



HOUSING INSUFFICIENCIES ACKNOWLEDGED

The lack of facilities at the Seac Pai Van social housing project is having a negative impact, says Chan Meng Kam

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HENGQIN CAR REGULATIONS UNKNOWN

A lawmaker criticizes the lack of information about the regulations for Macau-licensed vehicles in Hengqin

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YANGTZE CRUISE DEATH TOLL RISES

P10

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WORLD BRIEFS

N KOREAN space agency officials say the country is developing a more advanced Earth observation satellite and are defending their right to conduct rocket launches whenever they see fit, despite protests by the United States and others that the launches are aimed primarily at honing military-use technologies.



USA-TAIWAN Taiwan's opposition presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen says on a visit to Washington that if she comes to power in January elections, her government would have a responsibility to contribute to peace and stability in relations with mainland China.

INDIA A group of rebels using rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons ambush a military convoy in India's insurgency-wracked northeast, killing at least 20 soldiers and wounding more than a dozen others.

MYANMAR says thousands of migrants left the country to seek better jobs elsewhere, and were not fleeing persecution, a day after bringing to shore about 730 migrants, the latest arrivals in Southeast Asia's ongoing crisis. *More on p12*

CAMBODIA-AUSTRALIA Four asylum seekers rejected by Australia start a new life in Cambodia, becoming the first to be resettled under a deal between the two nations that human rights advocates criticize as misguided and inhumane. *More on p12*

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June 4 crackdown marked at Senado Sq 26 years on

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Developing countries' top politicians attend forum in Macau

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Americans (re)discover Cuba...

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INSIDE

Generations come together to mark Tiananmen crackdown 26 years on

HUNDREDS sat solemnly at the heart of the city last night marking the 26th anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre in 1989, when tens of thousands students were crushed to death by tanks. Despite the obviously low turnout compared to last year's, the unanimous goal of the candlelit vigil remains the same: to seek democracy realization in China and vindication of the deceased.

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong, one of the vigil's promoters, has for many years been refusing to forget what happened in Tiananmen Square back in 1989. "China still has one party only, and therefore the problem remains," he stated. The lawmaker pledged to continue promoting democracy here in Senado Square, and remembering Tiananmen is an important step.

Among those taking part in the candlelight vigil yesterday, a smi-



ling elderly woman in a wheelchair stood out from the crowd. Seated right next was her daughter, Maria de Fátima Brandão, who has been participating in the rally for the past decade.

"My mother was here in Macau when it happened and she took action. They also organized a gathering; it was something that went peacefully. Now she is 92 years old and I have been bringing her here for almost ten years," she said.

Maria de Fátima was studying in Japan back in 1989, where she received the news of the Tiananmen protests. "I am here for the memory of what happened in 1989. I came here with my mother because we want to keep the memory alive and tell people what happened. We want freedom to say what we want,

without hurting others. We want people to know the truth," she stressed.

In recent years, the vigil has also been capturing the attention of younger generations. A sixteen-year-old Macau resident, surnamed Lei, has likewise been joining the June 4 vigil for the past three years. He stressed that the reason why he's been taking part has changed over time: "Before I joined because I personally felt angry for what happened to those students. But this time I came here because I want to know what other people in Macau think about this."

Although he believes that Macau citizens are currently not interested in political affairs, Lei trusts that the apathy will soon be over, since Hong Kong has been fighting for universal suffrage. "I

believe that after what happened in Hong Kong more people will take part in these activities."

Political scientist Eric Sautede, who also took part yesterday, recalled that the event is bigger than it used to be, although not reaching the number of participants seen last year.

"Last year, was exceptional because [of the protests of] May 25 and 27. There was a momentum (...) but it's bigger than it used to be, and it's an indication of a growing awareness and people's growing sense to be more politically engaged," he said.

Encouraged by her daughter and grandson, an elderly lady who only gave her surname, Leung, also made the decision to attend. "I was on the mainland when the June 4 incident took place, I wasn't sure of what

happened at that time [...] We weren't allowed to talk about it," said the 76-year-old senior sitting on a stool. "I learnt a lot since I started my life here in Macau in 1990. I'll come as long as there is still a vigil in the future."

Another participant from the mainland who has worked in the local media industry for eight years told the Times that she was so moved by the enthusiasm felt at the memorial that she insists on passing on the message to the next generation.

"It was my first time attending the event although I knew the vigil for years. Macau people made me [...] how should I put it? Under the tightened censorship on the mainland [...] Usually Hong Kong would host such events, yet Macau was submissive. I felt so delighted to see so many people here willing to grasp history," said the lady. "At least we should seek truth, justice and integrity which are universal virtues."

Anson Yeung, a fresh graduate from the neighboring SAR, where a massive assembly is also held annually to mark the bloody crackdown (see page 11), was also among the participants last night. "It feels more grave in Hong Kong, yet it doesn't feel so much like that here," said the young architect who just spent five months here. However, he refused to disclose much for fear of being denied entry into Macau in the future, in reference to the past few cases where HK journalists and outspoken advocates were turned back upon arrival. **MDT**

We want freedom to say what we want, without hurting others. We want people to know the truth

MARIA DE FÁTIMA BRANDÃO

Seac Pai Van project insufficiencies acknowledged

THE fact that the Seac Pai Van social housing project opened without having concluded work on all of its social facilities is having an impact on the daily livelihood of the people that live there, lawmaker Chan Meng Kam said yesterday during a Follow-up Committee for a Public Administration Affairs

meeting.

The committee is asking government departments for opinions on the revision of the affordable housing law. After a closed-door conference yesterday afternoon where members chiefly addressed the issue of long-idle public housing units in the city, Chan Meng Kam, who

presides over the committee, told media that the authorities are now awaiting opinions from the CCAC on devising a legal definition of "non-occupation" to deal with cases where the affordable flat owners have lent those flats to others.

Aside from the modification to the law, committee members also came

to a consensus with the government that efforts to improve residents' livelihood in the Seac Pai Van area have to be ramped up as disgruntled citizens have complained that the shortage of supporting facilities there has taken a toll on their lives after moving into the social housing units. Chan Meng Kam said:

"Residents reflected that their children could arrive at school on time by getting up at seven thirty whereas since living in Seac Pai Van they might be late for school even if they got up at six thirty."

The committee head also mentioned that the neighborhood was in need of facilities such as supermarkets, wet

markets, schools and a more refined transport network, all of which, he presumed, might be behind the low occupation rates of the housing units there.

The legislative assembly passed the revamp of the affordable housing law in a plenary meeting in the middle of last month. **Staff reporter**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautede, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela
CHINA & FOREIGN EDITOR Vanessa Moore vanessa@macaudailytimes.com
DESIGN EDITOR João Jorge Magalhães magalhães@macaudailytimes.com | NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, António Espadinha Soares, Brook Yang, Catarina Pinto, Cyril Law, Emille Tran, Grace Yu, Irene Sam, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Philips, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Keith Ip, Renato Marques (photographer), Richard Whitfield, Robert Carroll (Hong Kong correspondent), Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Ruan Du Toit Bester, Sandra Norte (designer), Sum Choi, Viviana Segui | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MacauHR, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Lusa News Agency, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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Health Bureau denies isolating South Korean woman

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has denied rumors that a South Korean woman had been isolated for possible Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) after she sought treatment at Tap Seac's public Health Center.

"This information isn't true and therefore the Health Bureau wishes to clarify that there are no suspected cases [of MERS in Macau,]" SSM said in a statement issued yesterday.

The bureau added that in the case of a patient needing to be put into isolation they would disclose the relevant information in good time.

Although there are no suspected cases of MERS in Macau, authorities are still searching for a South Korean visitor who entered the city after coming into contact with a MERS patient last week (May 26) on Asiana Airlines flight OZ723 from Seoul to Hong Kong.

SSM also clarified yesterday that it did not disclose the personal data of a citizen who had traveled with the initial South Korean MERS patient. "Today a few media outlets released a passport photo of an individual,



Workers wearing protective gears spray anti-septic solution in an airplane amid rising public concerns over the spread of MERS virus at Incheon International Airport, South Korea

stating that he had traveled on the same flight as a confirmed [South Korean] MERS patient," SSM said, adding that the bureau did not provide any media outlets with the man's passport photo, which is now circulating on the Internet.

"In order to find a South Korean man [who traveled on the same flight as the initial MERS patient],

SSM requested the help of local hotels sending them a few details about the individual, namely his name and passport number via a confidential fax," the bureau stated.

SSM warned citizens to comply with the Personal Data Protection Act, advising them not to release or share the individual's passport photo. Finally, the bureau has also requested those who have shared the picture to delete it immediately.

SSM disclosed on Sunday that apart from five passengers who had been identified as being in close contact with the initial MERS patient, there were also 26 Korean passengers on the same flight who visited Macau between May 26 and 28. Border checkpoint records showed that they all left Macau on May 28 and 29, except for one. The initial patient, a 44-year-old South Korean man who traveled from Seoul to Hong Kong last week ignoring travel warnings, was confirmed as China's first MERS patient. He neglected to tell a nurse at the airport's health checkpoint that he had a fever. He later took two buses to Huizhou. **CP**

DSPA raises awareness over environmental protection

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) is launching a series of activities and awareness raising campaigns to mark the widely celebrated World Environment Day on June 5. DSPA is organizing The Macau Environmental Week 2015, which kicked off on June 1 and will run until Sunday.

On Sunday, a festival to commemorate the World Environment Day will be held at 3:30 p.m. at Tap Seac Square. DSPA stressed in a press release that this is one of the key activities to raise awareness of environmental protection and cooperation between Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong.

The festival will feature a set of workshops aimed at encouraging and teaching citizens how to sort waste for recycling.

This year, the Macau Environmental Week is focusing on the issue of waste management and reduction. DSPA advises Macau residents to think wisely when purchasing goods to avoid producing unwanted waste. Furthermore, the bureau suggests for citizens "to value food produce" and avoid food waste, while also encouraging people to reduce the use of plastic bags and support recycling activities.

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Regulation for Macau-licensed vehicles in Hengqin unknown

LEONG Veng Chai has urged the government to plan ahead before the clearance arrangement for Macau-licensed vehicles to drive in Hengqin comes into force. He stressed that pressure is likely to increase at the border checkpoint with Hengqin.

RENATO MARQUES



In a written enquiry, the lawmaker alluded to a statement made recently by the director general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, who told the media that the clearance arrangement for Macau-licensed vehicles to drive in Hengqin would be announced before August.

Leong Veng Chai recalled that the current infrastructure and equipment at the border checkpoint might not be enough to meet the increasing demand to ensure that Macau-licensed vehicles are allowed to drive on the neighboring island.

“With only three months left

until August, the government hasn't put forward any proposals to solve several legal matters, namely differences in driving licenses from Macau and China,” he said.

Furthermore, the lawmaker asked the govern-

ment whether it is considering moving forward with the mutual recognition of driving licenses – an issue that has raised controversy in recent years. Lawmaker Leong recalled that there are differences not only in Macau and China's driving

rules but also in road signs.

“The Hengqin border checkpoint is operating around the clock; gaming concessionaires are now driving their employees [who live on the mainland] to this border checkpoint, which increases pressure and traffic in the area. With the implementation of a clearance arrangement for Macau vehicles to enter Hengqin, the work volume at the border is bound to increase significantly,” he stressed.

Lawmaker Leong requested for the government to assess whether extra equipment at the border will be enough to meet future demand.

He recalled that, “this is a matter that has captured society's attention again, as we have only three months until August and no further policies have been announced.” CP

Additional shows for CCM's ARTmusing Summer

THE Macau Cultural Centre announced yesterday that it will be staging additional shows for “The Forest of Grimm” and “Flying Cow,” two puppet and dance performances coming from Spain and The Netherlands. Both shows will hit CCM's ARTmusing Summer stage in August, as part of a series that celebrates the arts through more than 25 performances. Tickets for the additional shows will be available from today.

“Flying Cow” is a dance show for young children over 4 years old by the De Stille dance company, a Dutch group that has been touring the world since 1994 with the aim of encouraging children to create stories of their own. Through dance, creators found a way to open up new horizons where no spoken words are needed and imagination is the only required skill.

“The Forest of Grimm” is a performance without words conceived by Spanish group La Maquiné. The show offers a visual feast of puppets, objects and projections, performed to the sound of Mother Goose Suite, Ravel's masterpiece for children.

AD

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COOPERATION

Developing countries' top politicians attend forum in town

Brook Yang

OVER 1,000 representatives including policy makers and industry leaders from around 50 countries and regions are gathering in town for an annual dialogue on further international infrastructure cooperation, as the Sixth International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) commenced yesterday at the Venetian Macao.

In light of the increasingly apparent trend of regional economic integration, the Forum this year focuses on international infrastructure cooperation innovative models.

In his keynote speech, Sri Lanka's Minister of Ports and Shipping, Arjuuna Ranatunga, acknowledged a wide recognition of the potential benefits of regional economic integration in magnifying infrastructure cooperation across different regions.

In response to China's attempts to initiate a "Belt and Road" blueprint, the minister said that his island country is keen to develop into an international shipping hub that networks with the rest of Asia. "We cannot afford to postpone making a decision on this issue, which is already behind by at least ten years," he said, adding that the theme of this year's forum is "timely and hosts immense significance."

"I believe that infrastructure has never been more important to global growth," said Michael Bear, Chairman of the UKTI



Regeneration Investment Organization and UK Special Envoy for Sustainable Urbanization to China.

The diplomat cited analysts' estimates that USD57 trillion of investment is needed in global infrastructure between 2013 and 2030, simply to keep up with

world GDP growth; whilst spending on infrastructure projects will double between now and 2025 to reach USD9 trillion per year.

"Overall, close to USD78 trillion is expected to be spent globally between 2014-2025. To put that into context, this is more than the total estimated value of today's infrastructure. So there is a great need for new infrastructure which reflects our shifting economic and demographic trends," he explained.

On the other hand, speakers stressed that investment gaps have become increasingly prominent and thus are a key challenge that needs to be addressed for further international cooperation.

Zambia's Minister of Mines,

Energy and Water Development, Christopher Yaluma, told the forum that "on infrastructure development, Africa alone needs approximately USD93 billion to close the infrastructure gap."

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), only 2.5 percent of DGP is invested into infrastructure, according to the Inter-American Development Bank's Vice President for Private Sector & Non-Sovereign Operations, Hans Schulz. "Yet the region requires 5 percent to stay competitive. That's an investment gap, and a business opportunity, of USD170 billion annually," he told the packed forum hall.

The expert indicated that not only is there room for investment, but there is also a broad

range of infrastructure and services to be covered. As for the Chinese investment in the LAC region two years ago, almost 90 percent of it was concentrated on extractive activities, particularly mining and hydrocarbons. "Chinese investment needs to grow and diversify to deepen the productive integration with Latin America," he suggested.

"The key to success in raising enough investment for tomorrow's essential infrastructure rests in finding the optimum balance between public and private money. Future infrastructure will need to be investment-grade and packaged as genuinely investible opportunities," Mr Bear also suggested.

Incremental global investment opportunity is also expected to make infrastructure greener and climate-resilient, the speakers repeatedly stressed.

"Climate change is putting tremendous pressure on infrastructure, which can't quite keep up. (...) To foster long-term development, sustainability in infrastructure design is paramount," said Mr Schulz.

Apart from "hard" infrastructures such as transport and energy, some regions have long neglected the construction of "soft" infrastructure, such as policies, regulations, systems, capacity, and institutions to support the development and efficient operation of physical structures, Sri Lankan Minister Ranatunga pointed out.

Infrastructure has never been more important to global growth

MICHAEL BEAR

INTERVIEW | SUN ZIYU

'Signing contracts is to set up a common link'

THE annual IIICF has once again put Macau's platform role into the spotlight. Speaking of the city's potential role in the regional "Belt and Road" Initiative, Mr Sun Ziyu, Vice President of the state-owned China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), suggested that a development fund could be set up locally to invest in Lusophone countries' infrastructure.

Macau Daily Times – What's Macau's position on the country's initiatives of building a modern Silk Road economic belt and a maritime Silk Road?

Sun Ziyu – I think



Sun Ziyu

Macau can play three roles in the "One Belt and One Road" [initiative]. One is just like this forum and also the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Forum. So the

first step is to link them with Macau's platform. Second, the local government wants Macau to become a regional financial center, so why don't you set up a Macau Fund,

maybe with joint capital, or maybe with capital from Macau? Especially the mainland Chinese companies would invest through this platform, because they would have a permanent secretariat for China-Portuguese speaking countries. This will make it easier to coordinate at the top government level and help the companies solve a lot of problems. [If] you need policies to support it, you can through this platform – only in Macau, no other cities.

MDT – How will such a fund help Macau?

SZ – To do investment, you need money.

The Macau government has some, but not a large amount of influence over the AIIB [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank]. If you set up a fund, you should focus on "One Belt, One Road" relative countries and on Portuguese-speaking countries – it's an advantage to Macau.

MDT – Why is it important for the CCCC to participate in this Forum?

SZ – We can use this platform to sign contracts with Latin American countries; a railway upgrade and maintenance project with Uruguay. Signing contracts is to set

up a common link. Many ministers are in Macau and they can visit our projects, like the Macau International Airport, which has CCCC as the main contractor; they can visit the Grande Lisboa, and also the C370, [a section of] the Light Rail Transit (LRT), even the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge site. So these ministers visit... it's better to see something with their own eyes than hearing about it from others. We leave them with a very strong impression, give them more confidence, so Chinese companies get more opportunities. This is the main purpose for the platform. **BY**

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The top 25 questions we are asked about Macau property Part 1 of 5

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor. Having established the company in 1994, JML Property offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

www.JMLProperty.com
info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

A version of this article appeared during February 2014

25. Question: Its so expensive, how can I afford to buy a property here ?

This question comes up a lot from 'would-be' first time buyers.

The first thing to understand is of course that the bank will loan you a lot of the money that is required to buy a property.

If you are a Macau resident, it is possible to get up to 70% of the property price funded by the bank. That still leaves 30% of the price to come up with though, and even on an apartment costing MOP4m, you will have to find \$1.2m in cash for the initial deposit.

There are lots of ways that you can get your families and friends to help you out with the purchase. For example, it's possible for more than one person to co-sign for a property, so you could consider buying a property with a partner.

24. Question: What should I expect to find in a furnished / unfurnished apartment

In summary;

Unfurnished generally means that there are no pieces of furniture such as chairs or TV. No surprise there.

However, you would usually expect to find 'white goods' still in the apartment such as fridge, freezer, washing

machine etc.

In addition, you could also expect to see air-conditioning units, and basic kitchen appliances such as an oven and / or a cook top.

In a 'fully furnished' apartment, you would expect to find chairs, tables, tv's, sofa, etc, but may not have such things as cutlery or plates.

In a 'fully furnished' apartment, the general idea is that you can walk into the apartment with a suitcase, unpack and live there. So the apartment would have cutlery, bed linen, towels etc.

23. Question: What costs are involved when I buy a property ?

First you have the price of the property of course. But there are other fees that you should be aware of.

'Stamp Duty' (see full explanation later) is a tax paid to the government on the price paid for the property. It is 1% on the first \$2m, 2% for the next \$2m, and 3% on everything over \$4m. Agency Fees are normally 1% of the purchase price, and are paid by both buyer and seller.

Legal fees and registration fees vary, but in general you can allow 5% of the price of the property to cover all related fees (including stamp duty and legal fees), and you won't be far away.

22. Question: When should I get my 2 months security deposit

back ?

Security deposits are usually returnable within 2 weeks according to most tenancy agreements.

The security deposit should be returned in full unless both parties agree to make deductions from the deposits.

We usually manage to pass back security deposits within 2 working days of a tenant checking out of a property, and its sometimes possible to arrange a refund of the deposit upon the check-out itself.

21. Question: Where should I buy in Macau ?

Whether you are buying a home or an investment property, its tough to go wrong in Taipa. Its close to the Cotai Strip, gives easy access to the Taipa ferry terminal, and you can be in Macau in minutes if required.

If you want value for money, you will find prices in Macau a little lower, and this may be an option if your job is on the peninsula as well.

Coloane, usually Hellene Gardens, is great if you crave a more 'rural' existence, and prefer easy access to trails and beaches as opposed to the hustle and bustle of the built up areas. It also offers great value for money as a place to live.

Next week: The next 5 most popular questions.



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BY CAIO PESSAGNO

A high performance grinder

A high performance athlete has to handle other issues than just practicing and competing. People like Rafael Nadal, LeBron James, Usain Bolt, Fernando Alonso and Neymar surely have the best structure possible around them, so they can focus 100% when they are playing or training in order to become the best in what they do.

My reasoning is simple: if I want to be one of the best in my sport, I must plan my professional routine and optimize my time. Here is my routine:

Morning

I wake up at 11 am and Zilda, the lady who works at my house, has already prepared breakfast. Without her, life would be way harder.

Exercise

Around 1 pm my trainer is already there for a Muay Thai. Practicing sports helps me to relieve stress and get more resistant. However, I try not to kill myself training, because I have a day of grinding ahead. It is important to have equilibrium.

Food

I finish training at 2:30 pm and, guess what, lunch is ready! Having someone handling the kitchen is so important. It is a lot easier to eat healthy. Eating well helps me concentrate on my work.

To work!

I start grinding at 3 pm and usually feel ready to play my 'A' game. In order to be always focused, the physical structure I created in my house helps a lot. I always start from the same spot,

where I sit in my grandmother's armchair. It is so comfortable! If in the middle of the day I want to change, there is another setup with a regular office chair, with two monitors. Later, when there are only a few tables left, I can move to the couch setup, where I can even play laying down. It is a perfect setup at the end of the day, because I feel relaxed right at the end of the grind, when fatigue starts to show up just when you are playing a final table!

More work! Really?

It is not over yet. Between all that, I have to find time to write for the PokerStars Blog, for my personal blog, record video blogs and other videos, coach, give interviews... for all that, my cousin Leonardo Brescia helps me to take care of all work outside the tables. Without Leo, I would never be able to call myself a high performance grinder.

Did you note the people around me are crucial in the process to achieve my goals as an athlete? I think it's impossible to handle everything by yourself.

My structure can look a little too much for you, but I'm sure Neymar's and Nadal's are way bigger than mine. It doesn't matter; the important thing is that the structure is what you need to get the best productivity.

At the end, it can be a losing day. Well, most days are losing days in a grinder's life. But, if I keep my team structure working with me, I know I am doing the right thing in the long term. 2013 was there to prove me that. Coincidence? I can't say for sure. The only thing I know is that I'll keep things that way.

What about you? Do you still think playing poker is just about sitting down and registering?

AD

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Greece at loggerheads with creditors over reforms for cash



Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras

Elena Becatoros
and Derek Gatopoulos, Athens

GREECE remains at loggerheads with its creditors over key economic reforms after a meeting between Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and the head of the European Union's executive arm failed to yield a breakthrough on the release of vital bailout loans.

And with senior members of Greece's governing radical left Syriza party stressing that they cannot accept a package of measures proposed by the country's creditors, markets across Europe sank yesterday. With time running out, there are real fears that Athens won't secure a deal that will see it get remaining bailout funds to avoid going

bankrupt.

The Athens stock exchange was trading about 2 percent lower in mid-day trading yesterday, while the Stoxx 50 of leading European shares was down 1.5 percent.

There had been high hopes that Tsipras' meeting with Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, which ran into the early hours of yesterday, would at the least begin to show the outlines of a deal that would release the 7.2 billion euros (\$8.2 billion) remaining in Greece's remaining bailout fund.

Though progress appears to have been made on the level of the budget surplus that Athens has to run in the years ahead, the two sides remain far apart on issues such as sales taxes

and pensions.

"If the government accepted this proposal, it would have been a disorderly retreat and an agreement to our submission," Social Security Minister Dimitris Stratoulis told Parliament.

"The entire package of proposals that were submitted yesterday are rejectable by our government," he said, describing them as an attempt by bailout lenders to impose "neo-colonialism."

Time is pressing, as the European part of Greece's bailout officially runs out at the end of the month and the country faces about 1.6 billion euros in repayments to the International Monetary Fund in June. The first installment, a relatively low amount of just over 300 million euros, is due today.

While there had been doubts Greece would be able to pay due to a liquidity crunch, Tsipras indicated there would be no problem, telling reporters in Brussels "don't worry about it." Other installments are due on June 12, 16 and 19.

Speaking after the meeting, Tsipras said the talks had been "friendly and constructive," but dismissed outright some of the proposals by the institutions overseeing Greece's bailout — the European Central Bank, Commission and IMF.

"The conclusion of this discussion is that the proposal the Greek side has submitted remains the only realistic and constructive proposal on the table," he said. **AP**

Alibaba expands into financial news with China media investment



Shai Oster

ALIBABA Group Holdings Ltd. is paying 1.2 billion yuan (USD193.5 million) for a stake in one of China's most influential business media companies, as the e-commerce company expands into financial-information services.

China Business News, a television and newspaper company that's part of the state-owned Shanghai Media Group Inc., and Alibaba will create a financial data and information service for Chinese businesses, the e-commerce company said, without disclosing details of its stake.

The two intend to use Alibaba's trove of customer data and cloud computing technology to create a service that can help enterprises make investment decisions, Alibaba said in a statement yesterday. The envisioned information service, targeted at small and mid-sized enterprises, marks Alibaba's entry into the business of providing news and information for investment.

The venture will also let mobile users of Alibaba auction site Taobao access the China Business News's wealth-management infor-

mation service.

Alibaba has increasingly tapped data collected from its network of hundreds of millions of buyers and sellers to establish and offer banking and credit services. Affiliate Ant Financial Services Group is already marketing financial products.

Ant Financial's Yu'E Bao, the world's fourth-biggest money fund, saw its assets under management swell to 711.7 billion yuan (\$115 billion) as of March 31. That was up 132.8 billion yuan from the end of last year, according to the fund's management firm.

Alibaba and Shanghai Media Group in November said they wanted to explore ways to work together, in areas from technology and research to marketing.

The investment in China Business News is the latest of a slew of deals Alibaba has engineered over the past year. The e-commerce company has announced 17 deals worth \$2.2 billion in the past 12 months, including investments into logistics and taxi hailing apps.

That figure doesn't include deals by funds backed by Alibaba Chairman Jack Ma, such as Yunfeng Financial Holdings Ltd. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CTM SUPPORTS "GO SHOPPING 2015"

"Go Shopping 2015" will be held at The Venetian Macao Cotai Expo Hall A between 5 and 7 June. Apart from promoting the activity via its service network, during the exhibition, CTM will set up a sales booth where an array of telecom services and products will be offered at discounted price.

In the 3-day exhibition, at CTM's Booth located at C31 & C32, smart phone plan subscribers are eligible to enjoy a MOP300 discount off handset prices, as well as double data usage up to 10GB for an extra MOP68. Moreover, "CTM No. 1 Club" members subscribing to specific data service plans can buy a Samsung Galaxy S6 edge at special price of MOP1,980 (original price: MOP6,810), as well as receiving a Clear Cover for free and redeeming a wireless charger at half

price. In addition, a 15% discount offer is available for the purchase of standalone handsets.

Residents are entitled a special monthly charge of MOP265 for subscribing to "No. 1 Home Fiber Broadband 50" service plans with waiver of installation fees, as well as giveaway of selected wireless routers, while subscribers of other "No. 1 Home Fiber Broadband" service plans can enjoy up to MOP1,500 discount for purchase of selected tablets or smart phones.

During the 3-day exhibition, resident "Like" the CTM Buddy Facebook Page or follow CTM Buddy Wechat will get a complimentary gift at CTM booth for free, while stocks last.

"Go Shopping 2015" is open from 12 pm - 9 pm today and tomorrow, and 12pm - 8pm on Sunday.

SANDS RETAIL WINS ACCOLADE IN RETAIL INDUSTRY AWARDS



Sands Retail has won the RLI Shopping Centre Renovation Award 2015 for its renovation program at The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore's luxury shopping mall. The award forms part of the Global RLI Awards

2015, the retail industry's Awards program.

This year's award builds on Sands Retail's achievement in the Global RLI Awards last year, when another Sands Retail property, Shoppes at Four Sea-

sons in Macau, also took the RLI Shopping Centre Renovation Award. As well as properties in Singapore and Macau, Sands Retail's shopping mall portfolio also spans retail property in the US.

"It's a real honor to accept this award on behalf of Sands Retail, which I believe underscores our hard work and commitment to ensuring that our malls offer the very best that luxury retail has to offer," said David Sylvester, Executive Vice President of Global Retail, Las Vegas Sands Corp. "It's particularly pleasing to have won this award for the second year in a row. Despite the current challenging economic conditions, we have delivered an unequalled shopping experience by drawing on our extensive experience and success in the retail sector. RLI's recognition of The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands reinforces our position as one of the world's leading operators of premium luxury shopping malls."

Chinese companies start building refinery in Angola

BLOOMBERG



ANGOLA should be self-sufficient in gasoline and diesel from 2017, following the commissioning of the new Soyo refinery, said the chairman of state oil company Sonangol Tuesday at the ceremony to lay the first stone.

Construction of the Soyo refinery was awarded to two Chinese companies. The work should be completed in 26 months and will occupy an area of 220 hectares in a significant oil production area (northern Zaire province).

Francisco de Lemos, who was accompanied by Yu Hao Ming, of the Hong Kong-based China International Fund, said completion of the project would make it possible to "completely reduce imports of ma-

nor products extracted from oil, starting with diesel, whose deficit is very high, as well as gasoline."

Angola, which is the second largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, had to import about 40 percent of its oil derivatives such as gasoline and diesel in the first quarter of the year due to the country's reduced oil refining capacity.

The current national refinery on the outskirts of Luanda was built in 1955 and operates at about 70 percent capacity, and, according to an IMF report which analyzed the fuel sector in Angola, "is very inefficient" and production costs "are generally higher than imported fuels." MDT/Macauhub

ADB supports job creation in Mozambique

THE African Development Bank (ADB) has paid out USD7 million for employment promotion in Mozambique, the Mozambican Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity said Tuesday in a statement.

To use the fund, technical staff from the ADB and the Ministry are working to identify the areas that will benefit from the aid, with a view to selecting schemes for job creation and entrepreneurship initiatives, the press release said.

The Mozambican government's five-year program includes plans to create 1.5 million jobs as part of efforts to reduce unemployment, which affects a majority of the active population in the country. MDT/Macauhub

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Shop 205, Shoppes at Venetian

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Yangtze death toll rises as rescuers sever ship's hull



Christopher Bodeen, Jianli

RESCUERS cut three holes into the overturned hull of a river cruise ship in unsuccessful attempts to find more survivors yesterday, as the death toll in the Yangtze River disaster reached 77. More than 360 people remain missing and are feared dead.

Workers stabilized the ship with cranes and then cut into sections of the hull, which jutted above the river's gray currents, to check for survivors before welding the sections back to the hull to preserve the ship's buoyancy and balance, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said.

So far, authorities say at least 14 people survived Monday night's sudden capsizing in a severe storm, some by jumping from the ship during the early moments and swimming or drifting ashore. Three of them were pulled by divers from air pockets inside the overturned hull Tuesday after rescuers heard yells for help coming from inside.

Although chances of finding anyone else alive have all but disappeared, Chinese officials have not yet declared the search over.

More than 200 divers were working underwater in three shifts to search the ship's cabins one by one, the broadcaster said. Rescuers pulled out 51 bodies yesterday, bringing

the toll to 77, Jianli county chief Huang Zhen told reporters. They were brought to the Jianli's Rongcheng Crematorium, in Hubei province, where at least two relatives tried to identify them.

Among the crowd observing developments outside the crematorium was farmer Wang Xun, who noted that many of the boats passengers were elderly.

Rescuers pulled out 51 bodies yesterday, bringing the toll to 77

"I can't imagine how terrifying it must have been for them," Wang said. "Old people should be with their families and go peacefully, not like this."

The Eastern Star capsizing will likely become the country's deadliest boat disaster in seven decades, and Chinese authorities have launched a high-profile response that has included sending Premier Li Keqiang to the accident site, while tightly controlling media coverage.

The Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee, the

country's highest power, convened a meeting and issued a directive for officials to step up efforts to control public opinion about the disaster response, while ordering them to both "understand the sorrow of the families" and "concretely preserve social stability."

Many of the more than 450 people on board the multi-decked, 77-meter-long Eastern Star were reported to be retirees taking in the scenic vistas of the Yangtze on a cruise from Nanjing to the southwestern city of Chongqing.

The survivors included the ship's captain and chief engineer, both of whom have been taken into police custody. Some relatives have questioned whether the captain should have brought the ship ashore at the first signs of a storm, and whether everything possible was done to ensure the safety of the passengers after the accident.

More than 1,200 relatives arrived in Jianli county where the accident occurred, CCTV said. Access to the accident site was blocked by police and paramilitary troops stationed along the Yangtze embankment. Reuters reported earlier that frustrated family members who had come seeking more information broke through a police cordon around the disaster site in unruly scenes that have drawn a heavy police response. **AP**



Visitors cross the road near a security check point into Tiananmen Square on a rainy day in Beijing yesterday

Letter from overseas students breaks silence on Tiananmen

Jack Chang, Beijing

THEY were born too late to remember the night 26 years ago when Chinese troops slaughtered hundreds of pro-democracy student activists in the heart of Beijing. Many grew up hearing only government accounts of the event, which paint the massacre as the unfortunate conclusion to some vague political intrigue.

Nonetheless, this June 4, 11 Chinese university students living overseas were trying to break through the official silence with a widely circulated, passionately worded letter that encourages their compatriots to learn more about the Tiananmen massacre — a watershed event that has defined China ever since.

Written by University of Georgia graduate student Gu Yi, and co-signed by 10 other overseas Chinese students, the letter has become one of the few flashpoints as this year's anniversary arrives, with Chinese authorities on guard against even the tiniest of commemorations.

The letter remembers the government crackdown and demands that the Chinese leaders who gave the orders late on June 3 and in the early morning hours of June 4, 1989, be held responsible.

"We do not ask the (Chinese Communist Party) to redress the events of that spring as killers are not the ones we turn to to clear the names of the dead, but killers must be tried," the letter reads. "We do not forget, nor forgive, until justice is done and the ongoing persecution is halted."

An online copy of the document has reached readers in China with the help of software that let PDFs get past Chinese censors, Gu said. The document has already drawn a strong rebuke from the Communist Party-run Global Times, which said in an editorial that the students "harshly attacked the current Chinese regime, twisting the facts of 26 years ago with narratives of some overseas hostile forces."

Gu said he was addressing Chinese students who had not seen the troves of photos, film footage and eyewitness accounts about the massacre that he came across only after he left China to study.

"All they need to know is actually very simple," Gu said. "Some people died, and some people killed them. If you understand that, you don't have to understand a lot more."

In what's become an annual ritual, Chinese police were stepping up their vigilance in the capital yesterday to prevent any remembrance of the event. References to the massacre are nowhere to be found in Chinese media, and censors scrub social media posts that mention the event or its date.

The students' letter was not the only one to mark the anniversary. A group of relatives of those killed in the massacre also issued a statement demanding that Chinese leaders be brought to justice and that the victims' families win compensation.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying responded yesterday to the relatives by arguing that the country's rapid economic growth over the past 26 years justified the crackdown.

"As for the political turmoil that happened in the late 1980s, the Chinese government and party have already made a clear conclusion," Hua said. "The great achievements China made during the past 30 years in the practice of reform and opening-up have shown that China's development path is absolutely correct, and wins resolute supports from 1.3 billion Chinese people." **AP**

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Youth find new meaning in Tiananmen vigil

TENS of thousands of Hong Kongers joined a candlelight vigil yesterday night marking the crushing of the 1989 student-led Tiananmen Square protests, an annual commemoration that takes on greater meaning for the city's young after last autumn's pro-democracy demonstrations sharpened their sense of unease with Beijing.

For the first time in the vigil's quarter-century history, some student groups didn't take part and instead held their own memorials, a sign of an emerging rift between young and old over Hong Kong identity that took root during the Occupy Central protests.

The vigil is the only large-scale public commemoration of the victims on Chinese soil, and the Tiananmen events remain a taboo topic on the mainland. Hundreds and possibly thousands of unarmed protesters and onlookers were killed when tanks and soldiers entered central Beijing on June 3-4, 1989, to put down the student-led protests.

"June 4 and Occupy Central are very similar," said Otto Ng, a 19-year-old student who planned to attend the vigil for the first time. Ng said he hadn't known much about the events in Tiananmen Square but tried to



Tens of thousands of people attended a candlelight vigil at Victoria Park in Hong Kong

learn more after last year's Hong Kong protests erupted.

In both cases, "we are all students, and we are pushing for democracy and freedom," he said.

Eva Leung, 16, also attended the commemoration for the first time yesterday.

"This evening's vigil adds to our desire to have a genuine democratic system," she said. Because of the Occupy Central protests, "I came to know what democracy is, and what was happening in Hong Kong. And it made me come to this evening's vigil."

Political tensions threaten to reignite in Hong Kong over the government's plan to submit

its electoral reform package for lawmaker approval later this month, including Beijing's demand that it screen candidates in future elections for top leader. Local news reports say more than 7,000 police will be deployed to deal with protests ahead of the vote.

Each year, Hong Kongers gather in Victoria Park, holding candles aloft and calling for the Chinese government to overturn its stance that the Tiananmen Square protests were a counterrevolutionary riot. The vigil, which drew an estimated 180,000 last year, features a replica of the Goddess of Democracy statue that protesters erected in Beijing.

Vigil leaders laid a wreath at a makeshift memorial in the middle of the crowd as the names of Tiananmen victims were read out. Everyone, including the crowd, then bowed three times. The leaders then led the crowd in observing a minute of silence.

Organizers planned this year to show videos about Occupy Central and speakers were to talk about mainland activists detained for voicing support.

Three university student groups, however, opted out of the vigil because of a disagreement over the need to build a democratic China, a guiding principle of the vigil's organi-

zer, the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China. The group was originally established to support the students protesting in Beijing.

The Hong Kong Federation of Students, a coalition of the city's universities that was one of the driving forces behind the Occupy protests, also opted not to take part. The group has been hit by turmoil over its leadership during the protests, and this year half of its eight university group members voted to leave.

Elsewhere, radical "localist" group Civic Passion, known for its confrontational stance, planned to burn a Chinese Communist flag at its own rally.

Billy Fung, president of Hong Kong University's student union, which was holding its own event on campus, said the group wants to focus on establishing genuine democracy in Hong Kong first.

"If we just go for one night every year to attend the vigil and chant about building a democratic China, then what you're doing is just verbally supporting a cause, and you won't help build a democratic China," said Fung.

The Hong Kong protests reinforced the sense of a separate Hong Kong identity for young people, who he said now "will question if it is their responsibility to help establish the development of Chinese democracy."

However, lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan, who is secretary of the Hong Kong Alliance, said it's impossible to keep it a separate issue.

"We must change China before China changes us," he said. AP

June 4 and Occupy Central are very similar, we are all students, and we are pushing for democracy and freedom

OTTO NG
19-YEAR-OLD STUDENT

USERS of one of China's most-popular Internet messaging services couldn't transfer money in amounts with numbers linked to the deadly Tiananmen Square crackdown in the run up to yesterday's 26th anniversary of the 1989 event.

Attempts in Beijing to transfer money values containing "64" - a reference to the June 4 date when soldiers and tanks dispersed pro-democracy demonstrators - and "89" via Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat app were unsuccessful on Wednesday night.

Instead, WeChat's "red envelope" function showed a text box saying

June 4th anniversary makes money transfers trickier



Views Of Tiananmen Gate, Beijing

"Transaction error. Try again later." when users tried to send amounts including 89 yuan and 6.4 yuan. Transfers not containing the sensitive numbers went through as normal.

It's not clear whether Tencent censored the amounts on purpose. Calls to the company's office weren't answered after normal business hours on Wednesday and a spokeswoman didn't immediately

reply to an e-mail.

China has been tightening its control over the Internet since President Xi Jinping took power in 2012. This Monday, China's top cyberspace regulator, Lu Wei, said that the public needs to be educated to become "good netizens."

Internet censors in China seek to prevent commemoration and online discussion of the anniversary of the crackdown,

when troops killed and injured hundreds of people in central Beijing.

Ma Huateng, Tencent's founder and chief executive, is a member to China's top legislature. Xi visited the company's headquarters in Shenzhen in December 2012, a month after taking power.

WeChat had 549 million monthly active users at the end of the first quarter and the mobile version of QQ, also owned by Tencent, had 603 million users, according to an earnings statement last month. The "red envelope" function of WeChat lets users send as much as 200 yuan (USD32) at a time to each other. Bloomberg

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13 June 2015 (Saturday)
Grand Coloane Resort Macau
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Activities include outdoor sunrise beach bootcamp, 5km family fun run, meditation, yoga, wellness talks and more...

Pre-register at: <http://inceptionhealthandfitness.com/globalwellnessday.html>

Limited spaces in some activities. Registration closes 5 June 2015.

Global Wellness Day is all about inspiring people ...a journey of self-discovery through exercise, healthy eating and spiritual teachings! One day could change your life! Join us! LIVE FIT!

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Sam Kim and Natasha Khan

SOUTH KOREA

People avoid hospitals as gov't quiet on MERS

AS South Korea continues to announce new cases of the Middle East respiratory syndrome, Seoul bank worker Lee Ji Hyun has decided to avoid hospitals until she's sure she and her family won't be exposed to any contagion.

Lee has a toddler fighting a cold that she plans to treat at home. A week into a developing public health crisis that has caused more than 900 school closures and more than 1,600 to be quarantined, government silence on the hospitals where the MERS virus was spread has drawn criticism and contributed to panic.

That could hinder the response, with patients staying away from hospitals and a greater risk of some cases going undiagnosed. South Korea announced five more patients yesterday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 35. The health ministry yesterday confirmed its third death from the virus.

"There is so much unfiltered information floating about which hospitals to visit and which hospitals not to visit, and the government isn't helping with the confusion," Lee said.

Disclosing hospitals with MERS patients would "cause excessive anxiety among



A couple wears masks as a precaution against the MERS virus as they walk on the Myeongdong, one of the main shopping districts, in Seoul

those people who are in or have been to the hospitals and create misunderstan-

ding about them," Kwon Jun Wook, chief of the MERS management team at the health

ministry, said at a briefing on June 2. "What we are more urgently pursuing is running

a system that those monitoring patients can use to understand the situation."

As many as 10,000 people simultaneously accessed an online map that allows viewers to cross-check tips about hospitals with MERS patients, causing the server to go down, according to a man who identified himself as Jimmy Park, and responded to an e-mail sent to the website.

"I thought fears are worsened by too many rumors circulating," Park wrote in an e-mail. "I thought it'd be good to have them ascertained."

"It just shows how intensely people want to know which hospitals have MERS patients," said Han Mi Jung, an official at the Korean Health and Medical Workers' Union. Han urged the government to release the hospital list soon, as people who have been to those hospitals would be able to examine themselves more quickly and thoroughly.

Bloomberg

ASYLUM SEEKERS

First 4 refugees rejected by Australia arrive in Cambodia

Sopheng Cheang,
Phnom Penh

FOUR asylum seekers rejected by Australia started a new life in Cambodia yesterday, becoming the first to be resettled under a deal between the two nations that human rights advocates criticized as misguided and inhumane.

Cambodia agreed to accept two Iranian men, an Iranian woman and a Rohingya man from Myanmar under a 40 million Australian dollar (USD32 million) four-year agreement to resettle hundreds of asylum seekers who have been living in an Australian-run detention camp on the Pacific island nation of Nauru for years.

However, the choice of impoverished Cambodia as a new home for asylum seekers has so

far attracted little interest among the refugees, and only four among 677 on Nauru had signed up for the package.

Cambodia is plagued by poverty, corruption and human rights abuses. Medical care outside main cities is almost nonexistent and jobs are so scarce that more than 800,000 people have left to find work abroad.

"Cambodia clearly has no will or capacity to integrate refugees permanently into Cambodia society," said Phil Robertson, the deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"These four refugees are essentially human guinea pigs in an Australian experiment," said Robertson, adding that the Cambodian government had sent dozens of minority Montagnard refugees back

to Vietnam and Uighur asylum seekers to China.

Australian officials have said they were working with the International Organization for Migration and other groups in Cambodia to provide the four with housing, jobs, transport and education.

After arrival, they were taken to temporary accommodation in the capital, IOM said in a statement. The agency said it would begin providing essential support, including language training, cultural orientation, and health and job services.

As part of its efforts to deter boats of asylum seekers, Australia made the agreement with Cambodia last September. Cambodia had sent officials to Nauru to meet the four and to make sure their moves were voluntary. **AP**

MYANMAR

Gov't says migrants sought jobs, weren't fleeing persecution

Esther Htusan, Yangon

MYANMAR said yesterday that thousands of migrants left the country to seek better jobs elsewhere, and were not fleeing persecution, a day after bringing to shore about 730 migrants, the latest arrivals in Southeast Asia's ongoing crisis.

Foreign Affairs Minister Wunna Maung Lwin's remarks were Myanmar's latest denial of any blame for the humanitarian crisis. More than 4,600 desperate and hungry boat people have been rescued in five countries since early May after a regional crackdown on smugglers prompted some captains to abandon their human cargo at sea.

The United Nations has said about half of those who have come ashore were Rohingya Muslims fleeing persecution in Myanmar, and the rest were Bangladeshis escaping poverty.

"It is not true that the migrants from Myanmar fled because of discrimination or persecution in Myanmar," the foreign minister said during a briefing to foreign diplomats about the crisis. "They are just the victims of human smugglers."

"These are migrants who are seeking

better jobs in other countries," he added.

Myanmar authorities intercepted boats packed with more than 730 people and brought the group ashore Wednesday in western Rakhine state, said Wunna Maung Lwin. Those on board included 611 men, 72 women and 51 children whose nationalities the government was still verifying, he said.

"Those who are verified as citizens of Bangladesh will be sent back to their country starting Sunday," he said. "Myanmar is not in a position to give assistance to the migrants long term, as it is a developing country."

U.N. agencies and other groups said they were not getting full access to the verification process, which is seen as crucial to ensure that Myanmar is not falsely labeling Rohingya on the boat as citizens of Bangladesh.

"We are still trying to get full access to the 700-plus who just landed," said Dom Scalpelli, country director for the U.N.'s World Food Program. "We are on the ground and discussing with the government to give us access as quickly as possible."

The U.N. has called the Rohingya one of the world's most persecuted minorities. **AP**

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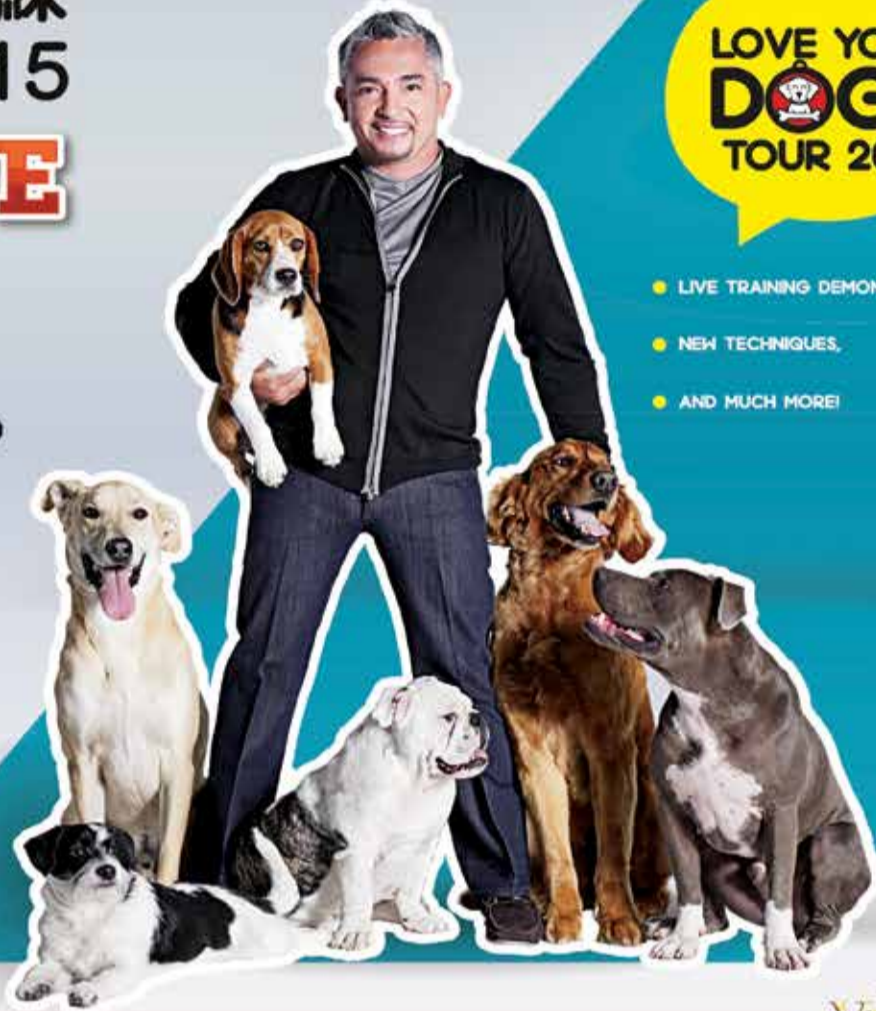
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UKRAINIAN President Petro Poroshenko yesterday warned of a possible large-scale offensive by separatist forces in the east, one day after a major battle erupted on the western edge of the main separatist rebel stronghold.

Heavy fighting on the outskirts of Donetsk on Wednesday was the most severe in months. A cease-fire called in February has been violated almost daily, but hostilities had tapered off after the agreement.

The fighting was heaviest in in the village of Marinka. Ukrainian officials said five servicemen were killed on Wednesday, four of them in or around Marinka. Late Wednesday, the minister of defense for the Donetsk rebels, Eduard Basurin, said 14 rebels and five civilians had been killed by Ukrainian fire during the day, but did not specify locations.

Ukrainian military spokesman Col. Andriy Lysenko claimed yesterday that about 80 rebels were killed in the fight, along with two civilians.

There were no immediate reports of fighting yesterday, but the intensity of the combat the day before raised fears of full-scale fighting resuming in the war that has already killed more than 6,400 people since April 2014.

In an address to the Ukrainian parliament, Poroshenko

UKRAINE

Poroshenko warns of large-scale separatist invasion



Ukrainian servicemen from battalion "Kiev1" walk outside a checkpoint near Marinka, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine

spoke of a "colossal threat of the resumption of large-scale hostilities by Russian and terrorist forces" and said there are now 9,000 Russian troops in the rebel-controlled area.

The monitoring mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe said its observers saw at least a dozen tanks moving from the rebel-controlled city toward the western outskirts in the run-up to the battle.

Mission spokesman Michael Bociurkiw yesterday urged all sides in the conflict to "exercise maximum restraint." He also told reporters that observers in recent days had found that some heavy weapons which had been pulled back by both sides were missing from the areas where they were being stored.

"This suggests non-compliance" with the cease-fire accord, which called for both sides to pull back large weapons in order to create a buffer zone, Bociurkiw said.

An Associated Press reporter yesterday saw two Grad missile launchers driving toward the government-controlled town of Artemivsk; under the cease-fire accord, such weapons were to be withdrawn from that area.

Russia has strongly denied supplying the rebels either with weapons or with recruits, despite mounting evidence suggesting otherwise. **AP**

GHANA

Flooding sparks gas station blast, killing at least 73

Francis Kokutse, Accra

FLOODING in Ghana's capital swept stored fuel into a nearby fire, setting off a huge explosion at a gas station that killed 73 people and set alight neighboring buildings, authorities said yesterday.

The blast took place as dozens of people sought shelter at the gas station and in nearby shops in central Accra to escape the torrential rains. The disaster raised anew concerns over the city's inadequate infrastructure. TV footage showed corpses being piled into the back of a pickup truck and other charred bodies trapped amid the debris. Floodwaters around the site hampered rescue and recovery efforts.

Officials at the nearby 37 Military Hospital said its morgue had reached capacity.

President John Dramani Mahama visited the scene yesterday, calling the dea-



The remaining structure of a gas station after it exploded in Accra

th toll "catastrophic" and offering condolences to families of the victims.

"Steps will be taken to ensure that disastrous floods and their attendant deaths do not occur again," he said.

Michael Plange, who lives a few blocks away, said many people had taken shelter under a shed at the station from the rain and were hit by the explosion.

The flooding "caused the diesel and petrol to flow away from the gas station and a fire from a nearby house led to the explosion," said Billy Anaglate, spokesman for Ghana's national fire service.

In addition to the dead at the gas station, local media reported that many drowned in various parts of the city following two days of torrential rains. The combined death toll from the explosion and flooding is expected to rise. Anaglate said precise figures were not available at midday yesterday.

The explosion is likely to intensify criticism of the government's failure to improve the infrastructure. Though the downpours this week have been especially bad, heavy rains in June are not unusual yet drainage systems in Accra remain inadequate. **AP**

EGYPT

Mubarak to be retried over killing of protesters

EGYPT'S highest appeals court yesterday ordered the retrial of ousted President Hosni Mubarak on charges that he failed to stop the killing of hundreds of protesters during the 2011 uprising that ended his 29-year rule.

The ruling set Nov. 5 as the date for the start of the new trial, the verdict of which cannot be appealed. It would be the third time that Mubarak is tried in connection with the killings in 2011.

Mubarak, who is 86 and in failing health, has since his arrest in April 2011 been held in detention in a number of hospitals. He now resides at a Nile-side military hospital in a leafy suburb just south of Cairo.

The ruling came six months after a criminal court dismissed murder charges against Mubarak in connection with the killing of the protesters, citing the "inadmissibility" of the case due to a technicality.

That ruling marked a major setback for the young activists who spearheaded the Arab Spring uprising in January and February 2011, many of whom are now in jail or have withdrawn from politics in the face of an ongoing crackdown by authorities.

Judge Mahmoud al-Rashidi said at the time that he dismissed the case against Mubarak because his May



Ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

2011 referral to trial by prosecutors ignored the "implicit" decision that no criminal charges be filed against him when his security chief and six top aides were referred to trial by the same prosecutors two months earlier. Massive protests demanding that Mubarak be put on trial took place in April of that year.

An appeal demanding a retrial of Mubarak's security chief and the six top police commanders, also acquitted in November, was rejected yesterday.

The killing of nearly 900 protesters during the 18-day uprising remains a contentious issue, with activists and rights groups demanding that police be held accountable. Dozens of policemen charged with killing protesters have been acquitted or received suspended or light sentences. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
18:15	Brazil Avenue (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talkshow (Repeated)
19:45	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:30	Revenge S2
22:10	The Illusionist
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Portuguese Film
00:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

SATURDAY

10:30	Boonie Bears
11:25	Documentary Serie
12:00	Cooking
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Soap Opera
18:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News
19:00	Contest
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:10	Drama
22:10	Comedy
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Shorts
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live
02:45	UEFA Champions League Final: Juventus - Barcelona (Live)

SUNDAY

11:00	Sunday Mass
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	Animation
16:10	UEFA Champions League Final: Juventus - Barcelona (Repeated)
17:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
18:20	Miscellaneous
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve: The Nile
23:00	TDM News
23:30	News
23:45	Documentary Series
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)

offbeat

ISRAEL ARMY SCRAPS PUNISHMENT FOR SOLDIER OVER PORK SANDWICH

The Israeli military on Tuesday scrapped a punishment for a U.S.-born Israeli soldier who had caused a stink by violating the military's kosher rules by eating a pork sandwich while in uniform.

Earlier, the military said the soldier, whose name was not released, "violated rules and regulations," which required him to be disciplined.

The soldier was initially given an 11-day prison sentence. The punishment was later converted to being confined to base for the same duration — after relatives talked to the media and a lawmaker wrote to the defense minister about the case.

But the military then changed its decision yet again, and cancelled any punishment.

"We were wrong. The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) will continue to keep kosher on one hand, but will not probe a soldier's sandwich on the other," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Motti Almoz wrote on Facebook. "There are tensions in Israeli society and there are different stances and opinions. There is room for everyone in the IDF."

Israel's army maintains kosher kitchens on its bases.

Israel Radio said the soldier, who moved to Israel from Boston recently, was unaware of the army's strict dietary restrictions and was merely snacking on a lunch his secular grandmother had made him. **AP**

cinema



CINETEATRO

04 JUN - 10 JUN



SAN ANDREAS

ROOM 1
(2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
(3D) 7.30 pmDirector: Brad Peyton
Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino, Alexandra Daddario
Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 114min

PITCH PERFECT 2

ROOM 2
2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pmDirector: Elizabeth Banks
Starring: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Rebel Wilson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 141min

TOMORROWLAND

ROOM 2

7.15 pm

Director: Brad Bird
Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 130min

DANNY COLLINS

ROOM 3
2.15, 4.00, 5.50, 9.30 pmDirector: Dan Fogelman
Starring: Al Pacino, Annette Bening, Christopher Plummer
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 106min

DRAGON BALL Z: RESURRECTION "F"

ROOM 3

7.45 pm

Director: Tadayoshi Yamamuro
Starring: Ji-tae Yu, Yūsuke Iseya, Ye-ryeon Cha
Language: Japanese (Chinese/English)
Duration: 93 min

MACAU TOWER

04 JUN - 10 JUN

TOMORROWLAND

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Brad Bird
Starring: George Clooney, John Walker Britt Robertson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 130min

this day in history



1944 CELEBRATIONS AS ROME IS LIBERATED

The people of Rome have crowded onto the streets to welcome the victorious Allied troops. The first American soldiers, members of the 5th Army, reached the Centre of Rome late last night after encountering dogged resistance from German forces on the outskirts of the city. Early this morning it was announced the German troops had been ordered to withdraw.

Rome is the first of the three Axis powers' capitals to be taken and its recapture will be seen as a significant victory for the Allies and the American commanding officer who led the final offensive, Lieutenant General Mark Clark.

In a broadcast in the United States this evening, President Franklin D Roosevelt welcomed the fall of Rome with the words, "One up, two to go." But he gave a warning that Germany had not yet suffered enough losses to cause her to collapse.

In Rome itself, the people have been celebrating. Shops have closed and huge crowds have taken to the streets, cheering, waving and hurling bunches of flowers at the passing army vehicles.

First reports from the city say it has been left largely undamaged by the occupying German forces. The city's water supply is still intact and there is even electricity - recent blackouts are reported to have been caused by engineers reluctant to restore power for the occupiers.

Most Romans remained in the city during the occupation and many refugees also fled here. Food supplies are now extremely short with bread rationed to 100g per person per day.

A report from Hitler's headquarters said he had ordered the withdrawal of the German troops to the north-west of Rome in order to prevent its destruction. The statement said: "The struggle in Italy will be continued with unshakable determination with the aim of breaking the enemy attacks and to forge final victory for Germany and her allies."

The Pope appeared on the balcony of St Peter's this evening and addressed the thousands of Italians who had gathered in the square. He said: "In recent days we trembled for the fate of the city. Today we rejoiced because, thanks to the joint goodwill of both sides, Rome has been saved from the horrors of war."

The American military authorities in London have broadcast a tribute to the British General Sir Harold Alexander, who has been in overall command of Allied forces in Italy.

It described the campaign as "daring, unconventional and brilliant" and said his methods had compelled the enemy to evacuate Rome without destructive fighting within the city itself.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The American commander of the 5th Army, Lieutenant General Mark Clark, chose to strike for Rome from the Anzio beachhead, after the fall of Monte Cassino, rather than chase after the retreating German forces as he had been ordered by the British officer in overall charge, General Sir Harold Alexander.

This decision has since been described by eminent American military historian Carlo D'Este as "as militarily stupid as it was insubordinate". Although Rome was liberated, the Germans were not decisively defeated.

After the fall of Rome German forces fell back to the so-called Gothic Line of defense, running across Italy just north of Florence.

The Allies did not breach this line until September 1944. The Allied front then stalled again until a breakthrough in April 1945 when their final assault broke German resistance and led to capitulation on 2 May.

The Italian campaign had tied down more than 20 German divisions - while the Allies concentrated on the battle on the western front. Although some have argued it was the Germans tying down the Allies. But the Italian campaign was not in itself decisive and in the end victory in Europe was won only through direct attacks on Germany itself.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to take your time today - there's no point in rushing!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your diplomatic nature is making life easier and sweeter for you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can't quite get your family to understand your feelings today - which can be really hard on you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your eye for detail is strengthened today, so see if you can make the most of it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You aren't feeling very extravagant today - maybe because of your recent binges.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your systems for keeping organized are paying off today - so make the most of them!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Can you keep still and avoid action today? If so, you should be just fine - but otherwise, things might start to get really weird for you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 New information comes your way that shakes things up -most likely for the better!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are getting on your nerves today - so much so that you may want to run away screaming!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone needs to hear your voice - most likely someone you haven't spoken with in months!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Details are all-important, and you need to work through them today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can get more out of your relationships than you may expect - thanks to at least one important person who gives you the key to understanding.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

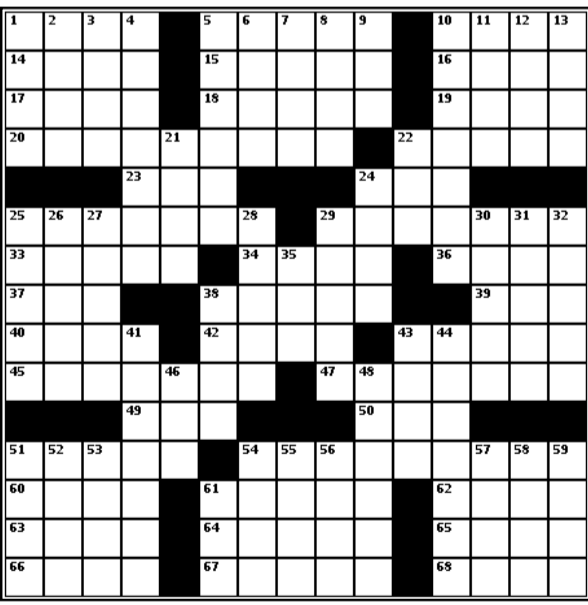
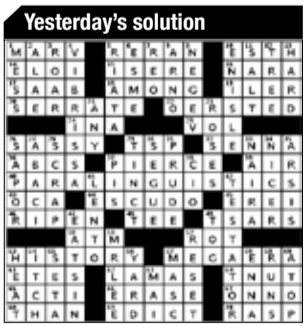
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Scarlett's home; 5- Crazy; 10- Ballet bend; 14- I've Got ___ in Kalamazoo; 15- Oldsmobile model; 16- Drum sound; 17- Time to give up; 18- Replay option; 19- Bothers; 20- Republic in S South America; 22- Pernod flavoring; 23- Caviar; 24- CPR giver; 25- Rapid in tempo; 29- Wave catcher; 33- Emerson's middle name; 34- Tore; 36- Gad about; 37- Doc bloc; 38- Bridge positions; 39- A mean Amin; 40- Super Bowl XXXIV champs; 42- It's got you covered; 43- Sausalito's county; 45- Previous monetary unit of Greece; 47- Spartan; 49- Employment; 50- Cabinet dept.; 51- Singer Bonnie; 54- Projecting tooth; 60- ___ Misbehavin'; 61- "Our Gang" girl; 62- Entreaty; 63- Hero; 64- Fire; 65- Listen to; 66- Sand hill by the sea; 67- Riyadh resident; 68- Baseball's "Walking Man" Eddie;

DOWN: 1- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 2- Ripening agent; 3- Pealed; 4- Changed; 5- Owner of a slave; 6- ___ want for Christmas...; 7- Dodge model; 8- Cookbook writer Rombauer; 9- Dove sound; 10- Computer adjunct; 11- Actress Singer; 12- Sorts; 13- Anything ___?; 21- Canceled; 22- Invoice abbr.; 24- Goals; 25- Give merit; 26- Truman's Missouri birthplace; 27- Alpaca's cousin; 28- Honshu port; 29- MetLife competitor; 30- BA'te ___; 31- Low point; 32- Nitrogen compound; 35- Letter before omega; 38- Slinger girl; 41- Coal bucket; 43- High-ranking NCO; 44- Wasting away; 46- DDE's predecessor; 48- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 51- Sudden assault; 52- West Wing worker; 53- Hip to; 54- Silents star Theda; 55- Pakistani language; 56- Lump of dirt; 57- Yellow spread; 58- Afternoon affairs; 59- Mature male European red deer; 61- ___ Kapital;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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Water Supply - Report 1990 992
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
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FIFA SCANDAL

Blatter resignation won't lead many to quit

A consistent ally of Sepp Blatter, Danny Jordaan already has a new job.

Jordaan, the head of the South African Football Association, was credited with bringing the 2010 World Cup to South Africa. He is also being investigated for USD10 million in bribes paid to land the event, part of the corruption scandal that pushed FIFA President Blatter to resign.

A day after the corruption and bribery scandal broke last week, Jordaan was appointed the new mayor of his South African hometown. He plans to stay on as the soccer federation's head, a job with no salary. But he's hedging his bets.

Call it the domino effect, or a chain reaction, or simply bracing for change coming to FIFA.

Blatter is going, so can federation presidents who run world soccer — some like feudal lords in Africa, Asia and Latin America — hang on for long?

Several officials have already been suspended, but experts say they don't expect massive changes.

Peter Alegi, a historian at Michigan State University and author of "Africa's World Cup," said a 'mild reformer' — not a radical — was likely to succeed Blatter.



Sepp Blatter

"I do not see much of a chance of a domino effect from Blatter's resignation," he said in an email. "I believe it's more likely that the diverse members of the global football establishment will do whatever it takes to hold on to power, privilege, and prestige."

Former Barcelona and Brazil star Romario hopes not. An outspoken Brazilian federal senator, Romario termed Blatter's

downfall "a big wave that can sweep away" bribery and impunity.

"This is the best news we've had in a long time," Romario said through his social media accounts. "His fall will come as a tsunami to every corrupt leader in confederations around the world."

Romario singled out Brazil's authoritarian football leadership,

often described as more powerful than the country's president.

Former Brazilian Football Confederation president Jose Maria Marin is in a Swiss jail awaiting extradition to the United States, and current president Marco Polo Del Nero is keeping a low profile. Another former president Ricardo Teixeira is under investigation in Brazil for corruption related to bank transfers during preparations for the 2014 World Cup. "We need the corrupt ones in prison," Romario said.

Blatter had automatic support in Brazil, home to his 99-year-old predecessor Joao Havelange and host for last year's World Cup. His real power came from guaranteeing that tiny Caribbean islands, or countries distant from Europe, receive millions in FIFA development money.

FIFA spent about \$1 billion on development projects in the last three years — from Zambia to Andorra — and Blatter got the credit, even if not all the money

reached the grassroots.

"Sad day for Futbol," Zambian Football Association President Kalusha Bwalya said on Twitter. "You will always have my support."

Ibrahim Sanni Darra, a spokesman for the Ghana Football Association, said Blatter's 17-year reign would be viewed "with nostalgia" and said Africans "will not forget."

"Before his tenure, Africa had only two slots in the World Cup," Darra said. "He not only increased it, he also brought the World Cup to Africa."

New Zealand Football chief executive Andy Martin called Blatter's resignation "a great day for football."

"I think we can all get together now and start repairing the tarnished brand of football, and that's what everybody wants."

Wilmar Valdez of Uruguay, a vice president of football's South American governing body CONMEBOL, called Blatter departure a "shock to world football."

Uruguay, Argentina and Chile were among the South American federations that voted against Blatter on Friday. In previous elections, South America was solid Blatter territory.

"What we were sure of is that sooner or later Blatter's reign would end," Valdez said. "FIFA needed change, and now we have to see how the (new) pieces fit." AP

AD



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opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



NOT THAT WORD AGAIN – “TALENTS”

The school attrition problem hasn't gone away. The rate students leave school since it became a topic of public commentary in 2005 has been attributed to society's socio-economic structure: namely, parents not being able to care for children due to casino shift-work, the attraction of good gaming salaries, Macau's temptations, and academic competition putting weaker students under pressure and often kicked out of aspirational schools. The problem was further highlighted in 2011 and yet again parents having less time to care for their children was mooted as a major cause for concern. This last week, yet again the finger has been pointed at parents for inattention to their child's education (MDT 25 May, DSEJ intends to penalize parents of school dropouts).

The salary attraction was supposed to have been ameliorated by increasing the minimum age of a casino worker to 21 years and the establishment of support services for dropouts. Mind you, high-school drop-outs would mostly be under the age of 18 anyway, so the regulatory restriction could only really encourage continuation into tertiary education.

The Ten Year Plan for the development of Non-Tertiary Education (2011-2020) states the aims of Macau's education program are the development of "high quality education, nurturing talents and improving the overall quality and competitiveness of residents." "Talents" as used here and elsewhere in Macau's English-based vernacular denotes "knowledgeable and skilled individuals", usually workforce fodder. Although generally against socio-linguistic prescriptivism, particularly when use of a word becomes such common place, I rail against the way we use "talents"; and it's not just meaningless academic obsessiveness for definitions. Words have a way of connoting values; they tell others how we think about things.

We each have the capacity to develop talent ("talent" as in attribute); people are not talents ("talents" as in Macau's idiosyncratic word for better skilled workers). And, "having a talent" doesn't mean canoodling with your employee.

Macau's almost exclusive use of the word to mean 'human resources as inputs of production into our present and future economy' is limiting and undermines the intent and good work of many in education and in the unfortunately named Talents Development Committee. Education and human development is not just about building "Macau into a World Tourism and Leisure Centre" or to "promote appropriate diverse economic development" by "enhancing residents' working ability". We seem to be overly focused on "building up human resources" for "sustainable (economic) development of Macau". The recently announced joint research project (MDT May 27) by four local tertiary institutions into the five dominant industries, the findings of which will help guide the Talents Development Committee agenda, although fundamental for economic development, is insufficiently broad in scope if we are really talking about 'talent' and not just vocational skills and knowledge as economic inputs.

The idea that education is equally important for the development of healthy "physical and mental qualities" and various types of human capital (e.g. moral, social, creative) is still in its infancy in Macau and glaringly low on the agenda. As an aim, artistic accomplishment is actually included in the Ten Year Plan but clearly telling of Macau's economic-capital mindset is the plan's first stated requirement of parents: "financial security for their children's schooling" – a limited view of investment. Ironically we bemoan students "dropping out" to earn good money: monkey see, monkey do.

In a UMAC study, teachers blamed part-time work as one major cause of absenteeism, tardiness and lack of educational motivation; all major predictors of dropping out. Poor academic performance and family structure, although risk indicators, are not as important as just not showing up. Blame not parents, but society's values.

Missing in this discussion is awareness of the many pathways to a rewarding life and career. Good academic grades leading to tertiary education thus feeding into good jobs in the top 5 industries are a very limited set of valid life goals. Each student has his or her own skills and talents; but it takes a special kind of open, nurturing environment to determine what these are, know how to encourage and develop them – if necessary, outside the traditional school system – and to value and find a place for each in society.

THE GERMAN DRIVER UNSCATHED AFTER CRASH WITH BRITISH TANK

Police in western Germany say a novice driver escaped unharmed but her car was crushed after she inadvertently turned into the path of a convoy of British tanks.

Lippe police spokesman Lars Risserbusch said Tuesday the 18-year-old had apparently not seen the convoy when she made a left turn in front of it. The lead tank was unable to stop in time and

the 62-ton main battle tank ploughed over the front of her Toyota hatchback.

The tanks, from a British base in nearby Paderborn, were traveling through a military maneuver area that is also open to public traffic on their way to training exercises Monday morning. Police estimate 12,000 euros' (USD13,500) damage to the woman's car. The tank was unscathed.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	5-25 Good
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	10-30 Good

SOURCE: DSI/MG

TRAVEL

Decaying factories transformed into culture center in Warsaw

Vanessa Gera, Warsaw

The space once housed weapons and motorbike factories. Today, it is Warsaw's Soho Factory, a hip new space of exhibitions, offices and restaurants.

Taking inspiration from SoHo and the Meatpacking District in New York City, entrepreneur Rafal Bauer saw "soul" in a pile of dilapidated brick buildings sinking into the ground in Warsaw's gritty Praga neighborhood and transformed them into a creative space whose spacious buildings and lower rents have attracted artists, architects, web designers and others. It is now one of several former industrial spaces that have been transformed in recent years into enticing spaces across Warsaw as the Polish capital blooms after 25 years of economic growth.

"Nobody believed that you can start up your project with an old factory which lies in a very bad part of Warsaw, with a bad reputation— historically rather considered as a place not to go," Bauer said. "And we managed to bring life here."

"This is a very special space in Warsaw where everything is possible," Bauer said.

Today, the revamped buildings in the area at 25 Minska St. house museums, art gal-



eries, a trendy clothing shop, restaurants and architects' offices, flanked by apartment buildings. Fashion shows, conferences and a photo exhibition featuring the work of a Chinese dissident have also been held there.

Originally, the space housed ammunition factories that began production in 1925 and were significantly damaged in the German bombing of the city during World War II. After the war, the factories produced motorbikes and optical systems for tanks used by the communist-era Polish army. They were then abandoned and fell into disrepair.

Bauer said he first saw potential in the area in 1997, but that the time wasn't yet ripe to convince others of what could be done there, with Poland still in the early years of introducing a market economy. In the meantime, urban Poles have traveled widely and have begun

transforming industrial spaces into chic lofts and taken other inspiration from what London and New York have done with industrial spaces.

When renovation of the area finally began in 2010, it was still a dumping ground for stolen cars in a crime-ridden district.

At the time the place was still "total rubbish, so nobody believed that an atmosphere like (this) could be achieved," Bauer said, sitting in a modern armchair on a central lawn surrounded by the refurbished buildings. Nearby some visitors to the area relaxed in hammocks, while others filed in and out of an international conference.

The creation of the Soho Factory area comes amid a larger gentrification of many other former rundown areas in Warsaw, including in the Praga district where it is located, an area across the Vistula River from Warsaw's historic center and business districts.

One quirky feature, and a draw for children, is a refurbished freight track which Bauer took pains to unearth with the help of historic maps. He said his inspiration was the High Line in Manhattan, an abandoned freight line on the city's West side that's been turned into an elevated park and is now a popular attraction. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN A solar-powered plane forced to land in Japan will be stuck on the ground for at least a week after wind gusts damaged one of its wings. Solar Impulse 2 was headed from China to Hawaii when its team decided to divert to Nagoya, Japan, because of bad weather ahead.

JAPAN-PHILIPPINES The Philippines may soon be getting military equipment from Japan as the Southeast Asian country looks to better defend itself in an increasingly tense territorial dispute with China.

PHILIPPINES More than 100 Filipino activists demand that China stop its increasingly assertive actions in the disputed South China Sea, and warn during a rally they could target Chinese economic interests.

PHILIPPINES A British man living in the Philippines for 10 years has been arrested to face charges he molested a 14-year-old boy in the United Kingdom, Filipino immigration authorities say.

times square by rodrigo



USA The Pentagon disclosed Wednesday that it inadvertently shipped possibly live anthrax to at least 51 laboratories across the U.S. and in three foreign countries over the past decade, but it has yet to determine how it happened, who is to blame, why it was not discovered earlier and how much worse the embarrassment will get.