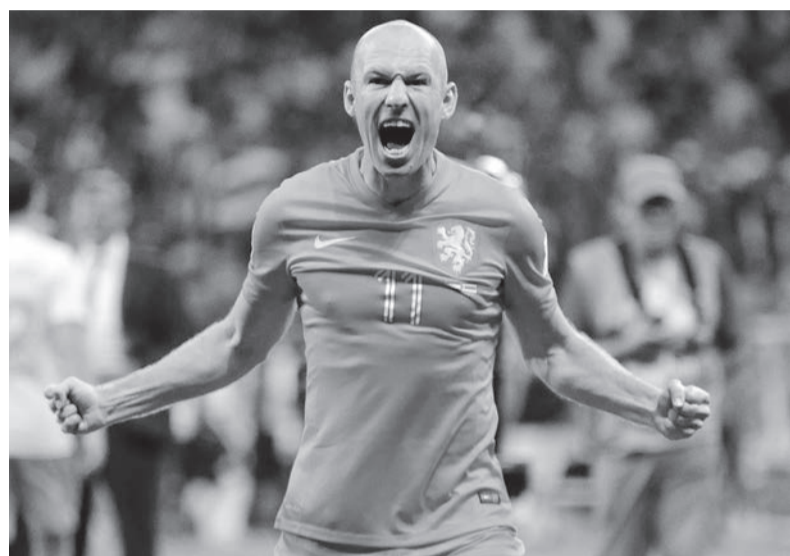
Argentina will be without Real Madrid winger Angel Di Maria, who limped off in the first half of his country's quarterfinal win over Belgium with a right thigh

injury, but striker Sergio Aguero has been declared fit after recovering from a similar problem.

Di Maria scored the extra-time winner against Switzerland in the second round and set up Gonzalo Higuain's winning goal in the first half against Belgium on Saturday.

"He's a good player, but we look at the whole team, not one player," Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen said. "We're going to watch ... how Argentina plays. We're going to make our plan to beat Argentina."

Whether that plan again could involve Cillessen being substituted a minute before a penalty shootout and replaced with the



Netherlands' Arjen Robben

more physically imposing Tim Krul — as happened against Costa Rica — remains to be seen.

The move by tactical mastermind Louis van Gaal was the World Cup's most surprising substitution and one of its most effective as Krul stopped two penalties.

"We are ready for everything," Krul said. "Hopefully, we don't need it against Argentina and we can do the job in 90 minutes."

The two sides have a long World Cup history, including one of the Netherlands' most heart-breaking losses, in the 1978 final when Rob Rensenbrink's shot hit the post shortly before full time with the scores level at 1-1.

Argentina went on to win 3-1 in extra time.

In 1998, the Dutch led by Guus Hiddink got a measure of revenge when Dennis Bergkamp's memorable goal knocked Argentina out in the quarterfinals in France.

Cillessen said beating Argentina in Sao Paulo would only be a step on the way to making amends for the 1978 final — one of three the Netherlands has lost, earning the Dutch the title of the best team never to win the World Cup.

"It would be revenge if we win the World Cup," Cillessen said. "But we have to wait for that. It's not a final. It's a semi." **AP/Odds by Betfair**

TICKET SCALPING

WCup hospitality exec arrested in probe

A senior executive with the official World Cup corporate hospitality provider was arrested yesterday in the plush beachside hotel where FIFA President Sepp Blatter is staying, as part of a Brazilian police investigation into illegal ticket sales.

Ray Whelan, a director of MATCH Services, was arrested at the Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro, the hotel used by senior FIFA officials during the World Cup.

Whelan was detained as part of a larger police investigation dubbed "Operation Jules Rimet." He was characterized by police investigator Fabio Barucke as being the "facilitator" who allowed a large ring of scalpers to have access to tickets.

In an emailed statement, police said Whelan was heard on wiretapped phone calls negotiating ticket prices with Algerian national Mohamadou Lamine Fofana, who they accuse of being the ringleader of the scalpers.

Whelan was arrested inside his luxury suite Monday afternoon (yesterday, Macau time), where police said they confiscated 82 tickets for upcoming matches, along with Whelan's computer, cellphone and other unspecified documents.

Under Brazilian law, the 64-year-old Whelan may only be charged by prosecutors after they receive the complete police investigation, which officers have 30 days to complete. Investigators said Whelan was still being questioned inside a



Ray Whelan, a long-standing director and project manager within the MATCH group, arrives at a police station after being arrested, in Rio de Janeiro

precinct Monday evening — and that he would spend the night in jail.

A spokesman for MATCH Hospitality, the subsidiary in the MATCH group of companies implicated in the investigation, didn't

immediately reply to requests for comment.

Re-selling World Cup tickets for profit is illegal in Brazil and against FIFA rules. Police arrested 11 people, including Fofana, and seized 131 game tickets last week — at least 70 of them for corporate hospitality.

Police said then that Fofana had connections to FIFA or MATCH, and the original source of the tickets to be sold at hugely inflated prices was "someone higher up." Police said they had information from 50,000 phone calls they tapped during their scalping investigation and Fofana had access to restricted areas at the Copacabana Palace.

MATCH Hospitality is the main provider of hospitality packages for the Wor-

ld Cup and paid USD240 million for the exclusive rights to sell corporate hospitality at the 2010 and 2014 World Cups. Blatter's nephew, Philippe Blatter, is the president of a company which is a shareholder in MATCH Hospitality.

FIFA said earlier Monday that it had provided police with lists of telephone numbers for its staff and that of its service providers, which included MATCH, the group which runs ticketing, travel, accommodation and technology services at the World Cup. MATCH Hospitality had earlier distanced itself from the ticket scalping scandal in a statement.

"MATCH Hospitality will be fully assisting the police in investigating the matter," it said.

Of the more than 3 million purchasable tickets for the tournament, 445,500 were allocated to MATCH Hospitality, according to FIFA. Any unsold or unused corporate hospitality tickets should be returned to FIFA to be made available to the public.

Police estimated last week that the scalping ring was making 1 million Brazilian reals (\$455,000) per game by re-selling tickets on the black market. They were hoping to get \$16,000 per ticket for the July 13 World Cup final in Rio, they said.

Fofana runs a company that is one of MATCH Hospitality's customers. MATCH said that Fofana's Atlanta Sportif Management and three other companies, two of them official MATCH Hospitality agents, had their remaining World Cup ticket allocations blocked or canceled after some of their tickets ended up in the hands of scalpers. **AP**

opinion

Vox Parva
 Benedict Keith Ip



HOPEFUL INVOCATION OF THE FEAST OF THE CHINESE MARTYRS

The church sets July 9 as the Feast of the Holy Martyrs and Blessed of China, or in shorter terms, the Feast of the Chinese Martyrs. It is a relatively new feast that commemorates when Saint John Paul II canonized 120 Chinese martyrs from the second millennium as Saints. I remember, on October 1, the ceremony was immersed in heavy rain, yet filled with solemnity by the Pope's profound and wishful invocation to both named and unnamed faithful dating from around 1648 to 1930.

Martyrs are those who are killed because of their religious beliefs. They shed their blood to defend and witness the truth, value and faith. These values are not limited to, but usually include, human dignity, the meaning of life, peaceful intention, and so forth. In fact, Tertullian, father of "Latin Christianity" during an early church period, describes the nature of martyrdom as "the blood of the martyrs is seed" (Apologeticum 50, 12). So Christians are not only baptized by water to become the seed of the church, but by blood as well.

Unfortunately, the hopeful prayer became a taboo topic for China, as the Central government considered the canonization as a promotion of colonialism. Some martyrs, for example, St. Auguste Chapdelaine, MEP, were drawn into a religious cause, which led to the Second Opium War. In that period of time, the Church benefited from, but was also a victim of, colonialism, and it is not my intention to comment on ideas related to patriotism in these few paragraphs, as the reasons are far beyond this.

After the canonization ceremony, the Holy Father immediately responded on the following day in hope of easing the situation. He emphasized the glories of these martyrs, who are truly "the noble people of China" because of their "heroic fidelity to Christ and the greatness of their souls." He tried to neutralize this issue by expressing the proper motive of the Church in the following sentences: "You all know that the majority of the 120 Martyrs shed their blood in historical periods which rightly have a special meaning for your people. In reality, they were tragic situations marked by violent social disturbances.

With yesterday's canonization, the Church certainly does not wish to make a historical judgment on those periods, much less to justify certain actions taken by governments of the time, which weighed heavily on the history of the Chinese people. She wishes, instead, to highlight the heroic fidelity of these worthy children of China, who did not let themselves be intimidated by the threats of a ferocious persecution."

The Holy Father added, "Some people, through a partial and non-objective reading of history, see only limitations and errors in their missionary activity. If there— is any man ever free of faults, — we ask forgiveness." Everyone has faults, and what we have to do, as Pope Francis also teaches us many times, is practice forgiveness.

St. John Paul II's genuine invocation is to demonstrate and follow the true way for the Church: "A way interwoven with profound and respectful intercultural dialogue, as Fr Matteo Ricci wisely and skilfully taught; a way consisting in the daily offering of one's life."

The American late-night talk show "Conan" has racked up more than 3 million hits since its debut on an online video site in China.

The comedy show hosted by Conan O'Brien and featuring celebrity interviews is available on the website of Sohu Video, a unit of Chinese online media group and Nasdaq-listed Sohu.com Inc., the company said yesterday.

It is accompanied with Chinese subtitles and, in less than two weeks, has received

more than 3 million hits.

Like other Chinese online video sites, Sohu licenses many hit American TV shows, including the late-night U.S. comedy sketch show "Saturday Night Live" and Ellen DeGeneres' talk show.

Online video isn't as heavily regulated as television in China and so has more freedom to show dramas and comedies from the United States and other countries.

Gandhi to join Churchill, Mandela in London square



Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, right, shakes hand with British Foreign Secretary William Hague, in New Delhi, India

Katy Daigle, New Delhi

A statue of India's pacifist freedom fighter Mohandas K. Gandhi will be placed in London's Parliament Square alongside other famous statesmen, including his political adversary Winston Churchill, the British government said yesterday.

Gandhi helped lead India's campaign of civil disobedience to British colonial rule until India and Pakistan gained independence in 1947. But the white-robed pacifist was assassinated a few months later

by a radical Hindu nationalist who objected to his secular vision for India.

"Gandhi remains a towering inspiration and a source of strength," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in announcing the planned statue during a visit to New Delhi yesterday, according to a statement from Britain's Foreign Office.

While many in India and across the world still see Gandhi as the country's greatest hero, Churchill was no great fan. Instead, Churchill — who was Britain's prime minister

from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951-55 — was reportedly disturbed by Gandhi's "striding half naked" into the British viceroy's palace in 1931 "to parlay on equal terms with the representative of the Emperor-King" while simultaneously conducting a resistance campaign.

He also famously derided the devout Hindu as a middling lawyer who was "posing as a fakir," or holy man.

The Gandhi statue would also join others of famous British and foreign statesmen, including Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela. The clipped green lawn of Parliament Square is also a site for demonstrations and protests next to the country's Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey.

Britain hopes the new statue will be up by the summer of 2015, in time for the 100th anniversary of Gandhi's return to India from South Africa, where he worked as a lawyer after earning his law degree in London.

"Gandhi's view of communal peace and resistance to division, his desire to drive India forward, and his commitment to nonviolence left a legacy that is as relevant today as it was during his life," Hague said while visiting the white Gandhi memorial building in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Hague was also meeting Tuesday with new Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other officials, after visiting the financial capital of Mumbai on Monday. AP

SRI LANKA

Hardline Buddhists want Pope Francis to apologize

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

A Buddhist group accused of instigating recent attacks on Muslims in Sri Lanka says Pope Francis must apologize to Buddhists for atrocities allegedly committed by Christian colonial rulers of the South Asian island nation when he visits next year.

"We are waiting till the Pope comes to see what he is going to say about the crimes here," Rev. Galagoda Atte Gnanasara, a leader of Bodu Bala Sena, or Buddhist Power Force group, told a meeting with foreign correspondents.

"The Portuguese, Dutch and the British are all the same to us," he said referring to the countries that had established colonies in Sri Lanka one after another from 1505 to 1948. Roman Catholicism was established in Sri Lanka by the Portuguese, while the Dutch and the British established their own Christian denominations.

"Previous Popes had made public apologies to certain countries because they destroyed, they killed. We had a similar situa-

tion, most of the Buddhist temples were destroyed by them (they) killed Buddhist monks. We would like to see that public apology from him," said Gnanasara, whose comments were made Monday but embargoed until Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the Catholic church.

The monks leading Bodu Bala Sena have amassed a significant following in recent years, drawing thousands of followers.

At rallies they have encouraged violence against minorities and called on Sri Lankans to preserve the purity of the Buddhist majority.

Human rights groups say those calls have been the reason for recent attacks on Muslims in southwestern Sri Lanka, which have resulted in several deaths and the looting and torching of businesses owned by Muslims.

Though Muslims are their main target, they often accuse Christian sects of converting Buddhists through financial inducements.

The Pope is expected to visit the Philippines and Sri Lanka in January. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	60-80 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Good	😊
Ambient	65-95 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

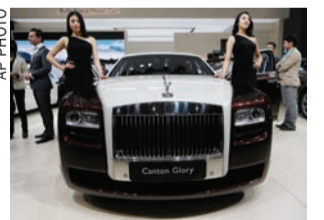
ISRAEL Militants in the Gaza Strip unleash dozens of rockets on southern Israel, setting off air raid sirens and forcing hundreds of thousands of Israelis to stay indoors as the military rushes more forces to the border and warns that even heavier fighting looks likely. The latest violence comes as Israel presses its investigation of six Jewish youths suspected of abducting and killing a Palestinian teenager.

USA An Independence Day hot dog eating contest in South Dakota turned tragic when a contestant choked to death. 47-year-old Walter Eagle Tail, of Custer, died at a hospital after attempts to save him failed at the scene. The Custer Chamber of Commerce sponsored the contest. The group canceled a pie-eating contest scheduled for Friday.



USA With the clock ticking to the start of legal weed sales in Washington state, store owners are making preparations to stock their shelves and control crowds ahead of opening their doors today. One year and eight months after voters in Washington and Colorado stunned much of the world by legalizing recreational marijuana, the sale of cannabis begins here this week, amid talk of high prices, shortages and celebration.

SWITZERLAND Diplomats from the United States, China and the European Union began talks yesterday with 11 other countries toward a deal that would cut tariffs on almost USD1 trillion of environmental goods. The proposed agreement at the WTO would cover 86 percent of trade in goods such as solar panels and wind turbines. The negotiations also include Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, and Chinese Taipei.



UK Sales of luxury Rolls-Royce cars, which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, have soared worldwide. The Britain-based manufacturer said that global sales in the first half of the year were up 33 percent compared with the same period in 2013. Growth was strongest in Europe, up over 60 percent, with Asia Pacific sales up almost 40 percent, the company said in a statement. Middle East sales were also strong, up 30 percent, with the U.S. and China also seeing double-digit growth.