



**1,700 OPINIONS OVER RECLAIMED AREA**  
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**FITCH EXPECTS ECONOMY TO CONTRACT 16 PCT**  
Macau secured its AA-rating from Fitch, despite its forecast of a 16 percent economic contraction

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**CHINA SHOWS OFF RISING POWER**

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**CAMBODIA** One of four refugees resettled in Cambodia just three months ago in a multimillion-dollar deal that saw them sent from an Australian-run detention camp on the Pacific island nation of Nauru has decided he wants to go home, an official said yesterday. The man, an ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar, said he wanted to give up his refugee status and return to his homeland, according to Cambodian Interior Ministry spokesman Khieu Sopheak.

**TIBET** is "now in its golden age," according to a Chinese government paper released ahead of the 50th anniversary of the autonomous region's foundation. Tibetan people fulfill the right to participate equally in the management of state affairs, China's State Council Information Office said in an eight-chapter white paper released by the official Xinhua News Agency yesterday.

**USA** An annual freshman pillow fight at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point turned bloody this year when cadets swung pillowcases packed with hard objects, injuring 30 cadets, according to a newspaper report Saturday.

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**FINANCIAL TIMES**

The humdrum genius of Elizabeth II **F1**

RENATO MARQUES

# Jason Chao criticizes New Macau lawmakers

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**Precious historical local archives stored in Taiwan** P4-5 FEATURE

## UM Student Union's Sept 3 slogan draws hostility

The University of Macau Student Union came under fire after it updated its Facebook cover picture to read "To commemorate warfare with flowers, not tanks" on September 3. The slogan, an apparent response to Beijing's military parade which occurred on the same date, drew criticism from some of the university's students, many of them from the mainland, as they accused the union of imposing its own political stance on the UM student body. They similarly mocked the group for being ignorant of the message behind the showcase of weaponry to mark the end of WW II. However, many other students voiced their support for the Union, praising the group's courage for expressing its stance. Four student groups from other departments also issued a joint statement in favor of the Union's actions.

## Macau Jockey Club to run another two years

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, announced that the government has granted the Macau Jockey Club a concession which will allow it to run for another two years. He said the horse racing operator had promised to introduce "novel initiatives" into its business, which were in line with the government's goal of "diversified gambling." During the two-year period, authorities will study how traditional horseracing can be integrated into their efforts to veer towards more diversified gaming in the region. The city's gross revenue from horseracing betting plunged 52.6 percent year-on-year to MOP100 million during the first half of the year.

## More austerity measures may be implemented

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, told media representatives last week in Beijing that the government might consider another round of austerity measures if the domestic economy remains unpredictable. He stressed that the welfare of citizens would remain intact even if the government intensified its efforts to reduce internal budgets. Chief Executive Chui Sai On concurred, stating that the domestic economy was still "robust" with significant fiscal reserves accumulated over recent years. Chui was confident that the number of tourists would rise again under the government's planned promotion campaigns, thus boosting the economy.

# Authorities receive 1,700 opinions over reclaimed area planning

**T**HE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau received a total of 1,700 written opinions on the urban planning development scheme for newly reclaimed zones in the third phase of public consultation between June 30 and August 28.

Many were concerned whether or not the high-rises to be allowed along the waterfront in the zone B would compromise the landscape in the rear, how the transport network in the densely populated zone A managed to serve the large population living there, and the overall design of the regions' fourth passage.

The bureau's statement has also revealed that they expressed opinions on land management, exploitation of underground space, environmental



protection. Some also questioned how future swathes of land could work with existing land resources towards the goal of sustainable development.

During the consultation period, the government presented their blueprint to different organizations, with exhibitions at Tap Seac's glass house and at

the public service building in Hac Sa Wan.

New Macau Association had previously demanded an extension of the consultation, criticizing the government's arrangement of the release of its appraisal on the environment and transportation, which was released to the public at the beginning of August. The pro-democracy group believed that one month was not enough for citizens to comprehend the details in the assessment.

Compared to the previous consultation - which consisted of five public hearings, six workshops and more than 20 sub-consultations - the government came under fire for hosting only three public hearings in the third phase, with an insufficiently detailed package. **Staff reporter**

### EDUCATION

## New student-run shops open on UM's campus

**F**OUR new student-run stores have opened on the University of Macau's (UM) campus. According to a press release, UM launched these shops in order to give students an opportunity to learn how to run a business and to provide more choices and convenience for people on campus. Student founders have said that running a store on campus will help them put their knowledge into practice and increase their sense of belonging in the university.

The Creatist Shop - a brand of UM souvenirs - is located in the University Gallery (E1). The brand was co-founded by six UM students. "We've encountered various problems in organization, management, and promotion," said one of the co-founders, surnamed Lai. "Despite these problems, we will work hard to launch more UM souvenirs for students to increase their sense of belonging to the university."

On The Run is another UM student-run shop. In order to

promote sustainable transport on campus, the store provides bike purchase and maintenance services. It also provides parcel collection and delivery services on the side for UM members. The founder, surnamed Li, is a student from the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Miss U is a snack shop aimed at providing more dining choices for UM members. A student surnamed Wan from the Faculty of Social Sciences, who is also the founder of the

shop, says: "Opening a snack shop has always been my dream. I really appreciate this opportunity and will collect feedback from our customers and continuously work on improving the service."

In addition to providing opportunities for students to start their own businesses, UM also provides support in shop design, promotion, and performance evaluation. Later this academic year, UM will open a new convenience store, a cafe, and furniture shop.

### ONE SHOT NEWS



A man visits an exhibition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of China's victory in the Anti-Japanese War. More than 200 photos and some 80 literature and cultural relics are displayed at the exhibition, taking place in the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau until October 4.

## China's WW II efforts show 'tradition and patriotism'

**A**CTING Chief Executive Wong Sio Chak said China's efforts to protect its people from Japan during World War II were a sign of "tradition and patriotism."

Replacing Chief Executive Chui Sai On, who led a 100-member delegation to Beijing to attend the massive military parade on Thursday, Mr Wong said that China's stance today is not one of anger against Japan.

He presided over a commemorative ceremony in Macau's Tap Seac Square to mark the 70th anniversary of China's victory against Japan at the end of World War II.

Mr Wong said he hoped that younger generations would draw lessons from past wars so that history would not repeat itself, while acknowledging the stability and security of their current social envi-

ronment.

He stressed that Macau had achieved unprecedented social economic development since its handover to China, successfully implementing the "one country, two systems" principle.

He concluded by urging the public to take advantage of development opportunities within the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative to further develop the city.

A youth representative said during his speech that students should always remember the "selfless dedication of older generations and revolutionaries."

A community representative added that the ceremony also showed that people still remembered the suffering and humiliation that they experienced during those difficult times. **CP**

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# Jason Chao criticizes New Macau lawmakers

**J**ASON Chao says that he is upset with the “incorrect” attitude of the two elected New Macau Association (ANM) lawmakers, Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong, who officially formed a new association, the Macao Community Development Initiative, a few days ago.

“I respect the freedom of association of the two legislators,” he said, adding that the two veteran members of the ANM haven’t been actively contributing to the association for the past two years. “Since the election we have seen a decline in the quality and quantity of the reports by the legislators,” Chao pointed out.

The activist reiterated that Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong were elected to the Legislative Assembly based on two tickets presented by the New Macau Association, and the caveat that they should be aware of

**Since the election we have seen a decline in the quality and quantity of the reports by the legislators**

JASON CHAO

their responsibilities towards the organization in charge of overseeing their work.

In Chao’s own words, the association is concerned that the two legislators are shifting their roles to the recently created association, which is generating rumors among the public and New Macau members alike.



Speaking on the sidelines of an election held at the Portuguese Consulate (see text below), Jason Chao said that Au Kam San had previously criticized New Macau members for forming the ‘Macao Conscience’ organization, but he now seems to be heading the same way in terms of political responsibilities and the representation of roles.

Regarding the possibility of Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong quitting New Macau,

Jason Chao says that nothing indicates this, reaffirming that by creating a new association the two members are not violating any rule, but are in fact contributing to raise doubts over the quality of their work.

The episode seems to have added more fuel to the fire in terms of the relations between the association’s ‘young and old guard.’

The lack of understanding between the two lawmakers and the New Macau’s board began one year ago when Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San decided to separate their office from the association, claiming ‘lack of support’ for their activities. This led to an exchange of accusations with Jason Chao, who was by then the New Macau president. Chao claimed that the legislators were developing activities without informing the board of the New Macau Association. **RM**

## Fewer voters than expected in Portuguese council elections

**T**HE list headed by lawmaker Pereira Coutinho won the undisputed elections for the Council of the Portuguese Communities, the advisory body for Government policies on emigration and Portuguese communities abroad.

The Portuguese Consulate in Macau hosted a trouble-free election that saw only around 2,200 voters from the 15,000 registered to vote.

This time the Consulate readied twelve polling stations to avoid the hassle of long queues since it was expected that a bigger proportion of voters (2,500 in the last election in 2008) would attend, which eventually turned out not to be the case.

Pereira Coutinho and Rita Santos (the list’s number two) were also present for almost the entire eleven hours that the polling stations were open, greeting voters and encouraging their participation.

The final results will only be known on September 16th when announced by the Portuguese ambassador in Beijing, after adding the votes of Beijing and Shanghai plus the final certification by Lisbon.

In statements to reporters, the lawmaker considered that this election could also be seen as a rehearsal for the upcoming



The Portuguese Consulate in Macau

Portuguese Legislative Elections, where he is also a candidate, even if the procedures for the latter are quite different since they do not require an onsite vote.

Also present at the Portuguese consulate was the acting president of the Council of the Portuguese Communities, Fernando Gomes, who took the opportunity to show his displeasure towards the method in use for the Legislative Elections. In his opinion, the current system is outdated and senseless, creating many difficulties for Portuguese living abroad to exercise their right to vote for their future leaders. “It is time to encourage voters’ participation through an electronic voting system,” he suggested. **RM**

## Fitch Ratings expects economy to contract 16 percent

**M**ACAU secured its AA- rating from the international Agency Fitch Ratings, despite its forecast of 16 percent economic contraction in the region this year.

According to a press release issued last Friday, the evaluators expressed their belief that the territory was capable of diversifying its economy outside VIP gaming and of withstanding the structural economic transition, owing to robust financial surpluses that could cover up to six times the 2015 public expenditures budgeted by the authorities.

Despite a 30 percent drop in gaming revenue, the ratings agency believed that the Cotai resorts slated for opening in the years ahead would enhance the region’s appeal and gear it towards a mass market with non-gaming components.

Furthermore, the agency’s statement notes that unemployment stayed low as the resorts, which remain profitable despite the economic downward spiral, retain staff on their payroll in preparation for their openings.

The economic plight facing the region, as Fitch states, lays bare the risks to Macau’s economy from its overreliance on the casino earnings coming from the pockets of Chinese high rollers, and from its vulnerability to the policies rolled out from across the border.

Thanks to conservative underwriting standards, the banking sector here still enjoys high asset quality and relatively healthy capitalization, according to Fitch. The institutional support from their mainland counterparts also provides a buffer for the local banks to alleviate unexpected shocks.

However, the government’s efforts to curb its internal spending, which the agency says will ease the impact on the fiscal account, might squeeze domestic demand. Income growth faces increased risk, as does loan growth from local banks, which could feed through to a further slowdown in the domestic property market.

Fitch Ratings forecasts stable gaming earnings in the second half of the year, but also adds that policy measures might foil the casinos’ recovery from the collapsing revenue. It was said that a possible smoking ban on the premises of gaming outlets, a cap on mainland visitor arrivals, as well as the enduring economic slowdown in the mainland could impact the outlook of the region in different ways. **Staff reporter**

## Local deposits decrease 0.8 pct

Residents’ deposits decreased by 0.8 percent month-on-month in July to MOP473.7 billion. MOP and USD deposits increased 3.4 percent and 7.7 percent respectively, while those in HKD and RMB decreased by 3.6 percent and 4.1 percent respectively. Non-residents’ deposits dropped 6.5 percent to MOP248.8 billion. Public sector deposits with the banking sector increased 1.0 percent to MOP122.9 billion. Total deposits with the banking sector fell 2.3 percent from a month earlier to MOP845.4 billion. Domestic loans to the private sector increased 2.2 percent from a month ago to MOP384.1 billion, while external loans grew 0.6 percent to MOP387.9 billion. The loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector at the end of July grew 1.6 percentage points from the previous month to 64.4 percent. Currency in circulation grew 1.4 percent while demand deposits dropped 16.4 percent.

## Fireworks Display Contest kicks off



The 27th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest officially began on Saturday night, with the first show presented by the

Malaysian team. The contest attracted many locals and visitors. However, the program encountered a setback when the second fireworks display by Grupo Luso Pirotecnia from Portugal was cancelled due to a delay in transporting the materials. The event will continue on September 12, 19, 27 and October 1. Similar to previous years, teams will operate their pyrotechnic shows with music and laser effects in a way that showcases their theme and enhances the audience experience. Famous pyrotechnic companies from around the world were invited to join. The first fireworks display starts at 9 p.m, followed by a second show at 9.40 p.m.

## TCR Asian series debuts with MSAR in the spotlight

The Asian series of the International Championship kicked off this weekend at the Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia, with the Macau-based Asian Racing Team (ART) establishing its dominance in the initial stages of the competition. Thanks to Macau’s Rodolfo Ávila, the team clinched its first win on Saturday’s (race 1) and made the 1-2 by Philippe Descombes, beginning its participation in this brand new series in the best possible way. Yesterday’s races 2 and 3 were similarly fortuitous, with Descombes taking massive wins and scoring three victories in three races for ART. Hong Kong drivers Michael Choi (Prince Racing Honda) and Eric Kwong (Craft-Bamboo SEAT) also presented a strong opposition to the hegemony of ART. The TCR Asia Series will be back on track for its second round from the 18th to 20th of September in the streets of Singapore.

Mark O'Neill, Taipei

THE RAILWAY THAT NEVER WAS

# Precious historical local archives

ON 11 December 1904, Portugal and China signed a convention for the construction of a railway between Guangzhou and Macau. The Portuguese would operate it for 50 years and then hand it over to the Chinese side.

"In the event of war, rebellion or famine, the Chinese government will have a preferential right to send troops, arms, ammunition and provisions at half the usual rates," states article 26. "In the event of war, the (railway) company will not render help to the enemies of China."

Because the Qing dynasty was overthrown seven years later, the line was never built. It was only in 2011 – 107 years later – that the first railway linking Guangzhou to cities on the western side of the Pearl River was completed; the terminus is in Zhuhai, from where passengers can walk to the border with Macau.

The convention is one of 50 documents relating to Macau that are stored in the National Palace Museum (NPM) in Taipei. In 1949, the Nationalists brought the archives of the Foreign Ministry – and many



other items – to Taiwan when they moved there.

In December 1999, the museum held an exhibition of these historical treasures at the time

of Macau's return to China. It was called "The Twists of Destiny – a Special Exhibition of Historical Documents on Macau". They showed the transfor-

mation of Macau from a fishing village into a free port and overseas territory of Portugal.

Fung Ming-chu, director of the NPM, said that, historically,

■ In 1949, the Nationalists brought the archives of the Foreign Ministry – and many other items – to Taiwan

the Qing government had no foreign ministry because it saw no need for one. "Its view was that the earth belonged to China and all the countries were its subjects."

But this view was shattered by defeats to Britain in the Opium War and being forced to sign "unequal treaties" first with Britain and then other countries, under which it had to cede land and open ports to foreign trade.

In 1860, British and French troops destroyed Yuan Ming

AD

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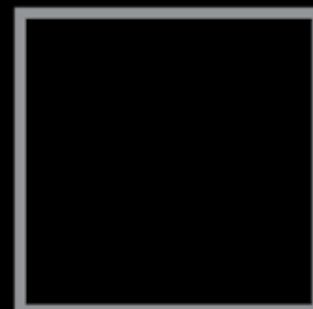
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# stored in Taiwan

Yuan, an imperial palace in a northern suburb of Beijing, and looted its contents. The Emperor Xianfeng fled to Chengde, capital of Rehe (Jehol) province, north of Beijing.

These developments forced the government to set up a new department to deal with these unwelcome "barbarians". This department collected documents related to its work.

In 1901, the government set up the Wai Wu Bu, the Ministry of Foreign Matters. After the Qing dynasty was overthrown in 1911, the new government established the Wai Jiao Bu, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

In late 1948 and 1949, the Nationalists moved to Taiwan thousands of art treasures and official documents, including those of the MOFA. In 2003, the National Palace Museum received the documents from the ministry.

"I was very happy to take them," said Fung. "Conditions here are very good, in terms of temperature and humidity control, to preserve the documents. Then we digitalized them, making them available to a wider public. People can come to our library and see them," she said.

The NPM opened in November 1965, to house the art treasures brought to Taiwan in 1948 and 1949; it has state-of-the-art conservation and security equipment and is therefore an ideal place to store historical documents.

## The railway project was an idea from the Portuguese side

Macau was the first place in China where foreigners were allowed to live. It became an important trading port for the export of goods from China. Fung said that, compared to Britain and France, Portugal was a weak power. "It enjoyed good relations with China. It was the British who made many demands of the Chinese. It was the signing of the first treaty that was the most difficult. Once China had given rights to Britain, other countries demanded the same. It was easier for them."

With Portugal, the first treaty in the archives, of Friendship and Commerce, is dated 13 August 1862. It is written in Chinese and Portuguese. After the

first Opium War of 1840-1842, Portugal won the right to conduct an opium trade. In 1857, Portugal and Spain demanded a formal treaty, but the Qing government refused. In 1862, without informing the Chinese customs service, Portugal made a shipment from Guangdong to Tianjin; but it was refused entry.

The French consul intervened, saying that Portugal was a friend of France. As a result of his intervention, the two countries signed the treaty. The two countries signed a second Treaty of Friendship and Commerce on 1 December 1887. Since 1862, disputes had arisen between the two over the sovereignty and borders of Macau and the sale of opium. This required negotiations between them.

The Qing government sent an emissary to Lisbon, where the two sides drew up a draft agreement. They signed the final version in Beijing. Under this, the Qing agreed to let the Portuguese remain in Macau in perpetuity and Portugal agreed not to give it to any third country. But the disputes did not end; the Portuguese tried several times to extend the territory of Macau north of the border gate. The Qing were forced to sign several "unequal" treaties with Portugal.

On 1 January 1903, the two countries signed Provisions regarding the Establishment of a Customs House at Macau. The signatories were Gabriel de Almeida e Santos for the Portuguese side and, for the Chinese side, Robert Hart, the Irishman who served as Inspector-General of China's Imperial Maritime Customs Service between 1863 and 1911.

The archives also contain many maps, often drawn in an attempt to demarcate clearly the borders of Macau and prevent Portugal expanding into Chinese territory.

The railway project was an idea from the Portuguese side. The Qing government was in principle opposed to the building of railways because it believed they destroyed the balance of nature and disturbed the spirits of ancestors sleeping below the ground.

The first railway to operate commercially in China opened in Shanghai in July 1876. Known as the Woosung Road, it was built by the British trading firm, Jardine, Matheson & Co and ran from the American concession in the city to Woosung in what is now the Baoshan district. It was built without government approval; when they found out, they orde-

red that it be dismantled in October 1877. The rails and rolling stocks were later shipped to Taiwan.

The next effort was by Taiwan governor Liu Mingchuan. From 1887 to 1893, 107 kilometers of track were laid from Keelung to Taipei and Hsinchu. The Portuguese wanted to link Macau with Guangzhou, one of China's most important commercial cities, and diversify the economy of their colony.

The agreement states that a joint Portuguese-Chinese company would build the railway, with shares held equally by the two sides, led by Pedro Nolasco da Silva and Lam Tac Iun respectively. The Chinese side would provide half the capital and the Portuguese side the other half, including Chinese merchants who lived in Macau or had foreign nationality.

"As this railway is constructed by Portuguese and Chinese merchants, the Portuguese government can under no pretext interfere with the affairs in connection with this company," the agreement says.

Engineers would survey the land between Macau and Guangdong, draw up the route and submit it to the Imperial Commissioner, Director-General of Railways, for approval.

The agreement sets out rules for acquiring land and paying

compensation to those living on it. "If the land should be occupied by cemeteries, a detour must be made. But, in the case of isolated graves and if no detour is possible, the company will liberally pay the expenses of the removal of the graves in addition to the price of the land."

The local authorities would explain to people that the railway was designed to increase trade and prosperity. "Everyone must keep order, abstain from creating disturbances and do his own duty, under the penalty of a severe punishment." The company had to build a customs house in Macau, where customs officials could examine all the goods being carried on the railway and collect the necessary duties.

Under the agreement, the government granted the company the right to build a sanatorium and summer resort in the Heongshan district and to build schools to train Chinese boys as interpreters and with technical skills needed for the railway.

"The engineers and other persons employed by the railway company, either in any technical or special capacity, may be foreigners, but the labourers of all kinds will be natives."

"If the company becomes bankrupt or is in financial difficulties, the two governments,

Portuguese and Chinese, will incur no responsibility and will pay no indemnity."

Pedro Nolasco da Silva was one of the most prominent Macanese of his generation. Born on 6 May 1842, he was an interpreter, journalist, educator and author. He was president of Leal Senado and founder and president of the Associação Promotora da Instrução dos Macaenses (APIM) (Association to promote the Education of Macau People), which still exists today.

He was founder and director of a school named after him, Escola Comercial Pedro Nolasco, which later became the Escola Portuguesa, in downtown Macau.

Fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese and classical Chinese, he acted as interpreter for the Portuguese government in its negotiations with the Qing dynasty.

He had ten children, among them Henrique, who established a trading company and a pharmacy Pharmacia Popular. The family later sold their shares in these companies.

One of his great-grandsons, Frederico Nolasco, said that he and his brother had never heard of the railway project nor the involvement of his great-grandfather in it. "Most of the family have left Macau and live in Portugal," he said. **MDT/Macauhub exclusive**



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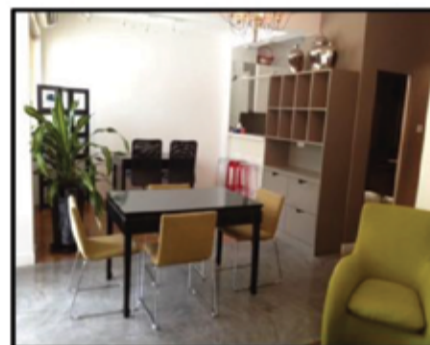


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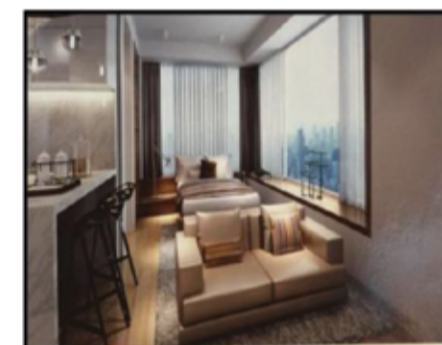
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Renovated 5 years ago. Wooden staircase to upper floor (open area: good for bedroom, office, studio or entertainment area). Great size private terrace. Viewings over looking Government Offices. Rare chance to buy a view. Viewings by appointment only.



#### The Studio, Macau

(Ref: 15085451)  
399sq. ft. HKD 2.98M  
Rate: HKD 7,468 sq ft

New development apartments, 6 apartments available. Completion scheduled for early 2016.

Prices range from 2.98m to 4.55m.

10% deposit required to reserve property (from HKD \$298,000). Price includes furniture / fully furnished apartment.



#### Kam Long, Lilau Square, Macau

(Ref: 15085452)  
1,100sq. ft. HKD 6.2M  
Rate: HKD5,636sq ft

Originally two apartments renovated in 2004, this owner redesign the properties into a lovely 3 bedroom apartment with one spacious bathroom. The open plan living / dining area is a great space with a large western style kitchen adjacent to the dining area. Most of the furniture items and kitchen white goods will be sold with the property if required.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



#### Vila Bela Macau

(Ref: 15055442)  
1,978 sq. ft. HKD 16M  
Rate: HKD 8,088sq ft

Situated in Macau on the quiet secluded street of Praia Grande. Stunning views across the tree lined road to the Sai Wan bridge. An exclusive property; 5 floors serviced by one lift, two apartments per floor. Renovated in 2000, with one design change making one bedroom larger by closing one bathroom and extending the bedroom. The apartment now has four double bedrooms, two bathrooms, built in cabinets in the master & another double bedroom.

Email: [Info@JMLProperty.com](mailto:Info@JMLProperty.com)



#### Va Fu, Old Taipa Village Ref

(Ref: 15085449)  
580sq. ft. HKD 4.580M  
Rate: HKD 5,725ft.

Spacious and bright furnished apartment. Double glazing This apartment has one bedroom with free standing storage, one modern bathroom and one small closed balcony for laundry. Open plan living/dining area.

Very centrally located, within minutes of cafes, shops, banks, restaurants and supermarkets. Bus stop across the road. Fifteen minute walk from Cotai area.



#### The Manhattan, Penthouse Taipa

(Ref: 15045436)  
2,305sq. ft. HKD 25.8M  
Rate: HKD11,193sq ft

Luxury residence with high quality finishes. Spacious dining/living room, 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms (one en suite). The complex of Manhattan is a 5 star facility, unique in central Taipa. Car Park For Sale Asking HKD1.9 Million

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GAMING

# Cambodia rising destination following local junket market fall



The Cambodian Public Bank Plc headquarters, bottom, stand in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**C**AMBODIA is seeking junkets to lure in more high-stake Chinese gamblers, as high rollers shy away from Macau under the intensified crackdown by mainland authorities, the Phnom Penh Post reported.

The news report indicated that NagaWorld, the Southeast Asian country's largest casino, would seize this opportunity to "further penetrate the regional and Chinese gaming markets, as junkets abroad sought to diversify their operations to other Asian regions."

The group's VIP earnings in the first half of the year soared by 25 percent to USD108 million, much of which was ascribed to gamblers flying into the country via junkets. Since July, the casino has also been working with Chinese outbound travel agents to attract more patrons through its own flights from the capital of Hunan Province, Changsha.

Despite the boost to gaming re-

venue, there is limited consensus on the greater economic contributions of such junket operations outside the gaming floors. Maggie Au, representative of the Jimei International Entertainment Group Limited which signed an agreement with the Cambodian casino in July, told the media that the nation's tourism could benefit from loan activities as the group's clients were also introduced to other Cambodian tourist destinations.

"When Jimei promotes a particular country to its patrons, it will also invite them to the local attractions, so Jimei believes that its junket arrangement signed with NagaWorld would also help with Cambodia's tourism," she said.

Nonetheless, CIMB gaming analyst Michael Ting stated otherwise: gamblers aim for casinos and not major tourist spots. However, he conceded that spending in local restaurants and hotels was possible.

Another casino group, Donaco

International Limited, also partnered with Heng Sheng Group, another local-based junket, last month. The group's executive director Ben Reichel noted that employment opportunities had arisen in casinos with the assistance of those junket operators, which also rejuvenated the economy.

"The employment provided obviously contributes significantly to the Cambodian economy," Reichel said. "In addition, casinos pay significant taxes and attract hundreds of thousands of tourist each year, all of whom spend money in Cambodia."

The report indicated that there's a lot potential in the Phnom Penh gaming market. However, the country receives a higher influx of Chinese tourists every year. According to the nation's Ministry of Tourism, more than 335,000 Chinese nationals visited the country in the first half of the year, signalling growth of 22 percent compared to 2014.

## Chui pledges to prioritize economic diversification

**C**HIEF Executive Chui Sai On has pledged to make economic diversification a priority in order to encourage the development of small and medium-sized enterprises while maintaining stability in the local job market.

Diversifying Macau's economy will require further involvement in the country's Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiatives, as well as improving cooperation with other regions.

Mr Chui was speaking on the sidelines of his three-day visit to Beijing, where he attended the large military parade to commemorate the 70th anniversary of China's victory over Japan in World War II.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to streamlining spending without compromising the livelihood of the people, welfare and social security.

Mr Chui stated that the government had stable financial reserves and was confident that a fiscal balance or surplus this year would be achieved. He added that the authorities would closely monitor the economic



Chui Sai On

environment, paying greater attention to September revenues and determining whether to launch further measures to control public spending.

According to a press release, Mr Chui said that Wednesday's parade was, "exciting and the commemorative events showed the country's policy of peace, love, and honoring the martyrs."

He further revealed that the local government will launch a campaign to promote tourism in Macau to attract more visitors, looking to increase the 31.5 million tourists recorded earlier this year. **CP**

### CE MEETS WITH WHO HEAD

**CHUI SAI** On met with World Health Organization (WHO) director-general Margaret Chan during his stay in Beijing to discuss bilateral efforts to advance local Chinese medicine in the future. Chan pledged to nurture local talent in public healthcare, in response to the government's ongoing efforts to develop the field of traditional Chinese medicine. The Chief Executive also promised to promote the

modernization and internationalization of traditional Chinese medicine as part of Beijing's "one belt, one road" initiative to encourage regional cooperation. Both recognized in their dialogue that the region's WHO cooperation center, which was launched last month, could serve as a platform for other WHO members to jointly combat diseases that continue to plague the global population in the 21st century.

AD

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A scene from Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation, partially funded by Alibaba

# China has Hollywood's attention. It wants more

Anousha Sakoui

**A**LIBABA'S Jack Ma, China's second-richest person, made headlines last year when he visited Hollywood looking for deals. He met with studio executives such as Sony Pictures' Michael Lynton and sat courtside at a Los Angeles Lakers game with super-agent Ari Emanuel and actor Jet Li. One memento of the trip surfaced this summer in the form of the Paramount Pictures hit Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation. Alibaba Pictures Group invested in the feature, which generated USD479 million in global box office through Aug. 30, and got the rights to sell merchandise and tickets to its 367 million customers in China when the film opens there on Tuesday.

The deal with Viacom's Paramount is one of more than a half-dozen in the past year be-

tween U.S. studios and Chinese companies that are quickly putting down roots in Hollywood. Alibaba, Dalian Wanda Group, Huayi Brothers Media, and others want to funnel films through their media outlets at home, as well as deepen their understanding of the lucrative business. "China is trying to learn why Hollywood is so successful," says Stanley Rosen, a University of Southern California political science professor who studies the relationship between the mainland and the U.S. film industry. China, he says, wants to master the business "from the bottom up."

Hollywood is happy to help. It needs the cash plus access to theaters in China, where the government limits the number of imported movies and controls how they are released. Such connections are crucial since China, projected to overtake the U.S. in box-office receipts by 2020, accounted for most of

the growth in global movie ticket sales last year.

China's would-be moguls hope to use stronger Hollywood ties as a way to make even more money off entertainment. When Mission: Impossible opens there, Alibaba will sell tickets online through its Taobao Movie unit, one of the country's major ticketing platforms, which offers advance seat selection. People can pay using Alipay, Alibaba's version of PayPal. The company also is planning to build China's answer to Netflix and HBO, via a new service called Tmall Box Office.

Alibaba acquired a company called ChinaVision Media Group in 2014 to help it enter the business and renamed it Alibaba Pictures. The company sold HKD12.2 billion (\$1.6 billion) in stock in June. Alibaba Pictures shouldered an undisclosed portion of the \$150 million cost of making Mission: Impossible and said it's

looking for more ways to invest in Hollywood.

State-backed China Movie Channel also invested in the spy flick, saying it would promote the film and sell tickets online. In a first for U.S. audiences, the names of both Chinese companies were displayed in the opening credits of the movie, following the century-old practice of studios like Paramount.

People close to Alibaba say Ma's strategy is to invest in specific films, rather than in studios. But real estate mogul Wang Jianlin, China's richest man, is making bigger bets on infrastructure. Wang's Dalian Wanda Group operates the world's largest chain of movie theaters and is building the planet's biggest studio theme park, Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis, on the coast of Shandong province. Wanda controls the No. 2 U.S. theater chain, AMC Entertainment Holdings, and last year bought land in Bever-

ly Hills, where it plans to erect a \$1.2 billion complex it calls its "first important step into Hollywood."

Wang, who's talked of buying stakes in studios Lionsgate and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, wants to control 20 percent of the global film market by 2020.

Even the Chinese government is getting in on the action. Besides Mission: Impossible, state-run China Movie Channel, the country's No. 3 TV network, invested in Paramount's Terminator: Genisys. China Film Group, the government-run distributor of all foreign movies, took about a 10 percent stake in Universal Pictures' car-chase thriller Furious 7, which cost \$190 million to make and grossed \$1.5 billion globally—a quarter of that within China.

Cain says China's government is able to use its control over its lucrative home market to influence U.S. studios and exert soft power—the kind of cultural influence that's made Hollywood a global ambassador for America. China Film invested in The Great Wall, a thriller starring Matt Damon and Willem Dafoe about an elite force making a last stand for humanity on China's snaking barrier. It's targeted for a November 2016 release by Universal. Says Cain: "On a broad scale, China is steadily gaining more and more influence in Hollywood, and you won't see a Chinese villain probably ever again in a Hollywood movie."

Bloomberg

## USD4.8b

The amount China's theaters brought in last year

## corporate bits

### JW MARRIOTT AND RITZ-CARLTON CELEBRATE 100-DAY MILESTONE



Friday marked 100 days since the JW Marriott Hotel Macau and The Ritz-Carlton, Macau both opened their doors on May 27 to guests visiting the MSAR. Many have already embarked on an urban escape at Asia's largest JW Marriott property or the all-suite hotel by The Ritz-Carlton. The hotels will be celebrating the occasion with a series of activities from this month onwards.

"Today we are here to celebrate 100 days since the grand

opening of JW Marriott Hotel Macau," said Brian Tong, General Manager of JW Marriott Hotel Macau. "We are thrilled to have already achieved occupancy rates in the high nineties thanks to the regional and international appeal that the JW Marriott brand has. As the flagship hotel in the region, we are confident this will continue to grow at a steady pace in the coming months, and attracting more visitors to experience Macau."

### MGM SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SUMMER PROGRAM

This year, MGM Macau participated for the first time in "The Youth Development Summer Holiday Program 2015" organized by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau to offer local youngsters the opportunity to participate in a 6 to 8-week internship program during July and August to gain professional work experience and to help them identify future career paths both in public and private sectors in Macau. MGM was the only resort to participate in this event, allowing the interns a unique opportunity.

This year, MGM hosted 10 local participants aged 18 to 21 from different schools and universities, giving them

hands on experience under the guidance of a professional mentor in departments including: Rooms, Food & Beverage, Housekeeping, Facilities Management, Digital & Technology Services and Design & Development.



### CONRAD MACAO FACEBOOK FAN WINS LUXURY STAY

A Conrad Macao Facebook Fan from Hong Kong has won a two-night stay in the Presidential Suite including breakfast after uploading a photo of a Conrad Macao Bear to her Facebook page with the #Travelbear hashtag and tagging Conrad Macao Cotai Central's Facebook Page. The winning photo was taken against the backdrop of The Peak, Hong Kong. The winning photo featured a bear from each of Conrad Macao's collection of bears since the hotel opened in 2012.

Throughout August, Conrad Macao, Cotai Central launched a free Macao getaway campaign where contestants had to upload a photo of one



of the hotel's bears at an iconic world famous landmark to their Facebook timeline.

The campaign was a success and reached more than 853,830 fans, 305,696 likes and 186 shares.



# Chinese central bank governor says currency stable



A woman holding an umbrella walks past China's central bank the People's Bank of China, in Beijing

**C**HINA'S central bank governor says its currency has stabilized, in an apparent effort to dispel fears of more big declines following a surprise devaluation that rattled global markets.

The yuan's exchange rate against the dollar "tends to be stable," Zhou Xiaochuan said at a meeting of finance officials of the Group of 20 major economies in Turkey on Friday, according to a central bank statement.

Beijing said the Aug. 11 devaluation was part of efforts aimed at making the yuan's state-set exchange rate more market-oriented. But coming without warning amid a collapse in Chinese share prices, it caused anxiety in financial markets.

Zhou's comments appeared to be aimed at quelling fears Beijing might allow the currency, also known as the renminbi, to fall further to help its struggling exporters by giving them a price advantage. The devaluation had spurred warnings of a possible "currency war" if other governments responded by lowering their own exchange rates.

"At present, the exchange rate of the RMB against the dollar tends to be stable, and most of the correction of the stock market has

taken place, so the financial market is expected to be more stable," the statement read.

Zhou said Beijing was committed to carrying out economic reforms despite recent turbulence in its financial markets.

Also at the G-20 meeting, Finance Minister Lou Jiwei tried to defuse concern about the slowdown in Chinese economic activity, saying Beijing is "not especially concerned" about short-term fluctuations and will stick to its reform plans.

The ruling Communist Party is in the midst of a marathon effort to encourage domestic consumption and reduce reliance on trade and investment to drive growth. It has promised to give market forces a bigger role in the state-dominated economy.

Concerns have mounted, however, that growth is slowing too abruptly after July exports and auto sales contracted and August factory activity weakened.

Lou said the Chinese government expects economic growth of "about 7 percent" this year, according to the central bank statement.

"China is in line with plans and will stick unwaveringly to 'reform and opening up,'" he said. **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

## MGM CHINA

Helping to Create a Better Tomorrow Today



Inspiring the next generation to follow their dreams and reach for the stars is an ambition we hold for our community program. Through our initiatives we hope to be a positive motivator for the youth and contribute to creating a better and brighter future for Macau.

### Learning new skills at the MGM Golden Lion Summer Camp



For the 4th year running, this August we organized the **MGM Golden Lion Summer Camp**. As part of the program we united 90 local high school students from Macau to Yuen Long in Hong Kong to enjoy the 3-day 2-night outdoor adventures. In the spirit of fun and comradery, the camp aims to help develop self-confidence, communications skills, creative thinking and problem solving mindset through a range of outdoor activities. The

program began with a breakfast at MGM to meet our CEO as well as other senior leaders in our company, before being whisked off to enjoy the action-packed 3-day holiday camp set amongst nature in Yuen Long.

### Opportunities to gain hospitality hands-on experience

We recognize the importance of giving students the opportunity to experience a professional working environment to help them to identify their future career paths. Every year, we invite a group of local high school students, aged 13-17 years, to experience working side-by-side with our team members in one of our signature initiatives, **A Day with MGM**. This August, we welcomed 53 students from several local schools, including some family members of our employees, to our property to see what goes on behind the scenes at MGM MACAU under the guidance of a mentor from each department. Throughout the program some of the participants also had the chance to experience working in the same department as their parents. Participants were also chosen from the Macau Outstanding Teenagers Awards, a bi-annual event that MGM sponsors to recognize outstanding teenagers within our community and encourage positive life attitudes. In July, we also organized a 5-day training program for 38 students from the University of Macau's Convention and Hospitality department to give them hands-on experience in a hospitality setting. Following a top-to-bottom tour of our facilities, the students took part in a series of educational workshops from across our operations, with senior management also spending time with them to answer questions and provide career advice.



### Spark interest in the age-old tradition of lion dance

Lion Dance is an ancient Chinese tradition that MGM MACAU celebrates. This year, we launched the **Junior Lion Dance Training Program** for 40 children, aged 4-10 years. This unique 6-week program aims to cultivate interest in Chinese tradition and culture amongst the youth in Macau. All the young lion dancers will also have a chance to participate as guest performers at the **MGM International Lion Dance Championship 2015**, taking place on November 14-15. "It couldn't be a better summer activity for my sons," says Raquel Ho, one of the 10 MGM MACAU team members who nominated their children for the program. "It is a great way for them to learn the tradition behind the lion dance. Nowadays a lot of kids are glued to their electronic games. As a parent, I am happy that MGM is organizing this activity for our kids and see they can exercise while experiencing teamwork!". On August 19, we were proud to hold the Junior Lion Dance Graduation Ceremony to celebrate and recognize the great feat of these 40 young performers. Through our community program activities, MGM China will continue to encourage and enrich local youth educational development in the hope to create a better and a brighter future for Macau.



# Stock rescue jolts companies, reform plans

Joe McDonald  
Business Writer, Beijing

**T**ONHE Electronics is a casualty of Beijing's frantic effort to stop a stock market bust.

The maker of electrical equipment, part of a technology industry the ruling Communist Party wants to promote, hoped to raise 200 million yuan (USD32 million) from an initial public offering of stock to build a research and development center.

Then share prices collapsed and Beijing canceled stock sales by Tonhe and more than two dozen other companies as part of its desperate effort to stem the slide. Now the company in the central city of Shijiazhuang is in limbo.

"We have no other fundraising plans," said a Tonhe investor relations representative who would give only her surname, Zhuang. "What we can do now is just wait for the notice to get the IPO started again."

Beijing's scramble to put a floor under free-falling share prices came at a cost China has yet to tally. The boom and bust passed so fast it had little impact on consumer spending. But on top of the public money plowed into buying shares, the intervention disrupted fundraising for small companies and set back efforts to make the stock market a tool for economic reform.

State agencies and companies charged with buying shares to prop up prices has yet to announce what it bought or how much it spent. In a report last month, Goldman Sachs estimated that group, dubbed the "National Team" by financial analysts, spent 860-900 billion yuan (\$135-\$140 billion) in June and July.

That led to state-owned companies amassing a mountain of shares in other government enterprises, many bought from private investors. That reversed an official campaign to encourage the public to buy shares in hopes "diverse ownership" of state companies will prod them to become competitive and efficient.

"The state, through its rescue, has further increased its ownership of the stock market," said economist Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics. "They have gone directly against their longer-term reform goals."

The collapse that saw China's main stock index plunge 30 percent after hitting a peak June 12 prompted ruling party leaders under President Xi Jinping to set aside repeated pledges to give market forces

AP PHOTO



Investors monitor a display showing the Shanghai Composite Index at a brokerage in Beijing

## ■ The intervention disrupted fundraising for small companies and set back efforts to make the stock market a tool for economic reform

a bigger role in the economy.

Regulators canceled IPOs planned by 28 private companies in electronics, food processing and other industries. The 21 that had disclosed details were planning to raise a total of about 8.8 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion).

The industries affected play a leading role in the ruling party's plans to transform China from a low-wage factory into a creator of technology and

consumer brands with higher-paying jobs and environmentally friendly growth.

Thinker Automation Ltd., a maker of control systems for railways and other industries in the central province of Henan, planned to raise 1.3 billion yuan (\$205 million) to expand operations.

Many are in areas away from the prosperous east coast where communist leaders are eager to spur development.

Toly Bread Ltd. In Shenyang, the biggest city in the rust-belt northeast, wanted 620 million yuan (\$99 million) to expand production and sales of baked goods.

Regulators have begun allowing companies that already are traded to raise money through sales of additional shares but there has been no word on when IPOs might resume.

Analysts saw no "wealth effect" or uptick in consumer spending when the market index more than doubled in value between November and June. They said that should mean little change as share prices sagged. After the first major market fall, July's

growth in retail spending held steady at June's 10.5 percent rate.

Wang Pinyue, a piano teacher in the northeastern city of Harbin, said he lost 75 to 80 percent of the 5,000 yuan (\$800) he invested. Even though that was equal to half of last year's income, Wang said it hasn't affected his spending.

"But if I had invested more and lost more, I sure would be in a bad mood and short of money. I might cancel a trip or something," said Wang, 26.

One reason for the limited effect is the nascent popularity of investing among China's public.

Even after a rush of novice investors into the market this year, only 7 to 8 percent of Chinese households own stocks, compared with up to one-third in the United States and Europe. Far more own real estate: The average urban Chinese family has 40 to 50 percent of its net worth in housing, which has risen in value this year.

Jing Ran, who operates a coffee shop in Deyang, a blue-collar city in Sichuan, said her

profit has fallen by 30 percent from a year ago, but she blames the slowing economy, not the stock price slide. Deyang is home to factories that make construction and factory equipment. Both industries that have suffered as investment and manufacturing weakened.

"I hear customers complain about the stock market, but I don't think it affects my business," said Jing, 27. "When the economy gets worse, the factory workers spend less. So this affects my business more."

The stock-trading frenzy pushed up the financial industry's contribution to economic growth in the second quarter, helping to keep it at 7 percent, while other industries cooled.

In the second half of the year, forecasters expect the decline in stock market activity to shave 0.5 percentage points off China's growth. That could make the economy look weaker, even if other industries hold steady.

"Fears of an economic hard landing due to stock market gyrations are exaggerated," UBS economists Donna Kwok and Tao Wang said in a report. **AP**

Ting Shi

# Slimmed down military to help Xi counter US dominance

**F**AR from weakening the Chinese military, the troop cuts announced by President Xi Jinping will help counter U.S. advantages and improve the country's ability to project force further from its shores.

The president announced the reduction of 300,000 troops along with his vow never to seek "hegemony or expansion" during Thursday's military parade in Beijing to mark the end of World War II, a message he punctuated with a fist pump. While the move represents the largest cut to the People's Liberation Army in almost two decades, it may only accelerate the arms build up in the Asia-Pacific region.

The move will speed the PLA's transition from a large, land-based army built over decades of invasions, civil war and border conflicts to a modern, mechanized force able to defend China's territorial integrity and growing interests abroad. The challenge to U.S. military supremacy was underscored by the "carrier killer" missiles that rolled through Beijing during the parade and the warships that sailed through international waters in the Bering Sea a day earlier, as U.S. President Barack Obama concluded a visit to Alaska.

The troop cut was "presented as a gesture to peace, but is anything but," said June Teufel Dreyer, a University of Miami political science professor, who served as a commissioner on the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission. "The more modern their weapons, the fewer personnel needed. Less money spent on personnel means more money for airplanes, submarines, frigates, missiles."

Cutting troop numbers will lay the groundwork for the



Chinese soldiers take part in a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of Japan's surrender during World War II held in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing on Thursday

most sweeping overhaul of the 2.3-million-member PLA in at least three decades, moving it closer to a U.S.-style joint command structure, people familiar with the matter said.

The overhaul calls for consolidating the country's seven military regions to as few as four, one of the people said.

A joint command system is seen as necessary to improve communications and coordinate modern forces across the various arms of the military.

Li Jie, a senior researcher at the Chinese Naval Research Institute in Beijing, said the force reduction would allow for greater expenditure on advanced hardware. The parade featured examples such as the DF-26 mid-range ballistic missile, which could potentially hit the U.S. naval base on Guam, and

the DF-21D, a missile designed to sink a ship the size of an aircraft carrier.

"The money saved can be used to purchase advanced navy and air-space weaponry," Li said. "The future direction is to enhance the naval and airspace capabilities, because these are the areas from which potential enemies will make an attack. We need to ramp up our deterrence and responsive capacity."

The changes come at a time when China has been pressing its military reach from the East China Sea to the Indian Ocean. China's neighbors and the U.S. have responded by increasing their own forces in the

region.

China's troop draw down is slated for completion by the end of 2017. Reductions will target administrative staff, non-combatant personnel and troops equipped with outdated armaments.

"Chinese armed forces will be slimmer but more capable, and their composition will be more scientific," Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun said Thursday. The PLA will "launch a lot of new reform initiatives in succession to push forward the national defense and military reform in an active and steady way," he said.

The shift away from land-based forces mirrors the U.S.'s military rebalancing, designed in part to counter China's growing capabilities.

If most of China's cuts fall on the army, the branch's share of personnel would fall to about 68 percent from 73 percent now, according to Dennis Blasko, a Florida-based analyst at CNA Corp.'s China Security Affairs Group. The air force's share would rise to roughly 20 percent from 17 percent, while the navy's relative strength would also increase slightly.

"We, China, and several Asia countries are in a security dilemma, where each takes actions it sees as self defensive but causes the other side to react negatively resulting in spiraling escalation," said Blasko, who served as a U.S. army attaché to Beijing from 1992-95 and wrote "The Chinese Army Today: Tradition and Transformation for the 21st Century." **Bloomberg**

**The troop cut was 'presented as a gesture to peace, but is anything but'**

JUNE TEUFEL DREYER  
POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR  
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

## Chemical factory blast death toll rises to 13

**T**HE death toll from an explosion at a chemical factory in eastern China last week has jumped to 13 after search and rescue efforts ended, a city government said.

A factory that produces adhesive materials exploded on Aug. 31 in Lijin county in Shandong province.

Two days after the blast, the official death toll stood at five. The Dongying city government, which administers the area, said the toll had

risen to 13 following the completion of search and rescue efforts Saturday. It said all 13 bodies had been identified, but gave no further details. It said 25 other people had been injured, 11 of whom were still hospitalized.

A man on duty at the Dongying city government, who gave only his surname, Fan, said Sunday that the cause of the blast was still under investigation and had no further details.

The blast came nearly three weeks after mas-

sive chemical warehouse explosions in Tianjin — about 300 kilometers away — exposed lax enforcement of safety regulations.

The death toll from the Tianjin blasts stands at 161, with 12 people still missing, the Tianjin government's information office said on its microblog yesterday. The warehouses were closer to homes than is allowed under safety regulations, and were storing too much hazardous material. **AP**



This photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency shows the accident site after an explosion at Shandong Binyuan Chemical Co., Ltd. in Lijin county, east China's Shandong province

MYANMAR

# Aspiring athletes train amid traffic

Gemunu Amarasinghe, Yangon

A group of strongly built young men gathers early in the morning in the suburbs of Yangon to work on their fighting skills. Some of them jump on cast-off tires to warm up. Others stretch or punch the air.

All of them pause and make way when a rickshaw comes by, because their gym is the street.

The men are members of Yangon's White New Blood lethwei fighters club. Most come from rural areas of Myanmar, get fed by their coach and sleep in a nearby Buddhist monastery during their stay in Yangon preparing for fights.

Lethwei fighter-turned-coach Myint Zaw started the traditional fighter's club 15 years ago, after he retired from the sport.

The club is situated on the road in front of his house in a Yangon neighborhood of improvised tin and wooden structures. Most of the equipment is improvised as well, including weights strapped to a wooden bar. A tree wrapped with old



Members of the White New Blood lethwei fighters club warm up in their gym on a street as a man pushes his rickshaw with a load of charcoal in Oakalarpa, north of Yangon

tires serves as a punching bag, though now the gym has a real one as well.

A local businessman helped put a roof above the section of the road they use as a gym so they can practice even during Myanmar's unforgiving monsoon season. Neighbors share the shelter for community events such as alms offering to Buddhist monks.

Myanmar has a rich heritage of martial arts that is believed

to go back more than 2,000 years. Today, matches are held at festivals around the country and are popular with every strata of society.

Lethwei is a particularly rough form of kickboxing: There are no gloves, head-butts are allowed and until relatively recently, fights simply continued until one competitor was knocked out. Now there are time limits.

Three of Zaw's fighters com-

peted this summer on a stage a world away from the street gym: a mixed-martial-arts "One Championship" event broadcast globally on cable television networks. It was held in Thuwanna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon, which is the country's pre-eminent indoor sports facility, though it still lacks air conditioning.

According to Zaw, fighters received USD1,000 for each fight, with 20 percent going to the coach for providing training and food.

Ordinarily, fighters win much less money, but still make more than Zaw did in the days when Myanmar's junta-led government was isolated from the world and international broadcasts were impossible. Back then, a fight would earn him just 25 U.S. cents.

Dawna Aung, a lightweight-class fighter and 34-year-old father of two, hopes competing will help him change his family's life. The ethnic Karen lives in a rural village in Myanmar's Irrawaddy Delta region, and his

family runs a small dried fish business.

"The reason, I join this MMA tournament is mainly for the money. My family will be OK if I can make a lot of money from that. And secondly, I really would like to show to the world what Leithwei is," Aung said.

He wants to fight another three or four years, become a champion and earn enough money along the way to expand the family business.

Aung lost his One Championship bout, as did Hlit Hlit Lay, fighting in featherweight category. The only White New Blood fighter to get a win was Phoe Thaw, a security guard at the Japanese Embassy in Yangon who was also battered but scored a victory because his opponent suffered a cut so bloody that the judge stopped the fight.

A few days after, Hlit Hlit Lay said he was heading back to his village. He planned to eventually return to Yangon to prepare for another fight, but needed to heal his wounds first. AP

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Grant Peck and Hrvoje Hranjski, Bangkok

THAILAND

# Army-backed council rejects charter, delays polls

**T**HAILAND'S military-backed legislature yesterday rejected an unpopular draft of a new constitution, delaying a return to democracy following a coup last year.

The junta-picked drafters had hoped the proposed charter would move the Southeast Asian country past almost a decade of political conflicts, but it was met with strong opposition on almost all sides of political divide.

The legislature appointed by the junta, known as the National Reform Council, voted 135 against vs. 105 in favor with seven abstentions. The rejection, although welcomed by many, still sets back a tentative plan for Thailand's transition to electoral democracy, with the military retaining substantial powers until a new constitution is drafted.

A new 21-member drafting committee will now be appointed with a mandate to write a new charter within 180 days. It also needs approval by the legislature and will be put to a referendum — meaning elections aren't likely until at least 2017, according to analysts, if the new draft is approved.

The government had previously said elections could take place late next year.

One of the most contentious provisions in the draft included a 23-member panel, with military members, that would be empowered to take over from the parliament and prime minister in times of "national crisis."

Almost all parties criticized it, and the draft risked being voted down in a referendum that had been planned for early next year.

Any new charter under the



Thienchai Kiranan, president of Thailand's legislature, known as the National Reform Council, speaks before the body voted on the new draft constitution yesterday

junta appeared aimed at preventing a political comeback by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was deposed in 2006 after being accused of corruption and disrespect for the revered king. Thailand has remained

divided since, with Thaksin supporters and opponents struggling for power at the ballot box and in the streets, sometimes violently.

The military abolished an earlier constitution after it deposed Thaksin's sister, Yin-

gluck Shinawatra, as prime minister last year, and the government operates under a temporary charter. The junta later picked the drafters and the 247-member National Reform Council to help write a new constitution.

"We might not be able to say that this is a true democracy as viewed in the Western world; it is transitional democracy," Kamnoon Sidhisamarn, spokesman for the Constitution Drafting Committee, said before the vote yesterday.

He defended the draft as necessary to lessen the supremacy of few political parties, saying that since Thailand became a democracy in 1932, "we found that we haven't had any political stability."

"There have been elections and coups during all these 83 years. In the past 10 years, we had two coups already. And two political parties came to power but they couldn't solve problems," he said.

The draft also envisioned an upper house that's only partially elected — 123 out of 200 members would be appointed. A prime minister also could be appointed without having to win a parliamentary seat, as was the case in the past.

Both supporters of Thaksin and his opponents, and academics and activists have criticized the draft, while the ruling military has stifled public debate on it.

Although the rejection of the draft delays a return to democracy, it is still better than a "meaningless election" that would take place if the draft had been approved, said Chaturon Chaiseng, an outspoken critic of the junta who had served in previous governments headed by Thaksin and Yingluck. AP

SOUTH KOREA

# 10 dead after fishing boat capsizes

Hyung-jin Kim, Seoul

**T**EN people died and an undetermined number of others were missing after a fishing boat capsized off South Korea's southern coast, maritime officials said yesterday.

Three people were rescued and flown to a hospital with injuries that weren't life threatening, Jeju coast guard officers said on condition of anonymity because of office rules. Dozens of ships searched the area for survivors.

The 9.8-ton boat, Dol-

phin, lost communication with another boat on Saturday evening and was found yesterday morning north of the resort island of Jeju. A survivor told Yonhap news agency that the boat quickly capsized because of high waves.

The survivor, identified only by the surname Park, awoke to find the captain telling the passengers to get out as the boat filled with water. Park said survivors clung to the boat for more than 10 hours, but some disappeared in the strong waves before rescuers arrived.

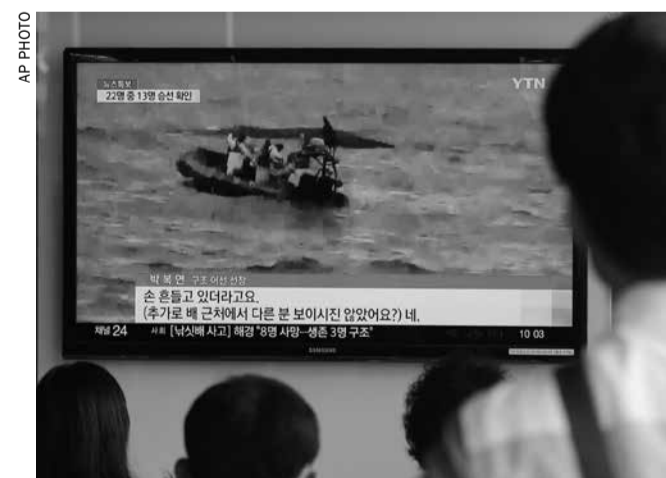
It wasn't clear how many were on board, but most were passengers on a fishing trip, not professional fishermen, one of the coast guard officials said.

A document listed 22 expected passengers, but officials have found that at least four of those listed did not actually board the ship. Also, one of the three survivors wasn't among those listed in the document, Jeju's coast guard chief Lee Pyung-hyun said.

More than 40 coast guard, navy and civilian

ships searched the nearby waters, Lee said. The boat had left Chuja Island, northwest of Jeju Island, on Saturday evening to return to a southwestern town on the mainland, before losing communication, Lee said.

South Korea is still dealing with grief and anger over a maritime disaster last year that killed more than 300 people, mostly school children, when a ferry sank off the southern coast. Critics blamed lax government oversight and the country's poor safety culture



People watch a TV news program showing Coast Guard officers searching for missing passengers after a fishing boat capsized north of the resort island of Jeju, at Seoul Railway Station

in part for the sinking. President Park Geun-hye, heavily criticized for alleged incompetence over last year's ferry sinking, ordered her government to "do every-

thing possible for the search and rescue of the missing" and to keep the public informed about government efforts to deal with this accident, according to her office. AP

## EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

# A photo, a turning point? All depends on Europe's leaders

Angela Charlton and Lorne Cook,  
Paris

**T**HE 3-year-old boy could have been dressed for preschool. Instead he was lying face down in the surf.

Suddenly offers of money, meals and refuge are pouring in to help the hundreds of thousands of migrants surging into Europe. A single photo of a lifeless boy did more to galvanize public sympathy for Europe's migrants than thousands of drownings in the Mediterranean or four years of Syrian civil war.

Whether Aylan Kurdi's drowning death marks a turning point in Europe's migration crisis depends on what European politicians do in response. So far, no dramatic new solutions have emerged.

Given the EU's cumbersome structure and powerful national interests among its 28 members, any political change will be slow — if it happens at all. Ideological divides run deep, and suspicion of immigrants simmers.

Yet for many people from London to Athens to San Francisco, something clicked Thursday. There will be a before and an after, a collective memory of the image of a 3-year-old on a Turkish beach, that moment when the migrants' plight became tangible and unjustifiably cruel.

Sweden's foreign minister cried on national television. So did Australia's most popular TV personality.

They were not alone. Tweets in a dozen languages sha-



In this Sept. 2 file photo, a paramilitary police officer investigates the scene before carrying the lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi, 3, near the Turkish resort of Bodrum

red pain and anger elicited by viewing the photo of Aylan, taken by a Turkish news agency and spread to cellphones and front pages the world around.

Many have taken action, too.

Parisians unexpectedly packed a meeting hall to offer rooms to refugees. A little-known French grassroots group trying to find housing for asylum applicants had 200 room offers Tuesday; by Thursday night it had 500.

Donors from around the world flooded the U.N. refugee agency with offers of aid.

"The image ... has started a movement of civil society, of private individuals, and even of the tabloid press, to say: 'Governments, we need to do more,'" said agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming.

"Our private-sector fundraising people are inundated with requests, 'How can we help? How can we donate money?'" she said, adding that she didn't have a precise figure yet but "it's in the millions."

European decision-makers heard the calls, convened meetings and insisted they are not

soulless bureaucrats. Germany and France urged faster action on a relatively modest plan to force all EU members to take in a certain number of migrants.

But not everyone shed tears upon learning that Aylan, his mother and 5-year-old brother drowned in the Mediterranean as they tried to reach Greece.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Europe should tell Syrian refugees "Please don't come!"

Speaking to the European Parliament, he continued, "Why do you have to go from Turkey to

Europe? Turkey is a safe country. Stay there, it's risky to come. We can't guarantee that you will be accepted here."

France's popular far-right leader Marine Le Pen said Europe should never have let its doors stay open to migrants in the first place.

The EU's top diplomat summed up the realpolitik mood in Brussels. Asked about the photo, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said, "As a human being, this is something that touches. But ... I'm a little bit fed up that politicians are called to react emotionally."

"Our job," she said, "is to take decisions rationally, being consistent and coherent with our emotions."

One political cartoon Friday showed a boy dead in the water with a lifesaver floating nearby, painted with the yellow stars and blue field of the EU flag.

That's how many view Europe's failure to take bold steps amid its worst refugee crisis since World War II — especially as Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon have taken in more than 3.7 million Syrians while European governments argue about where to put 40,000 refugees.

After hundreds of migrants died in an overcrowded boat that capsized off the Italian island of Lampedusa in 2013, European officials swore such horrors must stop.

This year, after another 800 people drowned in the Mediterranean in April, European Parliament President Martin Schulz had a sense of déjà vu.

"Every single life lost off our coasts is a stain on Europe," he said. "Each time a refugee boat sinks, with people screaming, shouting and drowning, we swear 'Never again.' We hold minutes of silence. We lay wreaths. We promise that this time must be the turning point. And then ..."

And then, five months later, a boy's small body washes up on a Turkish beach. **AP**

## Pope: Vatican will shelter 2 families fleeing war, hunger

Frances D'Emilio,  
Vatican City

**T**HE Vatican will shelter two families of refugees who are "fleeing death" from war or hunger, Pope Francis announced yesterday as he called on Catholic parishes, convents and monasteries across Europe to do the same.

Francis cited Mother Teresa, the European-born nun who cared for the poorest in India, in making his appeal in remarks to pilgrims and tourists in St. Peter's



Pope Francis greets faithful during an audience to Parish groups promoting evangelization, in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican

Square.

"Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of

refugees who are fleeing death by war and by hunger, and who are on a path

toward a hope for life, the Gospel calls us to be neighbors to the smallest and most abandoned, to give them concrete hope," Francis said.

It's not enough to say "Have courage, hang in there," he added.

"May every parish, every religious community, every monastery, every sanctuary in Europe host a family, starting with my diocese of Rome," Francis said. He also asked bishops throughout Europe to have their dioceses take up his call to "express the Gospel in con-

crete terms and take in a family of refugees."

The Vatican is a tiny city-state and some of its citizens, including families with children, live in apartments inside its ancient walls. It has two parish churches, including St. Peter's Basilica.

Francis said two of the Vatican's parishes will welcome two refugee families, but did not give details. A Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Ciro Benedetti, quoted the pope's chief alms-giver as saying the Vatican is now deciding which families will

be hosted.

He has chosen mercy as the overarching theme of his papacy. Practicing what he preaches, he has already made free showers at the Vatican available to Rome's homeless and has barbers available for haircuts for the needy, among other initiatives.

Thousands of migrants and refugees, many fleeing war and persecution, have streamed into Germany and Austria over the weekend after being stuck in Hungary for days. **AP**

Shawn Pogatchnik and Frank Jordans, Budapest

EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS

# Refugees finish epic trek to Germany

**F**OR weeks while they traveled a punitive road, Europe cast a cold eye on their unwelcome progress. On Saturday, for the first time since fleeing their troubled homelands, they could set foot in their promised land — and it came with a German face so friendly that it brought some newcomers to tears of joy.

More than 7,000 Arab and Asian asylum seekers surged across Hungary's western border into Austria and Germany following the latest erratic policy turn by Hungary's immigrant-averse government. Within hours, travelers predominantly from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan who had been told for days they could not leave Hungary were scooped from roadsides and Budapest's central train station and placed on overnight buses, driven to the frontier with Austria and allowed to walk across as a new day dawned.

They were met with unexpected hospitality featuring free high-speed trains, seemingly bottomless boxes of supplies, and well-wishers offering candy for everyone and cuddly toys for the children in mothers' arms. Even adults absorbed the sudden welcome with a look of



Refugees arrive at the train station in Saalfeld, central Germany, on Saturday

wonderment as Germans and Austrians made clear that they had reached a land that just might become a home.

In Munich's central station, the first arrivals from Hungary received cheering and applause. Many who had endured nights

sleeping on crowded concrete floors at Budapest's Keleti station appeared disoriented as Germans approached them holding trays of food. The youngest brightened up as teddy bears were offered as gifts.

"We are giving a warm welco-

me to these people today," said Simone Hilgers, spokeswoman for Upper Bavaria government agencies tasked with providing the migrants immediate support. "We realize it's going to be a big challenge but everybody, the authorities and ordinary citizens, are pulling together."

A total of about 6,000 people had come through Munich by Saturday evening, Hilgers said. All were given food and drink, and most were housed in temporary accommodation.

"I'm very glad to be in Germany. I hope that I find here a much better life. I want to work," said Homam Shehade, a 37-year-old Syrian shopkeeper who spent 25 days on the road. He left behind his parents, a brother, wife, a 7-year-old boy and a 2 1/2-year-old girl. He hopes to bring them all to Germany. Until then, he said: "I hope that God protects them from the planes and bombs. My shop was bombed and my house was bombed."

## MERKEL TO HOLD CRISIS TALKS AS MIGRANTS STREAM INTO GERMANY

**CHANCELLOR ANGELA** Merkel planned to discuss Europe's migrant crisis with her coalition partners yesterday, as Syrians, Iraqis and others fleeing war and persecution streamed into Germany for the second straight day. The Christian Social Union, the socially-conservative wing of Merkel's center-right bloc, has criticized the decision to open Germany's borders to migrants and refugees stuck in Hungary, the dpa news agency reported. Meanwhile, the center-left Social Democrats, the third member of Merkel's three-party coalition, urged swift humanitarian help for those trekking through Europe in search of a better life. "No decent person can remain cold and dismissive in the face of such suffering," said Thomas Oppermann, a senior Social Democrat. German officials have been particularly angry at Hungary for encouraging migrants to keep traveling westward, instead of providing them with adequate shelter and the chance to apply for asylum there.

AD

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## what's ON

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Thursdays)

ADDRESS: Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen

ADMISSION: Exhibition Centre: MOP25

Planetarium (Dome/Sky Shows): MOP50

Planetarium (3D Dome/3D Sky Shows): MOP65

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily

(Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

## MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM &amp; WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement

(Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

## INSTALLATION 'VALKYRIE OCTOPUS'

BY JOANA VASCONCELOS

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: October 31, 2015

VENUE: MGM MACAU, Av. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## EXHIBITION 'FOAM TIP BY ARLINDA FROTA

AND TRANSMUTATION BY CAROL KWOK'

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2015

VENUE: SIGNUM Living Store,

Rua do Almirante Sérgio, no. 285, R/C, Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8925

## 'SAUDADE' ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 24 hours

UNTIL: September 30, 2015

VENUE: L2 Showcase / MGM MACAU,

Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau

ADMISSION: free

GUIDED TOURS: 12pm-9pm (Mondays to Fridays);

11am to 9:00 pm (Saturdays and Sundays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8802 8888

## Offbeat

CHINA WARNS OF CORRUPTION  
BEHIND HIGH-END MOONCAKES

With the Mid-Autumn Festival just around the corner, a senior disciplinary official has issued a stern warning against corruption and extravagance.

While lauding the Communist Party of China's (CPC) fight against undesirable work styles, Song Dajun, deputy chief of the Party work style supervision office under the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said: "The root is still there even though the tree has fallen."

Song, who was speaking during an online interview made public yesterday on the commission's website, called on supervisory organs to be extra vigilant ahead of and during the Mid-Autumn Festival and National Day holidays.

It is customary to hold banquets and give gifts, usually the sweet-or-savory-filled pastries known as mooncakes, during the festival, which falls on Sept. 27 this year. The CCDI is concerned that the festivals will be used as a cover for subtle bribery.

The CCDI yesterday unveiled a new form on its website, inviting the public to report excessive spending by officials during the upcoming festivities.

According to Xinhua news agency, "violators will be named and shamed in a weekly report on the website from Sept. 16." **MDT/Xinhua**

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:30	RTPi Live
17:50	The Presence of Anita - End (Repeated)
18:40	Contraponto (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Trail of Lies
23:00	TDM News
23:30	UEFA Champions League 2015/2016 Magazine Programme
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:45	UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifiers: Albania - Portugal (Live)

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

3 SEP- 9 SEP



## LOVE DETECTIVE

ROOM 1

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Wong Pak-Kei

Starring: Ivana Wong, Pakho Chau, Ram Chiang

Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 105min



## NO ESCAPE

ROOM 2

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: John Erick Dowdle

Starring: Lake Bell, Pierce Brosnan, Owen Wilson

Language: English (Cantonese)

Duration: 103min

## HERO 2015

ROOM 3

2.15, 7.00 pm

Director: Nikhil Advani

Starring: Haruma Miura, Kiko Mizuhara

Language: Japanese (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 90min



## A TALE OF THREE CITIES

ROOM 3

4.30, 9.15 pm

Director: Mabel Cheung

Starring: Sean Ching-Wan Lau, Wei Tang, Hoi Lu Chun,

Elaine Jin

Language: Cantonese/Mandarin (Cantonese/English)

Duration: 130min

## MACAU TOWER

20 AUG - 9 SEPT

## PIXELS

2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Chris Columbus

Starring: Adam Sandler, Kevin James,

Michelle Monaghan

Language: English (Chinese)

## this day in history

1940 LONDON BLITZED BY  
GERMAN BOMBERS

The German air force has unleashed a wave of heavy bombing raids on London, killing hundreds of civilians and injuring many more.

The Ministry of Home Security said the scale of the attacks was the largest the Germans had yet attempted.

"Our defenses have actively engaged the enemy at all points," said a communiqué issued this evening. "The civil defense services are responding admirably to all calls that are being made upon them."

The first raids came towards the end of the afternoon, and were concentrated on the densely populated East End, along the river by London's docks. About 300 bombers attacked the city for over an hour and a half. The entire docklands area seemed to be ablaze as hundreds of fires lit up the sky.

Once darkness fell, the fires could be seen more than 10 miles away, and it is believed that the light guided a second wave of German bombers which began coming over at about 2030 BST (1930 GMT).

The night bombing lasted over eight hours, shaking the city with the deafening noise of hundreds of bombs falling so close together there was hardly a pause between them.

One bomb exploded on a crowded air raid shelter in an East London district. In what was described as "a million to one chance", the bomb fell directly on the 3ft (90cm) by 1ft (30cm) ventilation shaft - the only vulnerable place in a strongly-protected underground shelter which could accommodate over 1,000 people.

About 14 people are believed to have been killed and 40 injured, including children. Civil defense workers worked through the night, often in the face of heavy bombing, to take people out of the range of fire and find them temporary shelter and food.

An official paid tribute to staff at one London hospital which was hit, saying, "They showed marvelous bravery, keeping on until bomb detonations and gunfire made it absolutely impossible."

In the air, a series of ferocious dogfights developed as the German aircraft flew up the Thames Estuary. The Air Ministry says at least 15 enemy aircraft crashed into the estuary, and in all, the Ministry said, 88 German aircraft were shot down, against 22 RAF planes lost.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The attacks were Britain's first taste of strategic bombing, when air forces aimed at civilian morale and industrial production rather than purely military targets.

The start of what came to be called the London Blitz - from Blitzkrieg, or "lightning war" - marked a change of strategy by the German leader, Adolf Hitler.

His attempt to invade Britain had already been frustrated by the Luftwaffe's failure to gain air superiority despite a month of trying.

Now, Hitler was going to try to crush the British people instead.

The RAF had in fact been brought almost to its knees by the relentless attacks of the Luftwaffe, but the change of plan gave it a desperately-needed breathing space.

By contrast, the Blitz raids were disastrous for the Luftwaffe, which lost almost all its experienced aircrew and hundreds of aircraft.

About 43,000 civilians died during the Blitz. Almost 140,000 more were injured, and more than a million homes damaged or destroyed.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your interest in finance goes beyond mere possessions. That's good, because you certainly aren't accumulating them very fast. Continue pouring patience and hard work into a secure future.

Taurus April 20-May 20 When it comes to all things financial, you know to be prepared for anything, even today's gaping maw. Use that knowledge to bolster your confidence when it comes to romance.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Some limitations are actually quite healthy. In fact, many are. You're not over eating, for one, and not because you're being disciplined. Call yourself a Polly Anna and be grateful for your leaner, meaner budget.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's strange, but most of the control you have over your budget comes from the domestic front. No more big spending at home, on your part and anyone else's. Nickel and dime yourselves back to financial health.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 There is no right or wrong way to survive the storm, but whatever you do, swallow your pride. Everyone else has. That could mean giving up on projects you thought you would finish or finishing them for free.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You can't run with the bulls, especially if there aren't any bulls. You pride yourself in finding just the right dinner spot or an unusual new travel destination. Bring that same individuality to your financial plan.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Is it possible you've become a bottom feeder? Don't get too greedy gobbling up the penny stocks. As with anything else, you'll eventually feel heavy and then remorseful. Make comfort part of your bottom line.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Finances are causing stress all around you, so why would you imagine you'd be spared? Even if you're only on the receiving end, friction, impatience and discord are the notes of the day. Endure.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Cutting back on services is just the beginning. If it helps you see how cushy your life still is, imagine what living on the prairie must have been like. Then circle the wagons and hunker down.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Times have changed, but what it takes to build a financial safety net is still the same. Work with discipline and perseverance rather than creativity. And of course, keep your habits easy on the pocket.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Of all the stories you heard coming from the mouths of old relatives, tales of the great depression are suddenly the most interesting. Use all of them to avoid future financial fails.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Not that your individual life can change the world economy, but face it, you were getting soft. Consider living on a shoestring not only boot camp, but an art form.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

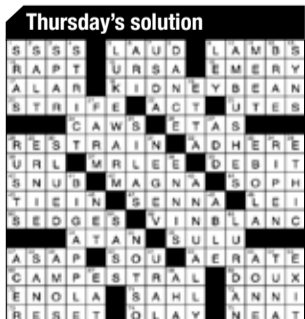
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Poor actors; 5- Cries of discovery; 9- "Damn!"; 13- What there oughta be; 14- Swahili for "freedom"; 15- Seemingly forever; 16- Sound quality; 17- Sniff; 18- Turn over; 19- Ice cream topped with syrup; 21- Lush; 22- \_\_\_ well...; 23- Misfortunes; 25- DEA agent; 27- Aeschylus trilogy; 31- Spice; 35- \_\_\_ browns; 36- Cpls.' superiors; 38- Ethical; 39- \_\_\_ longa, vita brevis; 40- Grain stores; 42- Bigger than med.; 43- Hit back, perhaps; 46- Reindeer herder; 47- Sharp; 48- Indo-Europeans; 50- Wool-clippers; 52- LAX guesstimates; 54- Rational; 55- Small brook; 58- \_\_\_ degree; 60- Japanese robe; 64- Arabian Nights; 65- Appraise; 67- Dregs; 68- Sigmund's daughter; 69- President before Polk; 70- Supermodel Sastre; 71- Spotted; 72- Scandinavian capital; 73- Asta's mistress;

DOWN: 1- Panama and bowler; 2- Baseball family name; 3- Jazz flutist Herbie; 4- Start for fish, meatballs, or massage; 5- Resistance unit; 6- Shades; 7- Acrylic fiber; 8- Sovereign of an Islamic country; 9- Actual; 10- Drum sound; 11- Indigo source; 12- Cookbook amts.; 14- Serving no function; 20- High-pitched; 24- Seal; 26- Grog ingredient; 27- Butler's love; 28- Less common; 29- Composition; 30- World book; 32- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 33- \_\_\_ beaver; 34- Secluded valleys; 37- Second-year students, for short; 41- Orator; 44- Southeasternmost hill of Rome; 45- Big bang cause; 47- Citadel of Moscow; 49- Serenaded; 51- Black cuckoo; 53- Remains; 55- Narrow inlets; 56- Actress Skye; 57- The \_\_\_ Ranger rode a horse called Silver; 59- Shuck; 61- Vintner's prefix; 62- \_\_\_-do-well; 63- Greek peak; 66- Prizm maker



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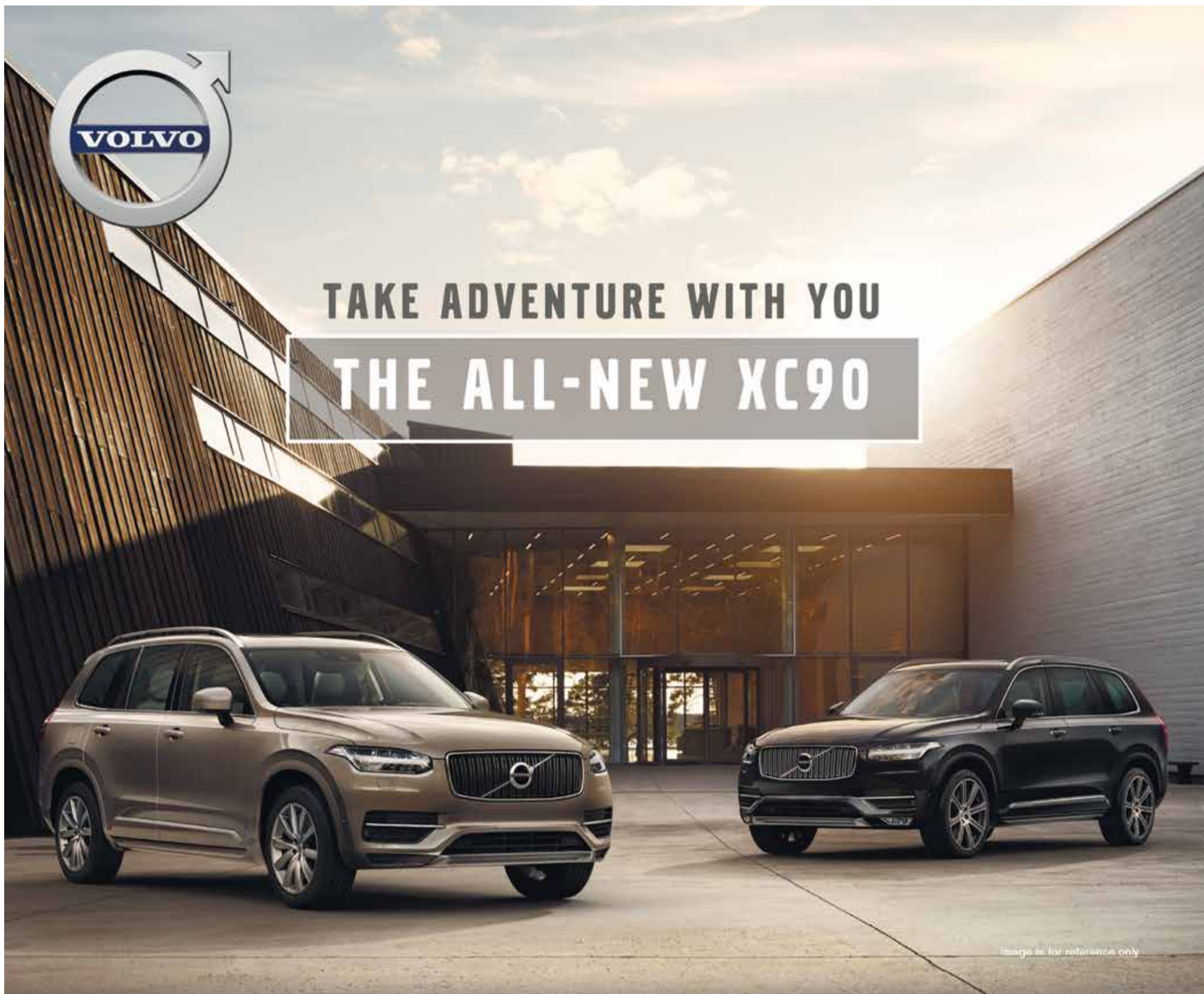


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Andrew Dampf, Monza

F1

# Lewis Hamilton cruises to Italian GP win amid tire inquiry

**L**EWIS Hamilton cruised to his seventh win of the season at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday, and nearly doubled his Formula One lead over Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, whose engine caught fire with two laps remaining.

However, Hamilton's victory was under question after stewards summoned Mercedes concerning tire pressures on both of their cars. Hamilton's left rear tire pressure was 0.3 psi below the minimum, while Rosberg's was 1.1 too low.

"I wasn't aware of it," Hamilton said, adding that 0.3 psi "is not really a huge amount on one tire."

Sole tire supplier Pirelli, still recovering from the Belgian GP two weeks ago where there were frightening tire deterioration problems, didn't think there should be a penalty.

"We are totally sure no one is cheating," Pirelli spokesman Roberto Boccafoli said, adding that "0.3 psi is nothing. ... Such a small thing."

Otherwise, it was a golden weekend for Hamilton, who topped every practice, started from pole position and led the race from start to finish.

"I don't know if I've ever had a



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, steers his car on his way to win the Italian Formula One Grand Prix at the Monza racetrack

weekend like this," said Hamilton, who is aiming for his second straight F1 title and third overall. A potential challenge from Ferrari fizzled when Kimi Raikkonen stalled on the front row of the starting grid.

In perfect conditions, Hamilton finished 25 seconds ahead of Sebastian Vettel in the other Ferrari, while Felipe Massa crossed third, 47 seconds back.

Massa finished just three tenths of a second ahead of Williams teammate Valtteri Bottas.

"It's the best second-place I've

ever had," said the four-time world champion Vettel, who raced for Ferrari for the first time at Monza. "The emotions on the podium are incredible."

Amid speculation that Monza might be removed from the circuit after its contract expires next season, Vettel made an emotional call to keep the race in Italy.

"If we take this race away from the calendar for any (poor) money reasons I think you are basically ripping our hearts out," said the German, who won twice at Monza with Red Bull and once

with Toro Rosso before signing with Ferrari a year ago. "Because this (race) makes it so much more worthwhile. You look left, look right, and people are just happy to be part of it. And it makes our day. It's incredible."

If the result stands, Hamilton now leads Rosberg by 53 points with seven races remaining this season. As thousands of red-clad Ferrari fans rushed out onto the track below, Hamilton was joined on the winner's podium by Star Wars creator George Lucas.

"This circuit is such a special one for me. I think it's the same for all the drivers," Hamilton said. "When you stand atop that podium you feel incredible pride and incredibly proud to be amongst the greatest who have ever stood up there. And you see a sea of fans in red. The sea of fans is just unlike anything I've seen."

With the 40th win of his career, Hamilton moved within one victory of his childhood idol Ayrton

Senna and Vettel on the all-time list. The Briton also became the first driver to secure back-to-back wins at Monza since Damon Hill in 1993-94.

Hamilton had such a comfortable lead that he told his team midway through the race that he was turning his engine down.

But Mercedes must have been made aware of the tire pressure issue late in the race, because the team started to send worrisome messages to Hamilton via radio. "We need to pull a gap," a Mercedes engineer told Hamilton. "Don't ask questions, just execute."

Vettel wasn't interested in being bumped up to the winner's spot courtesy of a time penalty to Hamilton. "It's all about fairness and respect and he did a better job today so we have to respect that," Vettel said. "I was second on the podium and that's the emotions I got. I had a great car today but not good enough to win." AP

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opinion

World Views

Leonid Bershidsky, Bloomberg

**BANKS ARE DANGEROUSLY EXPOSED TO CHINA**

Until very recently, large exposure to China was seen as an advantage, a toehold in the market of the future. Now it's seen as a risk, and some of the world's most advanced companies seem to be on the losing side of a huge bet. The danger may be overstated in some cases and understated in others.

Last month, Goldman Sachs created a list of S&P 500 stocks with the most exposure to China. Inexplicably, Apple, which generates more than a quarter of its revenue from Greater China, is not on the list. Nonetheless, all but three of the 20 companies listed are in the tech sector: Wynn Resorts with its Macau casinos, KFC and Pizza Hut owner YUM! Brands and baby formula maker Mead Johnson Nutrition. The rest are mostly makers of tech components that are used to manufacture devices in China that are sold around the world. For example, 61 percent of Qualcomm's sales are in China, but Chinese-assembled mobile phones containing the U.S. company's chips are sold everywhere.

Apple's exposure may be even more risky: The company sells very expensive finished products to Chinese consumers, who are now experiencing an economic downturn. The hi-tech component makers will still sell their chips when there's a global market for finished products. If value chains change and production facilities move, say, to India, they wouldn't be severely affected, so long as the global smartphone market remains healthy. And there always will be Chinese consumers to sustain fast-food chains and baby formula makers. (Wynn may have something to worry about: Macau's gambling industry has been in steep decline for the last 15 months).

International banks, however, don't appear to be heavily exposed to China, at first glance anyway. Bank of International Settlements data show that their claims on Chinese banks, companies, consumers and public sector are quite manageable, though Australian and U.K. banks have extended a lot of credit in China in proportion to their total foreign assets:

Besides, international banks have been unusually alert to conditions in China, and have steadily reduced their claims on Chinese counterparties since the third quarter of 2014.

That appraisal may be deceptive, however. The June 2015 quarterly review by the BIS indicates that, in absolute terms, China was the eighth-largest borrower worldwide, with cross-border claims on its residents totaling \$1 trillion. To put that in perspective, bank claims on Greece never have exceeded about \$300 billion.

The absolute numbers for big foreign banking systems' exposure to China are starker: U.K. banks' \$198 billion in Chinese assets at the end of last year looks particularly threatening, especially given that HSBC and Standard Chartered both derive a significant portion of their revenue from China. This exposure is particularly problematic because a debt overhang is one of the Chinese economy's biggest problems. As the French bank Credit Agricole wrote in a note earlier this year:

The toxic combination of high and rising debt and cooling growth is symptomatic of the declining efficiency of investment. In this situation, more and more capital and debt have to be accumulated in an effort to maintain the level of growth and buy social harmony. These frantic efforts lead to excess, resulting in overcapacity (surplus production, run-up of inventories) and oversupplied property markets, especially in second- and third-tier cities. Rebalancing – now underway – brings falling prices, which hurt borrowers whose debt is secured by the value of these assets.

The danger to banks is far more real and potentially costly than the one facing tech and food companies. Obviously, China isn't going through a Greek-style meltdown. But there are visible warning signs for banks, including the recent stock market collapse, the ineffectual measures the Chinese government undertook to arrest it and the loss of \$315 billion in international reserves in the 12 months to July 2015. Financial institutions, and countries that have become dependent on exports to China, are first in line to suffer adverse consequences.

THE BUZZ NYC MILLIONAIRE BEQUEATHS USD100,000 TO 32 COCKATIELS

A New York City millionaire who died this summer has bequeathed a USD100,000 trust fund to care for her 32 pet cockatiels. The New York Post reported Saturday that Leslie Ann Mandel's will asks that the small parrots continue living in an aviary at her \$4 million East Hampton home. The will names each bird, from Margie and Nicki to Zara and Zack 12.

With Mandel's stepson as trustee, the fund also will care for a cat named Kiki and a rescue dog named Frosty. Mandel ran a fundraising firm and amassed a \$5.3 million fortune. She died in June at age 69. Other wills also have provided for pets. Hotel magnate Leona Helmsley left \$12 million to her dog, Trouble. A judge trimmed the bequest to \$2 million.

Study: Midlife obesity may spur risk for earlier Alzheimer's

Lauran Neergaard, Washington

ONE more reason to watch the waistline: New research says people's weight in middle age may influence not just whether they go on to develop Alzheimer's disease, but when.

Obesity in midlife has long been suspected of increasing the risk of Alzheimer's. Researchers at the National Institutes of Health took a closer look and reported Tuesday that being overweight or obese at age 50 may affect the age, years later, when Alzheimer's strikes. Among those who eventually got sick, more midlife pounds meant an earlier onset of disease.

It will take larger studies to prove if the flip side is true — that keeping trim during middle age might stall later-in-life Alzheimer's. But it probably won't hurt.

"Maintaining a healthy BMI at midlife is likely to have long-lasting protective effects," said Dr. Madhav Thambisetty of NIH's National Institute on Aging, who led the study reported in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*.

About 5 million people in the U.S. are living with Alzheimer's, a number expected



to more than double by 2050, barring a medical breakthrough, as the population ages.

Alzheimer's starts quietly ravaging the brain more than a decade before symptoms appear. With a cure so far elusive, researchers are hunting ways to at least delay the disease, and lifestyle changes are among the possible options.

To explore obesity's effects, Thambisetty's team turned to the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, one of the longest-running projects to track what happens to healthy people as they get older. They checked the records of nearly 1,400 participants who had undergone regular cognitive testing every year or two for about 14 years; 142 of them developed Alzheimer's.

The researchers checked how much those Alzheimer's patients weighed when they

were 50 and still cognitively healthy. They tracked BMI, or body mass index, a measure of weight to height. Every step up on the BMI chart predicted that when Alzheimer's eventually struck, it would be 6½ months sooner.

In other words, among this group of Alzheimer's patients, someone who had been obese — a BMI of 30 — during middle age on average had their dementia strike about a year earlier than someone whose midlife BMI was 28, in the overweight range, Thambisetty explained.

The threshold for being overweight is a BMI of 25.

The Alzheimer's study didn't track whether the patients' BMI fluctuated before or after age 50. There's no way to know if losing pounds after that age made a difference in dementia risk, although a healthy weight is recommended for many other reasons.

Some of the Baltimore Longitudinal study participants underwent brain scans during life and autopsies at death. Those tests found people with higher midlife BMIs also had more of the brain-clogging hallmarks of Alzheimer's years later, even if they didn't develop dementia.

Tuesday's study adds to previous research linking midlife obesity to a risk of Alzheimer's, but it's the first to also find those brain changes, a clue important to examine further, said Heather Snyder of the Alzheimer's Association, who wasn't involved in the work.

Meanwhile, the Alzheimer's group has long recommended a healthy weight: "What's good for your heart is good for your brain," Snyder noted. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



**USA** The Kentucky clerk who refuses to give marriage licenses to gay couples is spending her Labor Day holiday in isolation at a jail with her Bible. Around 300 of her supporters rallied Saturday, chanting outside the jail house, "Thank you, Kim" and praying that she could hear them. They called her a Christian hero in a war against the godless and waved signs that read "no to sodomite perversion."

**SPAIN** Police say two people are in serious condition in the hospital and 11 others are receiving treatment after a race car lost control during a rally in northwestern Spain and crashed into onlookers. Six people were killed in Saturday's accident. A police spokeswoman said four of the dead were female, including a pregnant woman and a 13-year-old.

**SYRIA** Anti-government violence erupts in a southern Syrian province, and unconfirmed reports suggesting that Russia was planning to expand its military support for Syrian President Bashar Assad prompt a warning from the U.S. that such actions could lead to a confrontation with coalition forces.

**GUATEMALA** The wave of political turmoil that toppled Guatemala's president overshadows yesterday's vote to elect a new leader — an election many fear could put a lid on the anti-corruption drive. President Otto Perez Molina and Vice President Roxana Baldetti were forced to resign. Both are currently in custody, accused of being involved in a customs kickback scheme.

**ARGENTINA** An Argentine man kept his troubled wife and autistic son in a filthy cage by day for at least two years, a prosecutor said Saturday. Prosecutor Alejandro Pellegrini said police found the dirt-floor cell at the house of 66-year-old Eduardo Oviedo in the city of Mar del Plata, acting on a complaint by two of his other children. Pellegrini said Oviedo's 61-year-old wife has psychiatric problems and the 32-year-old is autistic.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



On Saturday (September 5), Theatre Gecko staged 'Missing' at the Macau Cultural Center. The physical theatre performance combines various artistic expressions and short spells of text, embracing elements of dance, clowning and mime.