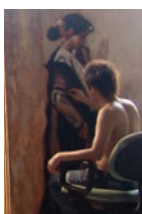




CHUI ANNOUNCES MORE RESHUFFLES FOR TOP POSTS
Public offices will see more changes at the leadership level in the following two months – Chief Executive

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DAFEN EMBRACES THE ART OF 'FAKING IT'
In Dafen, Shenzhen, much of the output is now made with Chinese – rather than foreign – customers in mind, despite the economic slowdown

P7 FEATURE REPORT



MANILA, US START S CHINA SEA WAR GAMES

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA The top anti-graft body of China's Communist Party says more than 100,000 officials have been reprimanded since late 2012 for violating policies mandating more austere working practices. [More on p11](#)

AFGHANISTAN A suicide bomber attacks a police station in the provincial capital of southern Helmand province, killing three people, a doctor says.



SOUTH KOREA's oceans ministry says it is ready to begin salvaging a ferry that sank last year, killing more than 300 people, after it gets formal approval. [More on p13](#)

AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA Five asylum seekers from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Iran have agreed to be among the first to leave the Pacific island nation of Nauru for Cambodia under a deal that allows refugees rejected by Australia to be resettled in the Southeast Asian country, a refugee advocate says. [More on p12](#)

AUSTRALIA-UK British police have arrested a 14-year-old boy in connection with an alleged plot to attack a war memorial ceremony in Australia. Greater Manchester Police says the boy was detained in Blackburn, northwestern England, on Saturday on suspicion of involvement in the commission, preparation, or instigation of acts of terrorism.

USA The Secret Service has arrested a person for attempting to scale the White House fence.

[More on backpage](#)

Major Korean prostitution ring busted in Macau . P3

AP PHOTO



MEDITERRANEAN

The migrants' Titanic . P15

NEVADA COURT

Adelson may have to answer Jacobs' firing claims

BLOOMBERG



Sheldon Adelson

SHELDON Adelson will be confronted in court for the first time with allegations of wrongdoing by a man he fired five years ago as the head of his Macau casinos.

Adelson, the 81-year-old billionaire founder and chairman of Las Vegas Sands Corp., is among the casino operator's top executives listed as witnesses for a hearing starting Monday in a lawsuit brought by Steven Jacobs, the former chief executive officer of the company's Macau unit.

Jacobs hasn't had a chance during the 4 1/2-year-old Nevada case to put his ex-boss on the witness stand. He claims he was fired for balking at what he says were illegal demands, including to dig up information about high-ranking Macau government officials that, according to a court fi-

ling, could be used to "exert leverage."

"There's going to be mudslinging," said Greg Doll, a lawyer at Doll Amir & Eley LLP in Los Angeles who isn't involved in the case. "You can bet your bottom dollar that Jacobs is going to bring up stuff that is uncomfortable for Sands China and for Adelson in particular."

Adelson denies allegations he ordered secret investigations into the business and financial affairs of government officials, as well as Jacobs's claim that he personally approved a strategy condoning prostitution at the Macau casinos. Sands has said in court filings that Jacobs was dismissed for working on unauthorized deals and violating company policy.

Adelson called Jacobs's allegations "outright lies and fa-

brications" in a statement reported by the Wall Street Journal, spurring Jacobs to add a defamation claim against him in the Nevada lawsuit. Las Vegas Sands said in a January court filing that Jacobs is using the lawsuit as a "platform to denigrate and defame" the company and its chairman. Ron Reese, a Sands spokesman, declined to comment before the hearing.

Adelson has said in court filings that the investigation of Macau officials, which Jacobs alleges Adelson requested, was actually commissioned by Jacobs and that he didn't learn about it until after Jacobs had been fired.

"I never asked or authorized Jacobs to conduct a private investigation of or 'create a dossier' on Macanese officials," Adelson said in a March 2013

declaration. "We believe unequivocally that Jacobs initiated the investigation on his own for his own purposes."

Adelson, the world's 25th richest person, has testified about his aversion to out-of-court settlements.

Jacobs won court permission to cite as evidence the work of a Hong Kong-based risk consultant who looked at alleged ties between Sands China business associates and organized crime. According to court filings, one report, commissioned by the company, involved an alleged organized crime figure who was operating VIP rooms in casinos on the island. The second, also commissioned by the company, concerned a Hong Kong movie producer with alleged ties to a triad. The report on Macau officials was the third one, with

Jacobs and Adelson disputing who commissioned it.

Jacobs said in court filings, without disclosing the consultant's findings, that the reports will expose the company to "serious political and legal problems." He is seeking to enter them as evidence at the hearing.

The company has said Jacobs stole the reports and that they contain "extremely sensitive, highly confidential information." In January, J. Randall Jones, a lawyer for Sands China, criticized Jacobs's use of them in the lawsuit. "In some cases, they would call this blackmail," Jones said.

Todd Bice, a lawyer for Jacobs, told the judge Sands wants to keep them out of the case because they are embarrassing and contradict Adelson's public statements. Jacobs has said in court filings that he took the reports from the company when he left and returned the originals after Sands' lawyers requested them.

Bice didn't respond to phone and e-mail messages seeking comment before Monday's hearing.

Adelson sued Jacob for defamation in Florida, where Jacobs lives. Jacobs won dismissal of that case and Sands told the court last year it would appeal the ruling. Jacobs also defeated Sands' attempt to remove Nevada District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez from the case over claims she's biased against the company.

Sands China sought the judge's removal after she ruled the company won't be allowed to call any witnesses at the hearing. She imposed that sanction in March over what she saw as its foot-dragging on sharing evidence with Jacobs. The Nevada Supreme Court rejected efforts to disqualify the judge.

Formally, the hearing will address the narrow legal question of whether Sands China, which is incorporated in the Cayman Islands and listed on the Hong Kong exchange, can be sued in Nevada. Jacobs says the reports, along with other evidence, will show Adelson and Las Vegas Sands controlled the Macau operations, including ordering the investigations there.

Sands China contends Jacobs shouldn't be allowed to sue it in Nevada because the Macau unit doesn't do business there. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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CRIME

Police bust large Korean prostitution ring

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has busted an organized prostitution syndicate from South Korea over the weekend. A total of 18 Korean and Chinese men were apprehended, after having allegedly been responsible for large-scale sexual manipulation, with the Korean mastermind still at large.

At the press briefing held yesterday at PJ's headquarters, police revealed that up to 21 Korean women ranging from 24 to 37 years of age were involved in the two-month long prostitution operation, which started in February. The authorities said that the 10 Korean men among the arrested suspects initially launched a citywide recruitment scheme targeting "young and beautiful" women on the streets of Korea, and then flew to Macau with those who agreed upon offering sex in exchange for money.

According to the PJ officer, the Korean women were kept in 11 different apartments in Taipa upon arriving in the city, with meals provided by the syndicate every day during their stay. The police also disclosed that the group sent different groups of women to Macau throughout an extended period.

Every night, from early around eight o'clock to the hours of the morning, the prostitution ring would deploy nine seven-seated automobiles to carry the women throughout the districts with high-end casinos and hotels in the city, in search of poten-



tial clients. These included places in Taipa and around the Dynasty Plaza. The pimps were even reported to have touted sexual services inside the casinos and in the hotels located in the above districts, while the Korean prostitutes remained in the cars waiting.

Interested men would be escorted to the cars outside the venues before selecting their favourite prostitutes, with whom to have sex in their own hotel rooms. After the service, the Korean prostitutes would contact the pimps to pick them up in the vehicles.

The amount of money requested for each sexual service, as the police representatives said, ranged between HKD6,000 and HKD20,000. This money, initially kept by

JEWELRY STORE FALLS FOR HKD1M HOAX

POLICE AUTHORITIES have revealed at a press briefing yesterday that a jewelry store near the casino of Grand Lisboa lost almost HKD1 million of cash early on Sunday morning to an unknown man whose voice resembles the male friend of the store's owner. It was reported that the shop's one staff member, who was working on the night shift, received a call from a man who identified himself as his boss's friend. The caller requested a total of HKD987.69 thousand in cash in order to resolve an urgent business matter. According to the account provided by the police officer, the ensnared

worker understood the phone call to have come from the same person, who is a close friend of his boss's and frequents the shop from time to time, as their voices are almost identical. The staff member then handed the cash to another man who entered the store for money at the request of the man on the phone.

The hoax call came to light when another staff member working during the day discovered the appearance of the hefty sum of money before reporting it to his employer by phone. The employer denied that his friend had made this request.

either the pimp or the driver, would later be used to compensate the sex workers when they departed the city. The prostitutes would only receive HKD2,000 as remuneration for each deal regardless of the amount received from clients.

The Korean group has allegedly accumulated HKD3 million in fees over the past two months since they began the citywide client hunt.

It was also revealed that there were other eight mainlanders embroiled in the commercial sexual operation, and who were mainly responsible for offering translation services to the group. Those Chinese accomplices were said to have collaborated with the prostitution ring given that, according to police authorities, the two parties

"have known each other for a while in the casinos."

On the night of April 19 at around 11 o'clock, the PJ authorities raided select rooms of the four high-end hotels on the Cotai Strip and in the NAPE district, with four Korean women and some men involved in the sex deal being intercepted. Later the brigade also caught the remaining members of the syndicate in the above districts.

The PJ have initiated an international manhunt with the Korean police authorities for the group's mastermind, who is believed to currently be in South Korea.

All the men behind the organized prostitution ring were reported to be unemployed and between the ages of 23 to 49. **Staff reporter**

LABOR LAW

Resolution of contracts more expensive

The maximum compensation possible for the resolution of an employment contract without justifiable cause has increased in Macau, effective from today. The maximum base salary to be used in calculating compensation now sits at MOP20,000, marking an increase of 42.8 percent from the previous value. As a result, when a contract is settled by an employer without just cause, the employee is entitled to compensation worth one month's salary for each year they spent in the job. The maximum amount for the calculation cannot exceed MOP20,000, unless otherwise agreed between the employer and employee. This stems from an amendment to Article 70 of the Labor Relations Act, which was published yesterday in the Official Gazette and shall come into force today. The amendment further stipulates that the maximum monthly basic remuneration is reviewed every two years, "and may be updated according to the evolution of economic development."

AVIATION

V Air to offer tickets for as low as MOP168

V Air, a low-cost subsidiary of Taiwan's TransAsia Airways, said yesterday that it will launch a promotional campaign today that will offer 10,000 tickets for as low as NT\$666 (MOP168), Central News Agency reported. The cheapest tickets will apply to Taiwan-Macau flights, while tickets to the Thai destinations of Bangkok and Chiang Mai will cost NT\$999, the airline said. The campaign will kick off at 9 a.m. today on the carrier's website and run through 11:59 p.m. Thursday, it said, adding that all tickets will be eligible for flights taken between May 1 and June 30. V Air, established in November 2013, launched services Dec. 17 last year with an inaugural flight to Bangkok. Flights to Chiang Mai and Macau were added to its network Jan. 7 and April 11, respectively.

GAMING

5,704 tables

Due to technical problems during the uploading of data, "the number of gaming tables for the first quarter end of 2015 should be 5,704," a note from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) said yesterday, adding they amended the data on the website immediately. This correction has no impact on other gaming data (e.g. gross gaming revenue) that was published earlier. "We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused. The DICJ will continue to review the gaming data uploading procedures to prevent recurrence of similar cases in the future," DICJ vouched.

SERIAL MAINLAND STEALER RESPONSIBLE FOR BUS THEFTS CAUGHT

A MAINLANDER allegedly involved in four thefts taking place on public transportation since the beginning of this year was caught by the Judiciary Police (PJ) on Sunday. He is also believed to be connected with other bus thefts, as suggested by a further line of inquiry that is currently under way.

According to the police authorities, a large number of theft reports have come pouring into the department since January, with most of these occurring on buses. After a series of investigations, the PJ officers pinpointed the 22-year-old Chinese mainland with the

surname Wei as the perpetrator in those cases. The man, hailing from Guangxi province, was intercepted and arrested when he was again in town in the middle of this month. On January 10 and 17 respectively, the suspect stole a total of around MOP4600 from two individuals on board buses. Last Saturday, during his stay in the city, he again managed to take around MOP4500 from two people boarding buses on different routes on the same day. The Police authorities believe that the man might also be responsible for other bus thefts over the past four months.

GAMING

Iao Kun enters into MoU for junket operation in Australian casinos

IAO Kun Group Holding Company Limited (IKGH) yesterday announced that it has entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding to acquire all of the profit interests of Mr Lou Kan Kuong (the "Seller") for acting as a junket operator for the Crown Perth Casino and the Crown Melbourne Casino a company filing said.

The Seller, who is currently an officer of IKGH, recently entered into agreements to act as a junket operator for the casinos on behalf of IKGH. IKGH expects to close the transaction by mid-May 2015 and to begin generating initial revenues under this agreement shortly thereafter.

IKGH is purchasing the interests for nominal value.

"We are excited to take this first step toward expanding our operations and presence internationally, and beginning to diversify our sources of revenue," said



Crown Towers

IKGH Chairman Man Pou Lam.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to establish ourselves in Australia and work with both the Crown Perth Casino and Crown Melbourne Casino to bring our VIP clients to their first-class facilities. Further, we remain committed to finding addi-

tional opportunities to expand our presence overseas and ultimately generating long-term value for our shareholders."

IKGH is a holding company that operates through its subsidiaries and related promotional entities, which act as VIP room gaming promoters, as well as through a

collaborator. The company is entitled to receive all of the profits made by VIP gaming promoters and the collaborator from VIP gaming rooms. IKGH's VIP room gaming promoters and the collaborator are currently participating in the promotion of five major luxury VIP gaming facilities in Macau.

Korean executive gambles company money – again

THE head of South Korea's third-largest steel maker will be summoned later this week over the alleged embezzlement of company funds, prosecutors said yesterday.

Chang Sae-joo, the chairman of Dongkuk Steel, is suspected of misappropriating about 20 billion won (USD18 million) by inflating the prices of raw materials the company purchased from abroad, the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said.

According to Yonhap news agency, prosecutors have gathered intelligence from U.S. law enforcement authorities that Chang used the slush fund to gamble in Las Vegas, Nevada, and made billions of won, a prosecutor said. The official added that Chang will be summoned today.

It is the second time that Chang has faced a gambling charge. He was arrested by South Korean authorities in 1990 for gambling in Macau.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

Chui announces more reshuffles for top public posts

CHIEF Executive Fernando Chui has disclosed that the public offices will see more personnel changes at the leadership level in the following two months. Besides, he also expressed his personal approval of Chan Wai Sin, the public hospital's outstanding head for his "endeavors and wisdom" during his tenure at the hospital.

On top of that, Chui said that either internationally or regionally, it was commonplace that specialist doctors returned to the work of their field after a certain period of engaging in administration. And it was no exception here in Macau.

The region's leader also urged the public to be "fair" to Kuok Cheong U without exerting too much pressure on him. Kuok will soon assume the top position after Chan leaves. Chui also has confidence in the director-to-be, whom he believed would garner positive comments from the public during his mandate.

CE meets Fujian leaders for cooperation in 'Belt and Road'



Upon arrival in Fuzhou, Chui Sai On and Lionel Leong meet with the Secretary of the Fujian Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, You Quan (3rd right), and the Governor, Su Shulin (4th right)

THE Chief Executive Chui Sai On led a delegation to Fuzhou city yesterday to attend a high-level meeting with Fujian's provincial leaders. Before departing, Chui said that the meeting would explore the future of the two territories' further cooperation, drawing particular attention to their participation in the nation's "Belt and Road Initiatives."

Chui told the media that Ma-

cau and Fujian Province have remained in close contact and both governments have agreed on a need to hold a high-level meeting in recent days "to review the solid foundations of bilateral cooperation, and to look into the future of further steps, including actively joining in the country's building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road."

During the meeting with Fujian's Provincial Party Committee Secretary, You Quan, and Governor Su Shulin yesterday, Chui pledged to strengthen Macau's regional cooperation with Fujian and in the Pan-Pearl River Delta.

He stressed that the "Matsu Culture" (which the two territories share) could be the driving force behind their participation in the "Belt and Road Initiatives." He said the delegation also hoped to draw on experience from Fujian in terms of developing free trade zones, and that Macau is very willing

to capitalize on its position as an intermediary between Sino-Luso countries for Fujian.

You Quan also recognized Macau and Fujian's historical roots and their complementarity in long-term development. He revealed that a liaison mechanism has been set up between Fujian's Vice Governor, Zheng Xiaosong, and Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, who are in charge of bilateral cooperation affairs. The two officials will hold periodic cooperation meetings.

As the inauguration of Guangdong's pilot free trade zone in Nansha District will coincide with the Fuzhou meeting, the CE has appointed the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, to represent MSAR in Nansha today.

PANDAS AND FLIGHTS

BEFORE HIS departure yesterday afternoon, Chui Sai On also responded to media enquiries, among which include the naming of Macau's new pair of pandas and the recent stagnation of flights to Macau due to inclement weather. As some argued that naming the new pair of pandas after the deceased Xin Xin and departing Kai Kai shows a lack of respect to life,

Chui responded that he "hopes Macau citizens would feel happy [regarding the names] when they see Kai Kai and Xin Xin again." As for the incident where Macau-bound flights were diverted to nearby airports, Chui said the primary goal was to ensure safety, and that the airport operator has since conducted a review in order to provide better services to the affected passengers.

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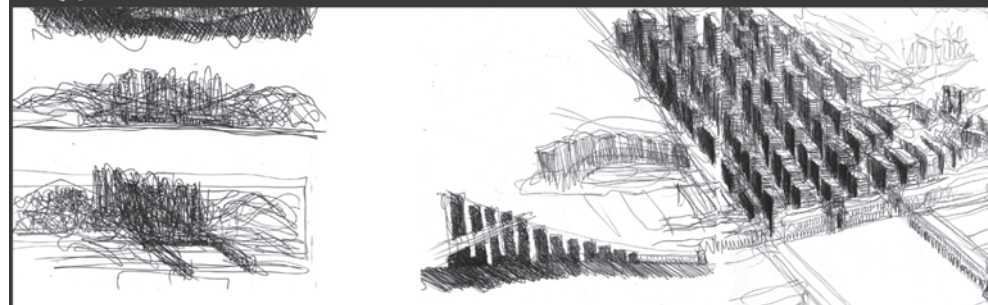
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Bettina Wassener, Hong Kong

CHINA'S economy is slowing, and a much-publicized crack-down on corruption and ostentatious consumption has crimped consumer appetite for luxury items such as watches, expensive baijiu liquor and high-rolling gambling trips to Macau.

None of this is unnerving the community of Dafen, in the southern megacity of Shenzhen, where business is as strong as ever.

"We're not worried, I'm still getting lots of orders from my usual customers," said Huang Yanquan, a slim man in his 30s who was busy in the depths of his narrow, cluttered shop recently. "People have more money, they are wealthier."

Huang and his brother – along with several thousand other people in Dafen – are in the business of art. Lots of it.

Dafen calls itself "the oil painting village" of China. Hundreds of workshops here produce vast quantities of paintings, large and small, for living room walls, hotel rooms and office foyers in China and beyond.

There are sweeping idealized landscapes featuring the Great Wall of China. There are orange flowers in pink vases. There are waterfalls, sunsets and weeping willows. Napoleons ride on fiery horses, doe-eyed Audrey Hepburns wield elegant cigarette holders, and Mona Lisas smile cryptically while portraits of China's President Xi Jinping and former leader Deng Xiaoping look on.

Stacked against the wall of a store that specializes in portraits not far from Dafen's main square were ten identical oil renderings of Mao Zedong – copies of the image that looms over the entrance to the Forbidden City on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

"They are for a customer who runs a tea shop in Sichuan," said the wife of owner Wang Jilin, who helps her husband run the shop. Occasionally, the man in Sichuan is asked if he will sell the Mao painting that hangs on the wall above the steaming tea pots – so he placed a bulk order to keep himself supplied with the images. At 3,800 yuan, or about USD600 apiece, the order is a significant outlay that says much about Chinese consumers' continued confidence – at least for now – in their country's economy.

Dafen, once a village set among fields not far from China's south-eastern coast, has long since been swallowed up by Shenzhen, a manufacturing and trading hub with a population of well over 10 million people. Its dozen or so streets and alleyways now

China's slowing economy: Dafen embraces the art of 'faking it'



Dafen (Shenzhen), oil painters village

form a strange, low-rise counterpoint to the high-rises and motorways that surround it. Artists from around the country have flocked here since the 1990s, drawn initially by the entrepreneurship of a Hong Kong businessman, and later by local government incentives.

Much of the output here is cheap mass-ware produced by painters like Cheng Yongxi, a cheerful woman in her 40s, who was churning out identical copies of abstract flowers in her workshop. Around her, dozens of finished canvases were stacked, ready to be shipped. A rendering of van Gogh's "Sunflowers" could be yours for 100 yuan. Want to commission a portrait of your grandchild? That will be 800 yuan.

The solid demand for Dafen's canvases provides a snapshot of an economy that is in the throes of rebalancing toward domestic consumption and services. China until recently relied on exports, heavy-duty

manufacturing and construction to drive growth.

The shift is glacial, but well underway, as rising wages and increasing urbanization push up household incomes. About 53% of Chinese now live in cities, according to World Bank data; many more join them from the countryside every year. China's 1.36 billion inhabitants, who typically take on little debt, have more cash than ever before for cars, kitchen appliances, iPhones – and oil paintings for their living rooms.

What is more, Chinese businesses are no longer just producing cheap goods for mass export. Increasingly, they are moving up the value chain, with products designed by and manufactured for the local market.

Speaking at a conference in Hong Kong in February, Ha Jiming, chief strategist for the China investment management division at Goldman Sachs, summarized the trend. "We're seeing a shift from 'made in China' to 'made for China.'"

Even in Dafen, much of the output is now made with Chinese – rather than foreign – customers in mind, said Liu Shubin, who was painting a somewhat garish mountains-and-waterfall landscape on a 2-meter-wide canvas pinned to the wall of his small shop. The image, which he said would take him three or four

days to complete, will fetch about 3,800 yuan, and is one of about 30 versions he sells each year. A few years ago, Liu said, Dafen catered mainly to foreigners – Westerners who wanted Western-style art. Now, he said, the customers are mostly Chinese, with a taste for such traditional Chinese landscapes to put in offices, meeting rooms or in their homes.

China's economic transition will take time. And the headlong growth of the past has left the country with a string of problems that risk causing major pain along the way, analysts warn. A big stock of excess housing built up in recent years threatens to undermine a sector that has been crucial to China's growth. A sharp rise in debt has left many observers worrying about the risk of potentially destabilizing defaults down the line. And it will be tough to reduce the excess capacity that haunts some sectors, to break the monopolies of China's state-owned enterprises and to relax price controls – crucial steps to opening the door to more private enterprise in areas such as finance, telecommunications and natural resources.

All this comes as China's economy is slowing markedly. Last year, gross domestic product expanded 7.4%, the slowest growth since 1990. The International Monetary

Fund's latest forecasts, published in January, project annual growth of 6.8% this year and 6.3% in 2016. Growth peaked at 14.2% in 2007, according to the World Bank.

Still, the sheer size of China's consumer base, with combined household deposits of 50 trillion yuan, leaves plenty of consumption power for health care, entertainment, education and tourism, said Ha. For example, a recent report by CLSA, a Hong Kong-based brokerage owned by China's CITIC Securities, put the number of domestic tourism trips in 2013 at more than 3 billion, up from 1.6 billion in 2007.

The indirect impact of this can be felt in Dafen. Its painters help fill the walls of thousands of new hotels that are being built across the country to cater for the Chinese population's new-found love of travel.

Deng Jiajie, who paints dreamy landscapes and traditional Chinese villages – all original work, rather than copies – was recently working on a large order for 300 images for a new upmarket hotel in Shenzhen. The order will keep him busy for two to three months, he said. And he has others in the pipeline.

"Things have slowed a bit compared with 10 years ago," said Cheng, cheerfully working on her abstract flowers. "But I'm not worried." **Courtesy Nikkei Report**

We're seeing a shift from 'made in China' to 'made for China'

HA JIMING
GOLDMAN SACHS

Mainland, foreign film producers sign deals worth USD2.3b



CHINESE and foreign film producers, companies and investment firms signed movie cooperation deals worth 13.8 billion RMB (USD2.3 billion) yesterday, demonstrating how foreign movie makers increasingly want a piece of the growing Chinese market.

The 36 deals were signed on the sidelines of the Beijing International Film Festival, an annual event in its fifth year, and were worth about a third more than those signed last year, according to Zhao Zhiyong, of the festival organizing committee.

The former chairman of Walt Disney Studios signed a deal with CITIC Guoan, a unit of state-owned CITIC Group Corporation, to invest \$150 million into his new

Dick Cook Studios.

Cook, chairman and CEO, told the signing ceremony: "Our discussions with CITIC Guoan have always come back to the importance of family entertainment, whether it's through movies, television, books and even things that have not even been invented. In the coming years we will look forward to telling quality stories for the entire family that will live on from generation to generation."

Beijing Hairun Pictures, the film production arm of Chinese TV production company Hairun Media Group, and Village Roadshow Pictures Asia, whose holding company is the Los Angeles-based Village Roadshow Entertainment Group, sig-

ned a deal to co-produce five feature films. One will be a biopic of Stephon Marbury, the former NBA player who led a Beijing basketball team to three championships since moving here four years ago, and Marbury will play himself in the film, according to the two companies.

A host of Sino-foreign co-productions were announced, including "The Beast," a Chinese-New Zealand animation, the Chinese-Irish "Under the Dancing Stars," a love story set against dancing in Ireland and Inner Mongolia, and the Chinese-Australian "Girl of Ashima," based on a Chinese folk tale.

Other deals included a fund to help young aspiring filmmakers, building cinemas and a theme park. **AP**

China steps up economy help with reduced bank reserve ratios

CHINA'S leaders swung into stimulus mode, cutting the amount of cash lenders must set aside as reserves by the most since the global financial crisis just days after a report showed the slowest economic growth in six years.

The reserve-requirement ratio was lowered 1 percentage point yesterday, the People's Bank of China said. While that was the second reduction this year, the new level of 18.5 percent is still high by global standards. The cut will allow banks to boost lending by about 1.2 trillion yuan (USD194 billion).

Interest-rate swaps declined to the lowest level since 2012 after the move put China more firmly in the easing camp with the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan. The cut follows a vow by Premier Li Ke-qiang last month to step in if the economy's slowdown hurts jobs as well as PBOC Governor Zhou Xiaochuan's weekend comment that China has room to act.

"The PBOC's easing remains 'defensive' in nature," said Stephen Jen, co-founder of hedge fund SLJ Macro Partners LLP in London and former head of currency research at Morgan Stanley. "Capital outflows have continued, and this has

led to a contraction in China's base money. To offset this, the PBOC needed to take actions to increase the money multiplier."

Chinese stocks fell yesterday after the regulator on Friday moved to cut leveraged trading and expand short selling. Metals prices and the Australian dollar advanced.

The reduction adds to the PBOC's own monetary easing and that of about 30 counterparts around the world this year as policy makers confront the risk of excessively low inflation.

Gross domestic product expanded 7 percent in the three months through March from a year earlier, the least since 2009, while industrial production in March rose at the slowest rate since November 2008. Foreign-exchange reserves dropped the most on record last quarter, fueling speculation the central bank sold holdings to support the yuan as money flowed out of China.

"Although the Chinese economy is facing downward pressure, the Chinese government has sufficient policy tools," Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said, the official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday. "China is able to achieve the growth target of about 7 percent." **Bloomberg**



corporate bits

THREE-STAR MICHELIN GUEST CHEF THOMAS BÜHNER AT VIDA RICA



On 23 and 24 May, Vida Rica Restaurant at Mandarin Oriental, Macau presents guest chef Thomas Bühner from the three-star Michelin restaurant La Vie in Osnabrück, Germany, which also boasts 19 out of 20 points in

the prestigious Gault & Millau gourmet guide. One of only ten German chefs awarded with three stars, Chef Bühner will showcase his cuisine, made using progressive cooking techniques and presented with an artistic style.

Chef Bühner is famous for his "three-dimensional aromatic cuisine", an emphasis on the individual product's natural flavors, a special penchant for low-temperature cooking and a harmonious balance of flavors and textures in his set menus. Diners can explore his unique approach to haute cuisine with a six-course degustation dinner menu, featuring dishes such as foie gras panna cotta with cocoa jelly and lemon granite; turbot fish confit in olive oil with broccoli couscous, chick pea, mud crab, North Sea grey shrimp and Joselito Iberico ham; and more. His avant-garde style is also highlighted in his four-course lunch menu. Both menus offer a choice of wine pairing.

SANDS CHINA HOSTS DEALER SKILLS CHAMPIONSHIP 2015



Sands China Ltd. hosted the second edition of its property-wide Dealer Skills Championship at The Venetian Macao Friday. Nine finalists showcased their baccarat, blackjack and roulette skills in front of a cheering crowd of fellow team members at the integrated resort's back-of-house area.

Man Weng Ip, Wang Zhen Han and Un Wai Kin were crowned the winners in the baccarat, blackjack and roulette categories, respectively. Each won a grand prize trophy and a trip for two to Singapore that includes a four-night stay at The Venetian Macao's sister property Marina Bay Sands, plus SGD 1,000. The

first and second runners-up in each category took home a trophy, plus MOP 6,000 and MOP 4,000, respectively.

The Dealer Skills Championship aims to encourage dealers in the company to seek out opportunities to enhance their dealing and service skills.

"We're proud to recognize and honor the hard work and dedication of our team members to enhance their customer service skills and improve the guest experience at all of our properties," said Cetin Tanisman, senior vice president of casino operations for Sands China Ltd. "This event serves to motivate and build our team members while providing a platform where they can demonstrate their skills."

MOZAMBIQUE, as well as being a worldwide coal producer, is to establish itself as a major exporter of graphite, and in China has found a preferential market for this mineral.

A recent analysis of samples collected in Mozambique by Australia's Triton Minerals concluded that the graphite concentrate can be used to manufacture batteries, specialty products, steel and refractories, lubricants for the automotive and electrical sector and other products.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the latest developments in graphite mining in Mozambique show the country "has the potential to emerge as a major global producer" of this raw material, "thanks to abundant reserves and low mining costs."

These factors make it possible to "take advantage of the growing demand for this mineral," the EIU added.

The findings aroused the interest of several Chinese companies, including China Aluminium International Engineering Corp Ltd (Chalieco), which recently sealed a deal to buy a third of the production of Syrah Resources.

The agreement provides that

Mozambican graphite finds market in China



Chalieco buy at least 80 tons per year over three years from the Australian company, which can now more easily secure funding to develop the mine.

Triton Minerals recently signed a contract with Yichang Xincheng Graphite Co., Ltd. (YXGC) for the supply of graphite extrac-

ted in Mozambique, with a duration of 20 years and a minimum value of US\$2 billion.

Stressing that YXGC is currently "China's largest private producer of high value graphite products," the company's chairman, Yue Bin, noted the quality of graphite extracted in Mozambique, which

is higher than initially expected, and that the agreement will facilitate procurement of this raw material at "competitive prices" and "indirectly help the economic growth of Mozambique."

Headquartered in the region of Yichang, Hubei Province, YXGC develops products for various industries such as oil, chemical, metallurgy, machinery, automo-

Mozambique has the potential to emerge as a major global producer

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT

tive, aerospace, among others, acting in the Chinese market and in more than 20 countries.

In Mozambique, Triton Minerals owns the rights to exploration of three graphite and vanadium concessions in the province of Cabo Delgado, in the north, and the Balama Norte concession, where monte Nicanda is located, is a priority area for the launch of operating activities.

The EIU estimates that Nican-da may contain the world's largest graphite reserves and Triton "is assessing its options for the development of these deposits alone or in partnership."

If the four graphite production projects announced since February are all launched, Mozambique will become a leading global producer of graphite.

Although the development of the coal industry is on a larger scale, says the EIU, graphite "may in the long run contribute to a more diversified mining sector, while becoming a significant generator of government revenues and exports."

The developments in mining and, in particular, investment in the mining sector, support projections of "robust economic growth" between 2015 and 2019, at an annual average of 7.4 percent. **MDT/Macauhub**

Guangdong offers opportunity for entrepreneurs from Portuguese-speaking countries

THE assistant secretary-general the Permanent Office of Macau Forum advocated for a greater business relationship between Guangdong Province and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Echo Chan said in an interview with daily newspaper Tribuna de Macau, that "there are many entrepreneurs who want to have a greater connection to the Portuguese-speaking countries and Guangdong

province is a great opportunity. This has to be taken advantage of."

With an area of 179,800 square kilometres and a population of 106 million in 2014 Guangdong province recorded a GDP of USD1 trillion and a growth rate of 7.8 percent, and is one of the most important development areas in China.

Macau, located next to Guangdong, is part of a regional development pro-

ject involving several production centres within the Pearl River Delta.

In the interview, Echo Chan said the Distribution Centre for Products from Portuguese Speaking Countries, whose creation was announced in 2013, will start ahead of the next meeting of Macau Forum ministers, to be held in 2016.

In the interview with the newspaper Ms Chan addressed issues related



Echo Chan

to the future work of the Macau Forum, its link to the Macau Institute for Promotion of Investment and Trade, training and Portuguese language teaching and emphasised that in future the Forum may promote cultural initiatives.

"The Permanent Office of Macau Forum has outlined a set of planned activities and we are open to new initiatives. We can encourage others to join in this initiative but it cannot be the Forum alone that takes on all the roles (...) so we are open to all ideas as they arise to promote greater cultural exchange," she said. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



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Global, mainland automakers debut new models



Journalists take photos and video of the Mercedes Benz concept GLC Coupe unveiled ahead of the Auto Shanghai show in Shanghai

Joe McDonald
Business Writer, Shanghai

FORD showed off its new Taurus and Nissan unveiled a midsize sedan and a SUV designed for China yesterday at a Shanghai Auto Show that highlighted rising competition from lower-priced Chinese auto brands.

Competition in China is intensifying as economic growth slows and more manufacturers pile into the world's biggest auto market by number of vehicles sold. Global automakers are spending heavily to appeal to Chinese tastes and local brands are rolling out lower-cost version of SUVs and other popular vehicles.

Ford Motor Co. used the Shanghai show for the global debut of its latest Taurus, reflecting the event's rapid rise to beco-

me one of the global industry's most important showcases. General Motors Co., Mercedes Benz and other global brands also unveiled new models or versions modified for China.

Features on the Taurus include massage units in the back seat. That is aimed at buyers who have drivers and ride in back — a market niche that increasingly is driving automakers to design bigger, more

We predict that this year will be an SUV feeding frenzy

OLA KALLENIIUS
HEAD OF MARKETING
MERCEDES BENZ

comfortable rear seats.

"This new car represents everything you can expect in the growing portfolio of Ford vehicles in China," said Marin Burela, a vice president of Ford's joint venture with Chinese brand Chang'an.

The show highlighted the resurgence of Chinese automakers following two tough years spent losing market share to foreign rivals. Local competitors have spent heavily to roll out new models that are drawing buyers with lower prices at a time when China's economic growth is slowing.

Brands including SUV producer Great Wall Motor and Geely Holding, owner of Sweden's Volvo Cars, reported first-quarter sales gains of up to 70 percent. That helped to boost their market share so far this year to 43 percent from last year's 38

percent, according to LMC Automotive.

For global brands including Volkswagen AG, sales were flat or even declined due to their emphasis on higher-priced brands for which growth was in low to mid-single digits. That was a sobering development for automakers that are counting on China to drive future revenue.

"Market growth has come to a halt for international brands," said Bernstein Research in a report.

Yesterday, Great Wall debuted its H6 Coupe and showed its H8, the latest in a series of SUVs that have helped to transform the company into one of China's most successful auto brands. The company has said it hopes to sell 10,000 units of each of the two new vehicles per month.

SUVs, popular with Chinese

drivers who value their image of safety in the country's chaotic traffic, accounted for 26 percent of all passenger vehicles sold in the first quarter, the highest proportion of any major market.

"We predict that this year will be an SUV feeding frenzy," said Ola Kallenius, head of marketing for Mercedes Benz, which unveiled an SUV Coupe concept on Sunday.

The abrupt deceleration in China's economic growth has dragged down auto sales growth and prompted buyers to shift to lower-priced models.

Economic growth slowed to 7 percent in the first three months of this year, its lowest quarterly expansion since the aftermath of the 2008 global crisis. That still is higher than the low single-digit growth forecast for the United States and Europe this year, but well below China's peak of 14.2 percent in 2007.

The deceleration to what Chinese leaders term the "new normal" of slower but more sustainable growth has cooled corporate profits and the real estate industry. The ruling Communist Party is pressing companies to boost wages in an effort to promote growth driven by consumer spending instead of trade and investment.

"This is driving sales growth in this (lower-priced) segment," said Dietmar Voggenreiter, president of Audi China.

Nissan Motor Co. unveiled the Lannia, a midsize sedan designed for Chinese buyers. The company, which has made China a pillar of its global turnaround strategy, calls the Lannia its first offering for the country's "youth generation."

For the SUV market, Nissan unveiled its Murano hybrid. GM, Ford, BMW, Ford's Lincoln luxury brand and other automakers also displayed SUVs, many of them offering hybrid-electric versions.

Also yesterday, Geely displayed its Borui sedan, its first model developed using Volvo technology following the company's acquisition of the Swedish brand in 2010. **AP**

Shanghai car show bans skimpily clad showgirls

THE Shanghai Auto Show banned female models and automakers responded with dancers and fresh-faced young women holding tablet computers.

Organizers of China's biggest auto show announced in February that models in slinky dresses who usually adorn the stands of some auto brands would be banned. It said it wanted visitors to focus on cars.

The use of female models at Chinese auto shows already had dwindled as automakers tried to set themselves apart. But the show's decision comes as China's government under President Xi Jinping increases efforts to crack down on prostitution, online pornography and what it considers racy or improper programming on TV.

In December, the broadcaster of a historical dra-



A singer performs near a Cadillac CT6 luxury sedan during a General Motors event ahead of the Auto Shanghai show in Shanghai

ma that included women in low-cut dresses took it off the air temporarily and returned with images cropped to conceal actresses' cleavage. The change prompted mockery by members of the public and complaints about the prudishness of government censors.

Yesterday, Luxgen, a joint venture between state-owned Dongfeng Motor Co. and Yulon, a Taiwanese partner, ope-

ned its display with a performance by a chorus line of dancers.

At other stands, young women in sleeveless but more business-like dresses carried tablet computers to show visitors the details of cars.

Auto brands have had rock bands perform at their displays. At the Shanghai show in 2011, a Chinese automaker, Chery, had a modern dance troupe perform. **AP**



A Pakistani worker hangs a billboard showing pictures of Chinese President Xi Jinping, center, with Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain, left, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif welcoming Xi Jinping's to Islamabad

Xi in Pakistan to unveil USD45B in investments

Asif Shahzad, Islamabad

CHINESE President Xi Jinping arrived in Pakistan yesterday for a two-day visit in which he is expected to announce USD45 billion worth of investment projects in energy and infrastructure development.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the country's top civilian and military leadership received the visiting president at an air force base near the capital, Islamabad. The president was given a military honor guard and a fighter jet fly-by.

Xi will announce \$45 billion worth of projects in the energy and infrastructure sectors, Pakistan's minister for planning and development, Ahsan Iqbal, said, calling it "proof of our great bond with China." He said around \$37 billion of that would be invested in energy. He also clarified that the total amount was \$45 billion. Pakistani officials had previously put the

total at \$46 billion.

Iqbal said work on \$28 billion worth of projects can begin immediately, with work on the remainder starting in the next three to five years. He called the agreements a "milestone in our history."

Sharif said the visit will open a new chapter in bilateral relations. "We will work hand in hand with you to remove any obstacle in your way to ensure timely completion of the planned projects," he said in a meeting with the heads of three Chinese companies.

China and Pakistan have long maintained close political and military relations, based partly on mutual antipathy toward neighbor India. However, stronger China-India ties have challenged that perception and Xi's visit seems intended to reassure Pakistan that relations remain robust.

Xi postponed a visit to Islamabad last year due to anti-government protests and went

ahead with a visit to India. China is also eager to boost trade and investment with New Delhi, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Beijing in the coming weeks.

China is a leading arms supplier to Pakistan and has sought its help in combating anti-Chinese Islamic separatists reportedly hiding in the country's lawless tribal areas. China is also eager to enlist Pakistan's help in stabilizing Afghanistan as U.S. and international troops wind down their presence there.

Xi will be traveling with a large business delegation and is expected to oversee the signing of investment agreements in the energy and transportation industries, part of Beijing's plan for a China-Pakistan "economic corridor."

"This is very important for our economic stability and development," said political science professor Raul Bakhsh Rais. **AP**

TAIWAN

1 dead from fire sparked by quake off south Japan

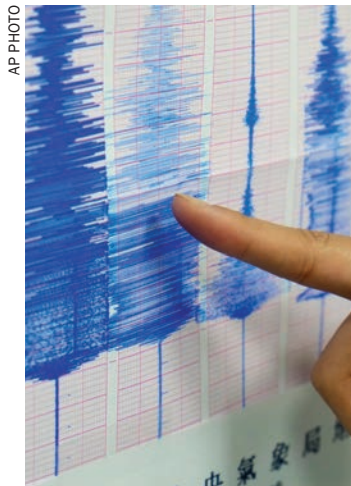
A strong undersea earthquake struck between Taiwan and southern Japan yesterday, sparking a house fire that killed a person outside of Taiwan's capital and causing Japanese authorities to evacuate some schoolchildren as a tsunami precaution.

The quake triggered an advisory for a tsunami of up to 1 meter in Japan that was lifted after just over an hour. It caused buildings in the Taiwanese capital of Taipei to sway, and people there rushed into the streets.

A person was killed in a house fire in the Taipei suburb of Xinzhuang that was sparked by the explosion of an electricity transformer box due to the quake, Taiwan's fire and rescue agency said in a statement, without providing any further details.

Taiwan's official Central News Agency gave the age of the deceased as 84, but offered no other details. One other person was injured in the fire, the government said.

Footage from Taiwanese television broadcaster TBS showed signs and lights swinging from the ceiling of a newsroom in Taipei. Fire crews sealed off a multi-level parking lot in central Taipei after the mechanical parking



A seismic chart shows the moment of the 6.3 magnitude earthquake that struck off the island's eastern coast in Taipei

tower failed, damaging 11 cars.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said the magnitude-6.8 quake's epicenter was at a shallow point in seas east of Taiwan and south of Okinawa, near the Yonaguni islands. It said no tsunami was detected.

Television footage of the area showed calm seas, but as a precaution schoolchildren in some low-lying parts of islands in the region were evacuated to safer locations.

Taiwan's worst earthquake was a magnitude-7.3 temblor that struck the center of the island in September 1999, killing 2,415 people. **AP**

More than 100,000 officials caught in austerity push



THE top anti-graft body of China's Communist Party said yesterday that more than 100,000 officials have been reprimanded since late 2012 for violating policies mandating more austere working practices.

The party's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said in its monthly report that 5,340 officials were reprimanded in December 2014, the most recent month studied. That pushed the two-year total of reprimanded officials to 102,168.

The party introduced the rules in December 2012 requiring officials to minimize meetings, cut government spending and follow strict housing and vehicle limits.

The party has also launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign that it says has ensnared tens of thousands of officials, including top members of the party. The campaigns have hit sales of luxury items, fine dining and gambling in Macau.

Over the weekend, the party announced plans to launch a campaign to improve the behavior of officials at the county level and above, with particular focus on abuses of power and disloyalty to the party.

On Friday, the Finance Ministry said the central government would further encourage frugality by cutting budgets for overseas travel, official vehicles and receptions by 11.7 percent this year. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

5 asylum seekers on Nauru set to go to Cambodia

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

FIVE asylum seekers from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Iran have agreed to be among the first to leave the Pacific island nation of Nauru for Cambodia under a deal that allows refugees rejected by Australia to be resettled in the Southeast Asian country, a refugee advocate said yesterday.

Ian Rintoul, spokesman for the Australia-based advocacy group Refugee Action Coalition, said none of the five men had had their refugee claims accepted yet.

While the bilateral agreement signed last September stipulates that those resettled in Cambodia must be genuine refugees who volunteered to go, officials in Nauru were inviting asylum seekers whose refugee claims have yet to be processed as well as bona fide refugees, he said.

"My suspicion is that they'll delay the flight long enough so that they can fast-track their determination process and they'll be granted refugee status



Asylum seekers fill an overcrowded detention center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: one of several offshore detention facilities run by Australia's Operation Sovereign Borders program

before the plane arrives," Rintoul said. "The government is desperate to save political face and there are serious questions about the bona fides of what

they're involved in."

The government had expected the first refugees to move to Cambodia by late last year, but the asylum seekers on Nauru

have proved reluctant.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton's office confirmed yesterday that only genuine refugees would be resettled in Cambodia.

Of the 718 asylum seekers in Nauru from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, 485 had proven to be genuine refugees by the end of last month. Another 83 had their claims rejected and another 150 had yet to be assessed.

A fact sheet outlining the benefits that refugees would be provided with if they became the first to go to Cambodia, including free health insurance and cash, that was circulated by Australian officials around the detention camp in recent weeks said the plane could leave as early as yesterday.

Dutton would not say when the first plane would leave Nauru or how many refugees it would carry. "It won't be far off," he told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

"We're having discussions with a large number of people

on Nauru at the moment because we've made it very clear that those people will not be settled in Australia," he said. "So we want to provide them with assistance in the first instance to go back to their country of origin. If they're not prepared to do that, then we will provide them with assistance to go to Cambodia. That's the option available to them."

Rintoul said asylum seekers were being offered between 10,000 and 15,000 Australian dollars (USD7,800 and \$11,700) to go to Cambodia.

Human rights groups have condemned the deal as being dangerous for refugees and have called on Australia to fulfill its own obligations as a signatory to the United Nations Refugee Convention by resettling the refugees.

But Australia refuses to accept any refugees who attempt to reach its shores by boat. It pays Nauru and Papua New Guinea to hold them in detention.

The five men who had accepted resettlement in Cambodia had been segregated from the rest of the Nauru camp, Rintoul said. They included three ethnic Tamil Sri Lankans, a Rohingya Muslim from Myanmar and one Iranian, he said.

An Iranian woman whose refugee claim had been rejected volunteered to go to Cambodia, but her offer was not accepted, Rintoul said. **AP**

Authorities seize 4 tons of elephant tusks in biggest ever bust

THAILAND seized 4 tons of ivory hidden in bean sacks tracked from Congo in what authorities said was the biggest bust in the country's history, customs officials said yesterday.

The 739 elephant tusks, bound for Laos, were seized upon arrival at a port in Bangkok on Saturday after the authorities received a tip-off and had tracked the containers from Congo, the Customs Department's director-general Somchai Sujjapongse told reporters.

He said that the shipment, labeled as beans, was shipped out of Congo in February and went through Malaysia before reaching the Bangkok port.

"We have been following the (shipment) for two months. Intelligence reports said ivory from Africa might be smuggled with other products to go through the Laotian border," Somchai said.

Thailand is one of the top destinations for African ivory



Thai officers display seized ivory at Port of Bangkok headquarters in Bangkok

smuggling in Asia and could face international sanctions soon if it doesn't show progress in combatting the problem.

Somchai said authorities believe that had the ivory worth USD6 million had reached Laos, it would then have been distributed to buyers in China, Vietnam

and Thailand.

Poachers have killed tens of thousands of African elephants for their tusks in recent years to meet demand for ivory in Asia. China has imposed a one-year ban on ivory imports amid criticism that its citizens' huge appetite for ivory threatens the existence of Africa's elephants. **AP**

INDIA

Van and 3-wheeled vehicle collide; 5 students dead

A van collided with a small three-wheeled vehicle packed with 11 teenage students in eastern India yesterday, killing five students and injuring six others, police said.

Villagers who took the injured students, including three in critical condition, to a nearby government hospital in Bihar state became incensed when they discovered no doctors were present. About 100 people attacked the hospital in anger and burned six vehicles, including an ambulance, before stick-wielding police broke up the crowd, Siwan district police Chief Vikas Verman said.

The villagers also held a protest around the bodies of the dead students in front of the hospital, stopping traffic, he

said.

Doctors later arrived and began treating the injured at the hospital in Siwan, about 200 kilometers north of the state capital of Patna. The students were then transferred to critical care units in other hospitals, Verman said.

Police originally said the students, aged 15-16, were traveling in the van, but later said they were in the three-wheeled vehicle, called an auto rickshaw. It was not immediately clear if the driver was also injured.

The government ordered an investigation into the accident.

Bihar state said it will give 200,000 rupees, or about USD3,200, to each of the families of those killed. **AP**



MORE than 11,000 soldiers from the Philippines, U.S. and Australia will take part in joint drills in the South China Sea, as the Philippines' military chief called China's building work on disputed reefs "worrisome" and a source of friction with its neighbors.

The reclamation "will cause tensions among claimant countries not only because it could deter freedom of navigation but also due to its possible military purposes," General Gregorio Pio Catapang told reporters in Manila yesterday. China must "stop the reclamation activities and be mindful of its responsibilities as a claimant state and an important member of the international community."

The comments come as 11,600 Filipino, U.S. and Australian soldiers - twice as many as last year - are set to join the war games off Palawan province near contested South China Sea islands. Disputes over the sea, of which China claims about four-fifths under a so-called nine-dash line drawn on a 1940s map, have escalated as China expands the reach of its military to back its territorial interests.

China's actions have caused uneasiness for neighbors such as Vietnam and the Philippines who also claim some of the waters. It has also raised concern among countries that use the sea lanes for trade and commerce, Catapang said. "The size of this reclamation is making us wonder what the real intention is," he said.

The military drills, which run until April 30, seek to "improve our interoperability and enhance our national defense capability," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Evan Garcia told reporters after the opening of the annual Balikatan - shoulder-to-shoulder in Filipino - war

PHILIPPINES

Manila starts South China Sea War games with US



Protesters display placards during a rally at the Chinese Consulate at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila

games yesterday. "Our armed forces needs to improve its own capacity in order to better serve and protect our country."

Catapang said the drills are not directed against China. He said a U.S. plan to deploy advanced air force and naval equipment in the Philippines is in the works.

"We will offer them facilities that we can jointly use because of the situation now obtaining in the West Philippine Sea," Catapang said, referring to the South China Sea.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario last week said the Philippines is seeking in-

creased support from the U.S. "in terms of being able to take a stronger position." "The Philippines is saying we should get together and study how we can uphold the rule of law together," he told ABS-CBN News Channel.

China has often stated its right to carry out construction work in the South China Sea, with recent satellite photos showing images of Chinese dredgers at work at Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, a feature also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Asked at a regular briefing in Beijing about the Balikatan

drills, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China called on countries to work together to boost security and mutual trust in the South China Sea, and "contribute to regional peace and stability."

The Philippines has enough troops in areas it occupies, and will follow the rules, Catapang said. "Diplomacy will always be the top priority of the government."

Philippine President Benigno Aquino will bring up China's reclamation work at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia next week, Foreign Affairs Assistant Secre-

tary Luis Cruz told reporters yesterday in Manila. "We would always aim for a collective statement, this time on the issue of the reclamation of some features in the South China Sea," he said.

Cruz said Vietnam had sought a meeting with Aquino at the summit, with the South China Sea tensions high on both countries' agenda.

Catapang showed new aerial photos of China's building work that he said is causing widespread damage to biodiversity and ecological balance. The destruction of 300 acres of coral reef systems will cause economic losses to coastal states worth USD100 million annually, he said. China has begun building a runway on reclaimed land on the Fiery Cross Reef, according to IHS Jane's.

Catapang also accused China of tolerating environmentally harmful fishing practices by its fishermen occupying Scarborough Shoal. Conflicting claims must be addressed peacefully "so that we don't unnecessarily provoke each other and create instability in the region," the military chief said.

Chinese boats drove away at least 80 Filipino fishermen from the shoal on April 9, the Inquirer newspaper reported. The government is still confirming that report, Communications Secretary Sonny Coloma said at a briefing in Manila. **Bloomberg**

11,600

Filipino, U.S. and Australian soldiers - twice as many as last year - are set to join the war games

SOUTH KOREA

Gov't ready to begin work to salvage sunken ferry

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's oceans ministry said yesterday that it was ready to start work to salvage a ferry that sank last year, killing more than 300 people, and that the operation would begin soon after it gets formal approval.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said in a statement that it would ask the government's safety agency to approve plans to hoist the ship from the seafloor off the country's southwest coast. The Ministry of Public Safety and Security said it would re-



An unidentified man reads messages tied with yellow ribbons for the victims of the sunken ferry Sewol at a port in Jindo

view the request tomorrow.

The safety agency is widely expected to endorse

the plan as President Park Geun-hye promised on Thursday - the anniversary of the April 16,

2014, sinking - to lift the ship.

The oceans ministry statement said it aimed to choose a company to hoist the ship within two months of getting approval and would map out detailed salvaging plans in the following months. Ministry officials said some of the work to lift the ship, such as deploying barges where workers can stay during the salvaging operation, could start in October.

Ministry officials have said the estimated cost of raising the ferry is about USD91-137 million and that it's expected to take

as long as 1 1/2 years.

A total of 304 people - most of them students from a single high school - died when the ferry Sewol sank. The bodies of nine of the victims haven't been retrieved.

Salvaging the vessel is one of the key demands of bereaved families and their supporters, who also want a more thorough investigation into the sinking. Some conservatives have opposed raising the ferry, a civilian ship, with taxpayers' money.

Authorities have arrested about 140 people, including crew members and ferry company em-

ployees, blaming overloading of cargo, improper storage, botched rescue efforts and other negligence for the incident. But critics say higher-level officials haven't been held accountable.

Violence broke out Saturday at a Seoul rally criticizing the government's handling of the ferry disaster, with police using water cannons and pepper spray to disperse protesters. Police said yesterday that they had requested warrants to arrest five of the protesters, but that none of the five were relatives of disaster victims. **AP**

SOMALIA

Al-Shabab bombs UN van, 4 UNICEF workers killed



The scene following a bomb attack on a van carrying U.N. employees in Garowe, northern Somalia

A bomb exploded yesterday on a van carrying U.N. employees in northern Somalia, killing at least seven people and wounding several others, police and U.N. officials said. Al-Shabab claimed

responsibility for the attack. UNICEF said in a statement that four of its employees were reportedly killed in the bombing of their van, which was painted white and had UN painted on the side in blue letters. Four others were seriously injured, the U.N. children's agency said. Both foreigners and Somalis were casualties of the attack in Garowe, the capital of the semiautonomous Puntland region, Col. Ali Salad, a senior police officer in Puntland, told The Associated Press by phone. He said 10 people had died though Garowe Police Chief Col. Ahmed Abdullahi Samatar said seven died. The U.N. representative to Somalia, Nicholas Kay, said in a Twitter post that he is "shocked and appalled by loss of life." The bomb was apparently planted under a seat and was detonated by remote control, said police official Yusuf Ali.

YEMEN

Large explosions from airstrikes rock capital



Smoke rises after a Saudi-led airstrike in Sana'a

Saudi-led airstrikes on weapons caches in Yemen's rebel-held capital yesterday caused massive explosions that shattered windows, sent residents scrambling for shelter and killed a local TV presenter. The explosions were the most powerful seen in the city since a Saudi-led air campaign against Iran-allied Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, began last month. The blasts deposited a layer of soot on the top floors of residential buildings and left the streets littered with glass.

Anti-aircraft fire rattled across the city in response. Mushroom clouds rose over Fag Atan, in the mountainous outskirts of Sana'a, where the capital's largest weapons caches are located. The site has been targeted several times during the three-week air campaign. A Yemeni official said the Saudi-led warplanes are demolishing parts of the mountain, hoping to uncover and destroy Scud missiles. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

SPAIN

Police detain student for killing teacher with crossbow



Two young girls comfort each other outside a school in Barcelona

Spanish police said yesterday they have detained a boy, who is under 14 years of age, for the suspected killing of a male teacher and the wounding of several others at a school in Barcelona. However, police spokesmen would not confirm whether the

unidentified boy was a student at the school in a working class Barcelona neighborhood where the attack took place soon after the school day started. Though spokesmen confirmed that the teacher was killed with a weapon that had a blade, they would not say what type was used. Spanish National Television and other media outlets reported that the boy was carrying a knife and a crossbow. Two other teachers and two students were also said to have suffered minor injuries in the attack. The attack took place at a public high school for students aged 12-16.

ENVIRONMENT

Almonds get roasted in debate over California water use

Ellen Knickmeyer, San Francisco

CALIFORNIA almonds are becoming one of the world's favorite snacks and creating a multibillion-dollar bonanza for agricultural investors. But the crop extracts a staggering price from the land, consuming more water than all the showering, dish-washing and other indoor household water use of California's 39 million people.

As California enters its fourth year of drought and imposes the first mandatory statewide water cutbacks on cities and towns, the \$6.5 billion almond crop is helping drive a sharp debate about water use, agricultural interests and how both affect the state's giant economy.

Almonds have claimed the spotlight as "the poster child of all things bad in water," almond grower Bob Weimer said.

People around the world are eating over 1,000 percent more California almonds than they did just a decade ago, and last year almonds became the top export crop in the nation's top agriculture state. China's booming middle class is driving much of the demand.

That strong Asia market is producing up to 30 percent returns for investors, prompting agribusinesses to expand almond planting in the state by two-thirds in the past decade. The crop has come to be dominated by global corporations and investment funds.

Rows of almond trees now cover nearly 400,000 hectares in California, many of them on previously virgin hillsides or in pastures or desert with little rain or local water. Since each tiny nut requires 3.8 liters of water, almonds are consuming 4.06 trillion liters annually in the state, one-fifth more than California families use indoors.

So when Gov. Jerry Brown ordered cities and towns this month to cut their water consumption by 25 percent but exempted farms, almonds got toasted in the public heat that followed.

"Drought villains?" the Los Angeles Times asked this month. A Sacramento TV station referred to "almond-shaming." National Public Radio called almond farms "a rogue's gallery" of water users.

Now almond farmers and investors are on the defensive.

"The tomato growers use a lot more water than we do. You should go after those guys," said Ryon Paton, a global real-estate developer and principal of Trini-



A worker replaces an advertisement near bags of almonds packaged as originating from California at a supermarket in Beijing

People are eating over 1,000% more California almonds than they did a decade ago, and China's booming middle class is driving the demand

California almonds are a popular bagged treat in China's convenience stores and supermarkets and a must-have item in holiday gift baskets.

As big a global money-maker as California's agriculture is, though, it's little more than a blip in the state's economy. And that's driving the debate on water use.

In all, agriculture uses 80 percent of the water that Californians draw from groundwater and surface supplies but produces just 1.5 percent of the state's gross domestic product, noted Christopher Thornberg, an economist who has served as an economic adviser to state agencies.

Almonds aren't even the biggest sponges when it comes to water-thirsty crops in semi-arid California — that would be the state's million acres 400,000 hectares of alfalfa, which go to feed livestock.

Unlike the row crops they're displacing, the new almond trees require water year round.

The governor and his cabinet secretaries defend almonds as a high-value crop.

"We're going to try to maximize all beneficial uses, not pick one we like better than the others," said Felicia Marcus, head of the state Water Resources Control Board. **AP**

tas Partners.

Paton's online literature tells investors to think of his newly planted almond orchards in Stanislaus County as "the classic Silicon Valley startup, except we have nothing to do with technology."

California growers provide 80 percent of the global supply of almonds. In China, where the number of middle-class households has doubled since 2006, consumers see almonds as a healthy snack and regard American food in general as less contaminated than products from elsewhere.

Coleen Barry, Milan

MIGRATION

EU foreign ministers to meet after latest shipwreck tragedy

RESCUE crews searched yesterday for survivors and bodies from what could be the Mediterranean's deadliest migrant tragedy ever as hundreds more migrants took to the sea undeterred and EU foreign ministers gathered for an emergency meeting to address the crisis.

If reports of at least 700 and as many as 900 dead are confirmed, the weekend shipwreck near the Libyan coast would bring to well over 1,000 the number of migrants who died or went missing during the perilous Mediterranean crossing in the last week. More than 400 are feared dead in another sinking. More than 10,000 others were rescued.

"This tragedy didn't have to happen," Sarah Tyler, a spokeswoman for Save the Children, said of Sunday's incident. "That is almost as many as died in the Titanic, and 31 times the number who died when the Costa Concordia sank."

Libya is a transit point for migrants fleeing conflict, repression and poverty in countries such as Eritrea, Niger, Syria, Iraq and Somalia, with increased instability there and improving weather prompting more



Survivors of the smuggler's boat that overturned off the coasts of Libya lie on the deck of the Italian Coast Guard ship Bruno Gregoretti, in Valletta's Grand Harbour

people to attempt the dangerous crossing.

One survivor of the weekend sinking, identified as a 32-year-old Bangladeshi, has put the number of people on board the smugglers' boat at as many as 950. Authorities previously had

quoted him as saying 700 migrants were on board.

The survivor was flown by helicopter to Catania, in Sicily, where he was interviewed by prosecutors. He was being treated in a hospital.

"He is pretty well now and he is

Some 300 migrants were locked in a hold and would have been trapped inside when the boat sank

reporting that there were really many, many persons including children on the boat. So it's confirming the terrible news," said Carlotta Sami, a U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman.

The survivor said some 300 migrants were locked in a hold by the smugglers, and would have been trapped inside when the boat sank, according to Prosecutor Giovanni Salvi, who is conducting the investigation.

Both Salvi and international agencies stressed that the information provided to prosecutors still needs to be confirmed.

A new tragedy unfolded in Greece, meanwhile, where search and rescue operations were underway yesterday after a wooden boat carrying dozens of migrants who departed Turkey ran aground off the eastern Aegean island of Rhodes. At least three people, including a child, were dead, while 93 were rescued. It was unclear how many people were on board and could be missing.

Also yesterday, the International Organization for Migration said its Rome office had received a distress call from international waters in the Mediterranean about three boats in need of help. The group says the caller reported 300 people on his sinking boat, with about 20 fatalities. No details were available about the other boats or their location. **AP**

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what's ON



YUEJU OPERA
TIME: 7:30pm
DATE: April 21-22, 2015
ADMISSION: Free
VENUE: Kam Pek Community Centre, No. 483, Avenida Almedia Ribeiro
LANGUAGE: Cantonese
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2833 3000

CHINESE OPERA – GUANGZHOU RED BEAN CANTONESE OPERA TROUPE
TIME: 7:45pm
DATE: April 21-22, 2015
ADMISSION: MOP60, MOP100, MOP150, MOP200, MOP280
VENUE: Macau Cultural Centre
LANGUAGE: Cantonese
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2878 7701

MACAU HANDOVER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS DONATED BY LAU SIN PENG
TIME: 10am-7pm daily
(Closed on Mondays, no admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: The Handover Gifts Museum of Macau, Avenida Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8504 1800

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PORTRAIT OIL PAINTINGS – MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm
(Closed on Mondays, No admission after 6:30 pm)
UNTIL: December 31, 2015
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE
ADMISSION: MOP5
(Free on Sundays and public holidays)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

HOT-BLOODED CREATOR EXHIBITION
TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm (Closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: July 19, 2015
VENUE: 10 Fantasia - A Creative Industries Incubator, 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lázaro, Macau
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

BOSNIANS HOPE TO BREAK WORLD RECORD FOR BIGGEST CHICKEN STEW

AP PHOTO



Bosnian chefs hope to break a Guinness World Record for the biggest chicken stew in the world by cooking up the meal for 14,000 people. Some 100 cooks and volun-

teers used 1,000 kilograms of chicken meat and about 300 kilograms of vegetables to prepare the traditional dish, known as Bey's soup, in the center of Sarajevo last week. It took eight hours to cook in an enormous, meter-high pot.

Judges are sending details of the event to Guinness officials for verification.

Part of the dish was served to hundreds of residents who gathered to watch the spectacle. Organizers said the rest will be distributed to soup kitchens, which tend to thousands of people in the country where close to a fifth of population lives below the poverty line.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
16:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
17:40	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
18:30	TDM Sports
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S2
22:10	Brazil Avenue
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 APR - 22 APR



FAST AND FURIOUS 7
ROOM 1
(2D) 2:15, 4.45, 9.45 pm
(3D) 7.15 pm
Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min



CHILD 44
ROOM 2
2.15, 4.45, 7.15, 9.45 pm
Director: Daniel Espinosa
Starring: Tom Hardy, Gary Oldman, Noomi Rapace
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min



THE WATER DIVINER
ROOM 3
2.00, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm
Director: Russell Crowe
Starring: Jai Courtney, Russell Crowe, Olga Kurylenko
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 111min

MACAU TOWER

09 APR - 22 APR

FURIOUS 7
2.00, 4.30, 7.00, 9.30 pm
Director: James Wan
Starring: Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Dwayne Johnson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 137min

this day in history



1955 FLEET STREET PAPERS BACK AFTER STRIKE

National newspapers have been published for the first time in nearly a month following the end of the maintenance workers' strike.

The stoppage was called off following an agreement on Tuesday night between electricians' and engineers' unions and the Newspaper Proprietors' Association.

The 700 maintenance men, who take care of the newspaper printing machinery, had been striking for a wage increase of just over £2 a week.

The unions have not accepted the employers' latest offer but have agreed to return to work pending further negotiations, which are due to start within eight weeks.

The strike has kept newspapers based in the industry's traditional home of Fleet Street in central London off the presses for 26 days and cost the industry £3m.

One of the few national papers to be unaffected by the strike was the Guardian which is printed in Manchester.

The absence of the Fleet Street papers has affected about 23,000 people in related industries.

The lack of newspaper sports pages led to a drop in business for bookmakers.

Some said they were doing only 5% of their normal trade because gamblers could not get information on dog and horse races.

However, some sectors have benefited from the absence of national newspapers.

The head of W H Smith's station book stalls, C J Williams, said there had been a run on paperback novels and magazines.

He said: "Never was there such a rapid sale for magazines. For the cheap editions of books we had to scour London."

American papers such as the New York Times have also been flown in to stop the gap.

Public libraries have also seen an increase in loans - libraries in Hampstead in west London reported a jump of 10% in borrowing over the past month.

Big news events the Fleet Street papers have missed included Sir Winston Churchill's resignation, the Budget and the announcement of a general election.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The widespread effects and huge cost of the strike demonstrated the power the unions held over the newspaper industry.

It would not be broken for another 30 years when Rupert Murdoch - owner of the Sun and the Times - moved his papers from Fleet Street to a new hi-tech plant in Wapping. New technology introduced at Wapping resulted in 4,000 print and maintenance workers losing their jobs.

In spite of months of vociferous picketing of the Wapping plant by unions Rupert Murdoch was able to produce and distribute his papers at a vastly reduced cost.

Mr Murdoch's success encouraged other newspapers to adopt new technology and leave Fleet Street for cheaper premises and lower labour costs in east London.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you're not getting any of the big fish, then it's time to cast an ever wider net. Include new people in your network by any means, even if it's meeting total strangers.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You may need the money, but you know it's not the right time to take on any new accounts when A) your coworkers are telling you not to; B) your boss is telling you not to; or C) both of the above.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're never too old to learn something new, not that you'll have to try. Put that thought in the bank and use it for days you wonder about the earning ability of your current position.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Everything is about relationships, from the world economy right on down to tossing a dime in a paper cup. So think of your finances as a series of one-on-one transactions, especially during business hours.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't let fear get in the way of your ability to enjoy what you do. Put some fun and creativity back into getting a lot done, and then watch at least some of the profits return.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you can't afford to go the formal route, then donate informally. But do keep up the altruism, at all costs. The most important account balance is your karmic one.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Whoa! You're in a hurry to make money, but you'll have to accept reality's pace. The only thing driving your urgency is stress, so do whatever it takes to reign it in.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Low funds have put a fire under you. You may be in a hurry, but if you don't take your time, you might as well not spend it in the first place. Mistakes won't earn you the big bucks, or any bucks at all.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Money is the root of all evil. That's a lesson everyone has to learn for themselves. Lending or borrowing causes problems with coworkers but you have the social skills to finesse your way through.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Avoid wise cracks and comments that could get ugly. Some might ask if you're kidding yourself, but you know you're not. Even in this economy, you have a lot to give without being out for gain.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The first thing to do is find the wiggle room. Make a list of what bills need to be addressed now, and what can be paid with some, shall we say, postponements. Then cross off the word worry from your vocabulary.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Even money can wear camouflage. Your job now is to sniff it out wherever it may be hiding, and that's suddenly a lot harder than it used to be. Don't let yourself feel too bewildered.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

			2	6	1			
8		9						1
1	6					2		5
			3			9		2
	4			7			8	
3		5			2			
6		1					9	8
	7						5	1
			4	1	3			

Easy+

3		9		2				6
8	6							7
			1	9		8		
			5		9	6		
2	1						8	9
		7	8		2			
		2		5	1			
	8						1	6
7				8		4		5

Medium

			2			4	7	9
5			7	4				
	2							6
	5				3	6		
		3	4	5	1	8		
		1	8					4
9							6	
				7	8			5
7	3	6			4			

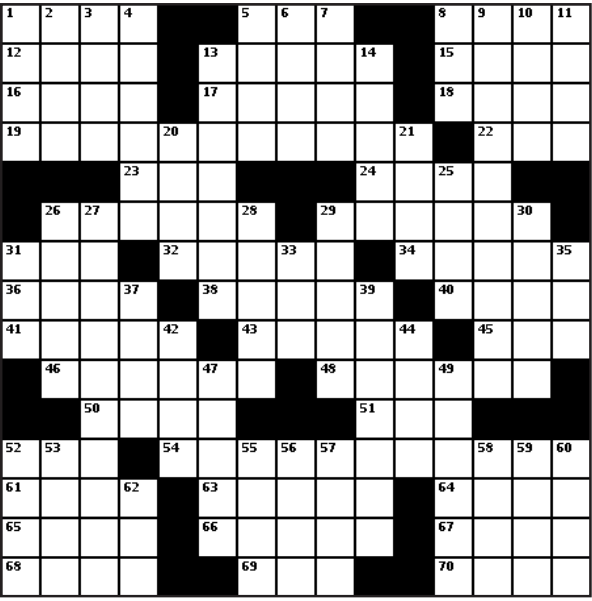
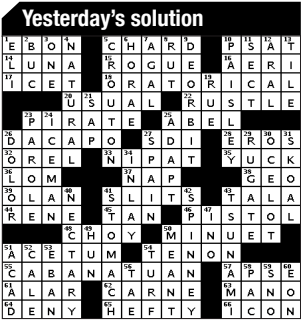
Hard

5				6		7		
1		2						
			3				8	
	7					4	3	
				5	1			
	8							
	4		2					
6								5

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Dirty Harry's org.; 5- Cut and dried grass; 8- Hurler Hershisier; 12- Sci-fi princess; 13- Paddled; 15- Snack in a shell; 16- Lone Star State sch.; 17- Start of a Dickens title; 18- River to the Mediterranean; 19- Restaurant below street level; 22- However; 23- Nada; 24- Complain; 26- Kind of garage; 29- Large beer mug; 31- ___ been had!; 32- Opposed to cation; 34- Bedouin; 36- Stratum; 38- Challenges; 40- ___ majesty; 41- Cordillera of South America; 43- Very much; 45- Hush-hush org.; 46- First-born; 48- Theater district; 50- Villa d'___; 51- Alphabet trio; 52- Young ___; 54- Hotelier; 61- Mozart's "___ fan tutte"; 63- Set free; 64- Steak order; 65- Break in the action; 66- Pertaining to the moon; 67- Plus; 68- ___ sow, so shall...; 69- Scot's topper; 70- Digits of the foot;

DOWN: 1- Insult; 2- Greek cheese; 3- Artist Mondrian; 4- Nymph of Greek myth; 5- Loathe; 6- Asian inland sea; 7- Shout; 8- Suffix with Capri; 9- Disturbance; 10- Hosiery hue; 11- Ill-gotten gains; 13- Seaport on San Francisco Bay; 14- Caterpillar rival; 20- Director Vittorio De ___; 21- Come down; 25- Image of a deity; 26- Sheeplike; 27- Unnecessarily; 28- Laughing; 29- Contemptuous look; 30- Cowboy's tool; 31- Give ___ rest!; 33- Treasure of the Sierra Madre; 35- Narc's org.; 37- Communists; 39- Giggle; 42- Clockmaker Thomas; 44- Miami's county; 47- Capital of South Korea; 49- Ogle; 52- Pac-10 team; 53- Entre ___; 55- Hardware fastener; 56- Sicilian sight; 57- Neeson of "Rob Roy"; 58- ___ Alto; 59- It means "Irish" in Irish; 60- Classic cars; 62- ___ de France



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 1990 992

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Ciaran Fahey

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW

Madrid rivals clash again

DEFENDING champion Real Madrid faces familiar foe Atletico Madrid for a place in the Champions League semifinals while Barcelona appears to have its place already booked.

The Madrid rivals produced a stalemate in the first leg of their quarterfinal, leaving everything to play for at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Wednesday (Thursday, 2:45am) in another rematch of last year's final.

Also Wednesday, Monaco needs to shake off poor home form for the visit of Juventus after losing the first leg 1-0 in Turin.

Barcelona has one foot in the semifinals with a 3-1 away win over Paris Saint-Germain ahead of the return leg today (tomorrow, 2:45am).

Meanwhile, five-time winner Bayern Munich faces an uphill struggle to reach its fourth consecutive semifinal after losing 3-1 at Porto last week. At least the Bavarian side can count on enthusiastic home support.

Here is a closer look at the second leg of each quarterfinal.

Thu, 2:45am
Real v Atletico Madrid
H 1.86, D 3.8, A 4.9

Madrid rarely gets the jitters when playing a big match at home.

But the 10-time European Cup winners will be missing some of their best players on Wednesday when they face the surprisingly daunting task of beating Atletico for the first time in eight meetings this season after defeating their crosstown rivals in last season's final.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti will be without suspended left back Marcelo and midfielder Luka Modric after he hurt a ligament in his right knee during Saturday's 3-1 win over Malaga.

Forward Gareth Bale also picked up with an apparent left calf injury in the Malaga match.

Ancelotti hopes to have Karim Benzema back, but the striker rested over the weekend after picking up a knock in training on Friday.

One player Madrid can count on will be Cristiano Ronaldo, who hit the 50-goal mark for the fifth consecutive season against Malaga.

Atletico escaped the first leg with a 0-0 draw thanks to goalkeeper Jan Oblak's saves. It will be without suspended midfielder Mario Suarez, but forward Antoine Griezmann honed his scoring touch with two goals in its 2-1 win at Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

Wed, 2:45am
Barcelona v PSG
H 1.41, D 5.5, A 9

Paris Saint-Germain has a big hole to climb out of if it hopes to advance past Barcelona, but Valencia may have given the side a good blueprint for the daunting task.

Valencia's intense pressure caused major trouble for Barcelona on Saturday and only their lack of finishing touch kept the visitors from scoring in a match that ended with the deceptive scoreline of 2-0 for the Catalan hosts.

Barcelona eked out the win thanks to goals by Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi, and Luis Enrique's side will no doubt be favored to eliminate PSG.

After winning the first leg away, Barcelona has advanced in 34 of 36 UEFA ties.

Barcelona will have Dani Alves back from suspension and is hopeful Andres Iniesta can return after hurting his back in the opening leg.

AP PHOTO



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo fights for the ball against Atletico's Diego Godin and Atletico's Arda Turan during the Champions League quarterfinal first leg soccer match between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, Spain

Thu, 2:45am
Monaco v Juventus
H 3.6, D 3.3, A 2.36

While Juventus moved 15 points clear at the top of the Italian league standing with a 2-0 win against Lazio, Monaco put on another disappointing home showing this weekend in a 1-1 draw with Rennes in the French league.

Bidding for a first Champions League semifinal in more than 10 years, Monaco needs to overturn a 1-0 deficit after Arturo Vidal scored a penalty in Turin.

But playing at home does not make a big difference for Monaco in terms of fan support as their Stade Louis-II ground is often half-empty.

"The atmosphere will be better (against Juve), it will be fully packed," winger Yannick

Ferreira Carrasco said. "It is going to spur us on. And we already proved that we could win here in the Champions League, we did it against Bayer Leverkusen and Zenit. Hopefully we'll be able to score early, but tactically Juventus is going to defend very well and try to catch us on the break."

Wed, 2:45am
Bayern v Porto
H 1.36, D 5.7, A 10.5

Bayern's hopes of repeating its 2013 treble were dented by the club's first loss in Portugal last week, a defeat that has had repercussions off the pitch.

Longtime team doctor Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-Wohlfahrt and his staff quit the next day, with the 72-year-old saying he had been unfairly blamed for

the defeat — a charge refuted by Bayern sports director Matthias Sammer.

Bayern has been coping with a long injury list and there were reportedly disagreements between Mueller-Wohlfahrt and coach Pep Guardiola on the treatment on injured players.

Bastian Schweinsteiger trained Sunday and should be back after recovering from his ankle injury, while Franck Ribery and Philip Lahm are doubtful. There was an injury scare for Juan Bernat in Saturday's 2-0 Bundesliga win at Hoffenheim but Guardiola said the Spaniard can play.

Definitely out are Arjen Robben, David Alaba, Mehdi Benatia, Javi Martinez and Tom Starke.

Porto will be without suspended defenders Danilo and Alex Sandro. **AP / Odds by Betfair**

ACL PREVIEW

Laudrup, Cannavaro eye coaching success in Asia

Today, 6:30pm
FC Seoul v Guangzhou FC
H 3, D 3.4, A 2.52

MICHAEL Laudrup and Fabio Cannavaro were giants of the global game as players and can take a big step toward coaching success in Asia this week by guiding their teams to the knockout stage of the Asian Cham-

pions League.

With four games of the group phase completed and two to go, both Europeans are well-placed to take one of the top two spots in their respective groups and progress.

Former Real Madrid and Juventus center back Cannavaro succeeded Marcello Lippi at Chinese giant Guangzhou Evergrande in November and

a draw at FC Seoul will be enough for the Italian, who has already spent around USD30 million to bring Brazilian stars Ricardo Goulart and Alan to a club that has won the last four Chinese Super League titles.

Laudrup, who played for both Barcelona and Real Madrid, captured the Qatar league title earlier this month with

Lekhwiya and a win at home to Iran's Persepolis will take the Doha team to the second round if Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr fails to defeat Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan.

"Things are not determined yet as all the teams in the group still have a chance to advance to the knockout stage and we should put more effort to achieve our target," said

Laudrup, who was fired by English Premier League club Swansea City in February 2014 and arrived in Doha five months later.

"There were a lot of challenges this season," the former Denmark international said of his success at the club so far. "We had national competitions. We had players injured. It was very, very tough. You can't compare

with the Spanish League or the Premier League. This was tough because there were many things that we had to deal with during the season."

Guangzhou won its first three games in Group G before losing 2-1 to Kashima Antlers of Japan and will be without suspended midfielders Zou Zheng and Huang Bowen for the visit to South Korea. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Brook Yang



A TALE OF TWO BORDER CROSSINGS

Living across two separated territories has trained me to be border-crossing savvy. I try to avoid the crowded checkpoints and congested traffic as much as I can, and learn my lessons from experimenting with the choices of routes, means of transport and timing. Overall, I try to avoid feeling anxious, desperate or helpless. And to achieve that, I often spend money on time, so to speak. Nevertheless, the daily exposure to the hassle of commuting hasn't changed my mind and physique too much.

The Gongbei Port in Zhuhai was to be the first test in the journey. Right before President Xi Jinping came to visit the MSAR, the Zhuhai authorities set up a hidden passageway to manage the onslaught of peak-hour traffic, naming it the "Weatherproof Corridor" (literally, the Wind and Rain Corridor). The Z-shaped structure occupies a big part of the square. Even when there are few commuters, it forces them to walk in a huge circle to get to the Port's hall. And when the passageway is fully packed? We pace step by step and perhaps even reflect on our reasons for visiting our intended destination.

If you look around at all the Chinese visitors, there are three shared characteristics. There are those adorned with iconic patterns of luxury brands from head to toe; these brands happen to be one of Macau's major generators of revenue. Then it's the tour group visitors we often see isolated in the travel agency buses. These are the general masses, the people who have been excluded from the individual tourist visa scheme. They may be surprised at the price of a small packet of almond cookies, or have to sit waiting at the Golden Lotus Square for the trip to finish, but still, they expect to return home with a unique experience.

Then there are also those who cross the border to shop for necessities. Purchasing milk powder, sale clothing, shampoo and even facial care products, many of these people still live by the rule of spending time to save money or to pursue quality. The trend is even more prominent in the marches of the MSAR's elderly citizens, dragging home meat and vegetables trolley by trolley.

Walking for five minutes through a channel accommodating travel agencies, casino and hotel booths, and duty-free shops for alcohol, cigarettes and cosmetics, we reach the other side of the border. However, another section of the journey has only just started.

Here the principle of "spending money to save time" might be subject to change, as passing through the impenetrable traffic by taxi isn't an option that any working-class person can afford. There's also the fact that taxis are a scarce resource from time to time. You take a look around, deterred by the intensive queues for the casino shuttle buses. Shortly after and helplessly, we may find ourselves overwhelmed in the underground bus terminal.

It can be a place that makes you doubt the meaning of life, whilst the engines are rumbling and echoing in the thin air, and the queues in the dark seem to take hours to board. Eventually we squeeze into a packed bus that heads downtown or to a work place, but maybe also towards a two-hour conjunction.

Just when wondering if it's luck or the contrary, a set of text messages buzz your phone one after another: "Macau bacarrat welcomes you."

THE BUZZ RENMINBI LANDS IN DOHA

The Qatar Central Bank last week celebrated the official opening of the first Renminbi Clearance Centre (RCC) in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA), to be located in Doha. The RCC will allow for claims denominated in Chinese Renminbi to be settled in Doha and exchanged for other currencies, including the Qatari Riyal (QAR). This represents a further step in trade and financial integration between China and Qatar, two of the fastest growing economies in the world. It will also further strengthen Qa-

tar's role as a financial center for the MENA region and beyond.

China became the largest exporter to the MENA region in 2014. Its exports to the MENA region grew by a compound annual growth rate of 14.3% over the last five years to an estimated USD141.9bn in 2014. Chinese exports now represent over 13% of all goods exported to the MENA region. This share is likely to continue growing rapidly as China further strengthens its role as the world's main manufacturing hub in the coming years.

ORGANIZED CRIME

8 people killed at Brazilian soccer team's fan club



Tales Azzoni & Adriana Gomez Licon, Sao Paulo

ARMED men killed eight people in a raid on a Sao Paulo soccer fan club that has close links to a notorious, now-closed prison, Brazilian police said yesterday.

Police said witnesses told them that around midnight on Saturday three gunmen stormed the dark and gritty site where Corinthians' fan group Pavilhao 9 meets underneath a highway overpass. They ordered the victims to lie face down on the ground and shot seven in the head. An eighth man was shot but tried to escape, reached a gas station and was later taken to a nearby

hospital where he died.

Detective Arlindo Jose Negrao ruled out a fight between rival fan groups. He would not reveal the motive behind the attack, however, saying that could interfere with the probe.

"Through witnesses, we are already exploring a line of investigation, which is not leading us to believe it was caused by fan rivalry," Negrao said at a press conference. "We even have possible suspects."

The victims were having a barbecue at the club at the time and making flags with the soccer team's colors for Sunday's anticipated match between Corinthians and Palmeiras. The fan group did not answer seve-

ral phone calls.

Pavilhao 9 was founded by a group of Corinthians' fans who played soccer with inmates at Brazil's Carandiru prison, known widely for a massacre that left 111 inmates dead that was turned into a movie. The prison is now closed.

The Corinthians team did not respond to a request for information but posted the word "Mourning" against a black backdrop on its official Facebook page. Former president of the team and current federal congressman, Andres Sanchez, said on the social network he was "deeply saddened to learn of what had happened at Pavilhao 9, with which I had a strong bond since I was a kid."

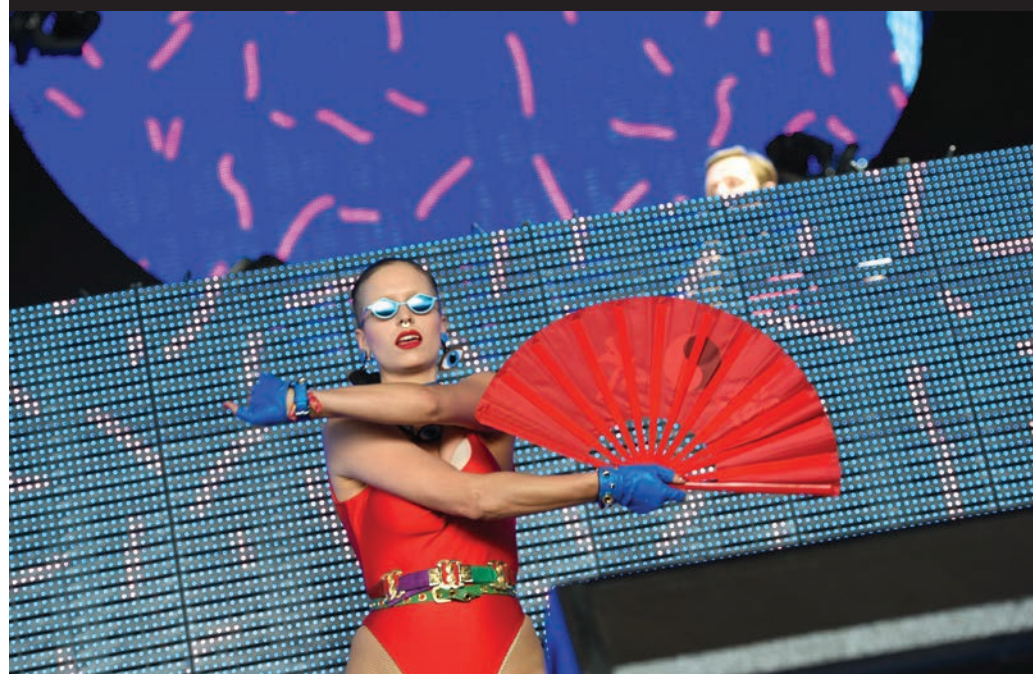
Much of the soccer violence that breaks out in or near Brazilian stadiums is traced to fan clubs. Police often investigate fan groups for ties with drug traffickers.

"It is widely known that criminal organizations are inside of all fan clubs. Organized crime uses these fan groups as a front for their misdeeds," Juca Kfour, one of Brazil's best-known sports commentators, told radio station CBN.

Last year, dozens of members of another Corinthians' fan club, Gavioes da Fiel, invaded the team's training center. Angered by the team's performance, they attacked employees and grabbed Peruvian striker Paolo Guerrero by his neck, forcing other players to flee into a locker room and barricade themselves until police arrived. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Scott Roth/Invision/AP Photo



A dancer performs on stage during Martin Solveig's set at the 2015 Coachella Music and Arts Festival, in Indio, California.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	35-55 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

USA Authorities in Minnesota have charged six men they say attempted to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State group.



AP PHOTO

SOUTH AFRICA'S president says a total of seven people have died in ongoing attacks on immigrants here and he postponed a key ceremony because of the crisis. The office of President Jacob Zuma said yesterday that the ceremony scheduled for next week bestows the country's highest official honor on South Africans and foreigners who have contributed to South Africa. His office said it must be postponed so South Africa can mourn the victims of anti-immigrant violence.



AP PHOTO

GREECE Leaders of Greece's third-largest political party, the extreme right Golden Dawn, went on trial yesterday on charges of operating as a criminal organization that allegedly carried out a campaign of violence against immigrants and left-wing opponents. Party leader Nikos Michaloliakos and senior officials are among 69 defendants in the case.



AP PHOTO

FINLAND The opposition Center Party has won Finland's parliamentary election but its new leader faces tough talks on forming a government following the success of the populist, anti-establishment Finns Party that placed ahead of the main government partners, the conservatives and Social Democrats. Center Party leader Juha Sipila declared victory in Sunday's election and will take on the role of forming the new ruling coalition.