



240,000 SIGN ON FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
The Continuing Education Development Plan initiative, which was implemented 5 years ago, is expected to continue

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PANDA CUBS BORN IN MACAU

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SOLAIRE TRIES TO LURE HIGH ROLLERS
The Solaire Resort and Casino in Manila is conducting a brand campaign in Macau in order to attract gamblers to the Philippines

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



POLLUTION The International Energy Agency says each year about 6.5 million deaths worldwide are linked to air pollution and warns that the number will grow unless the energy sector steps up its efforts to slash emissions. The IEA projected that premature deaths from outdoor air pollution would rise to 4.5m by 2040, from 3m today.



CHINA is a potential winner if Britain and the European Union rework trade deals and look for investors after a British exit. Beijing faces a blow from weaker European demand for its exports and pressure to hold its yuan steady in turbulent currency markets.



THAILAND The head of the military government says he will not step down if an August referendum fails to approve a draft constitution it is promoting. PM Prayuth Chan-ocha was responding to a reporter's question of whether he would emulate David Cameron, who announced he would resign after UK voters in Brexit referendum rejected his position endorsing staying in the European Union. Opposition leaders had suggested he resign if the draft constitution did not pass.

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240,000 sign on for continuing education

Renato Marques

THE programs under the Continuing Education Development Plan initiative, which was implemented 5 years ago by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), have gathered the interest of close to 240,000 residents, according to DSEJ's Continuing Education Department head, Kong Ngai.

Kong was speaking on the sidelines of the plenary meeting of the Youth Council at the press conference held by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

"Around 60 percent of the population [in conditions to apply to the program] already registered an account (during the 2nd phase)," said Kong, adding that Macau has a program participation rate "far higher" than other neighboring regions.

The official used the example of the territories of Hong Kong and Taiwan where the participation rate is 12 and 7 percent respectively.

The 3rd phase, currently still under review, is expected to have a period of three years similar to the first two phases of the plan. According to a study ordered by the DSEJ to the Hong Kong company Policy 21 Limited, the duration is considered "adequate".

"A very long period



Kong Ngai

might be difficult to manage in terms of the government budget," Kong said. "We believe that three years is a good period for both parties, as for the people, it gives them time to establish a study plan according to their availability of time," he added.

According to the information from DSEJ, the same study done by the HK company will be used as "reference for the conception of the 3rd phase."

Although there is no clear calendar or budget for the 3rd phase, Kong says that one of DSEJ's aims is the "electronization" of the system that will operate through online platforms of application, submission of documents and communication to "ease the process and allow a better collection of statistic data." Kong highlighted that the system to be

in place will also allow "closer contact with the course organizers in order to improve on the monitoring and inspection."

Six cases of suspected fraud related to the Continuing Education scheme were prosecuted. DSEJ's Continuing Education Department head added that "they are related to fraud and forging of documents, namely attendance sheets."

On a separate topic, the DSEJ Youth Department head, Un Choi Cheng commented on the mid-term review of the Youth Policy of Macau saying, "80 percent of the work have been already initiated," adding that "the aim is to achieve, as it's said on the 5-year plan, reach the goal of 95 percent [of the policies planned]."

The official added that included in the 20 percent that DSEJ will work on, and that are currently in a "preparatory study phase", will be measures like the "cooperation between youth associations according to the 'one belt, one road' initiative."

Elderly subsidy raised to MOP8,000

THE government's annual subsidy for senior citizens has been adjusted from the previous MOP7,500 to MOP8,000, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has announced.

According to information from the bureau, the subsidy aims to contribute to the dignity of senior citizens and it is a way of affirming the respect that society owes them.

The beneficiaries of the allowance who currently reside in the MSAR will automatically receive the amount between October and December.

Beneficiaries residing abroad must provide a certificate of life by August 31 so that they can receive the subsidy during the same period. If this does not eventuate, the subsidy will be granted at a later date.

The same applies for the senior citizens who meet the requirements to apply for allowance for the first time this year.

According to IAS, until May 31 this



year the number of eligible seniors to be granted the allowance was 71,000, which represents a total government investment of MOP568 million.

STATISTICS

Unemployment rate holds steady

THE unemployment rate and the underemployment rate for the March to May 2016 period remained stable at 1.9 percent and 0.5 percent respectively, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Service.

The total labor force during the period amounted to approximately 396,200, and the labor force participation rate stood at 72 percent.

Total employment decreased by about 1,000 from the previous three-month period, February to April, recorded at 388,600. Analyzed by industry, employment in Restaurants & Similar Activities

and Gaming & Junket Activities registered decreases, while that in Wholesale & Retail Trade saw an increase.

The number of unemployed dropped by 100 from the previous tri-month period to 7,600. Entrants to the market searching for their first job accounted for 5.1 percent of the total unemployed, up by 0.1 percentage points.

Compared with the March to May period last year, the labor force participation rate dropped by 2 percentage points, while the unemployment rate and the underemployment rate rose by 0.1 and 0.2 percentage points respectively.

EDUCATION

Tuition subsidies continue to increase

TUITION subsidies will increase from September 1, according to a notice published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

The increases are: MOP18,400 per year for preschool education; MOP20,500 for elementary school education; and MOP22,800 for secondary education. These amounts represent increases of MOP600, MOP700 and MOP800 respectively, from the amounts granted last academic year.

In turn, free education allowances

provided to schools will also increase by the time the change comes into effect. The amounts, in terms of lower and upper bounds, for the infant and primary education sectors, where the number of students are between 25 and 35, are MOP913,600 and MOP1 million respectively.

As to general secondary education where classes comprise of 25 to 35 students, the subsidy is set at MOP1.2 million per class. Each senior secondary school class of the same size, gets a fixed amount of MOP1.3 million.

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Wynn Palace to open on August 22

WYNN Palace resort is set to open on August 22, according to an announcement made by Wynn Macau yesterday.

"The company expects that the opening of Wynn Palace will help launch a new era of prosperity for Macau, attracting more international tourists to the city and further supporting its development as a world center for tourism and leisure," the statement reads. It adds that the resort has started accepting room reservations.

The announcement follows the postponement on the opening of Wynn's newest casino in Macau, which is currently under construction in the Cotai Strip.

In November 2015, Wynn Resorts Ltd. said the opening of Wynn Palace would be postpo-



The under construction Wynn Palace resort

■ The resort has started accepting room reservations

ned by three months to June 25, 2016, because of construction delays. The general contractor, Leighton Holdings Ltd., notified Wynn at that time that it couldn't complete the Wynn Palace by the previously announced March date.

According to plans disclosed previously, the Wynn Palace will feature 1,700 hotel rooms, a lake with gondolas and fountains, meeting spaces, a casino, a spa, stores and food-and-beverage outlets. This is the first resort in the Cotai area for the company. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

PANDA Xinxin gave birth to twin cubs on Sunday, as announced in a brief statement made by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) to the media yesterday, at the IACM main building.

Xinxin gave birth to her first cub at 3.45 p.m. while the second one was born at 4.27 p.m., weighing 135 grams and 53.8 grams respectively.

After veterinary inspection, Xinxin and the first cub are in good condition, while the second cub is under 24-hour intensive care observation for being underweight.

Huang Wen Jun, a veterinarian from the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan province, informed that "it is very difficult to keep an underweight panda baby alive." However, Huang assured that caretakers will try their best to help the cub survive.

The Chairman of the Administration Committee of the IACM, Lei Wai Nong, said that the smaller cub will be under human care until it can be safely handed back to the mother.

At this stage according to the IACM, the gender of the cubs is not ascertained. However, in light of the current situation, all signs indicate the two cubs to be males.



A feeder takes care of the second newly-born giant panda cub in Macau



The giant panda Xinxin and her first new-born cub

Panda gives birth to two cubs

Regarding their names, Chan Hoi Fan Sonia, Secretary for Administration and Justice, told the media that "the IACM is at the time focusing primarily on providing the panda babies a comfortable living environment, therefore their

naming will be revealed to the media later." Information will be given to the public in the future.

The panda pavilion will be closed until July 11. IACM administration committee member Leong Kun Fong informed

that the pavilion is preparing a diary to keep track of the babies' growth. The public who are interested in knowing about the pandas' latest progress will be allowed to check this diary. The IACM will also print panda-themed post cards

and brochures.

On July 12, only the father panda Hoi Hoi will meet the visitors, according to Leong. He expects Xinxin and her cubs to meet the public when the cubs are six months old.

Staff reporter

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Uber sees growth in drivers and riders

Lynzy Valles

UBER, an online transportation platform that is in its 8th month of operation in the region is not only being used by locals but by tourists as well.

As the app is used in nearly 500 cities globally general manager of Uber Macau, Trasy Lou Walsh told a media gathering yesterday, noting that costumers from 150 cities used Uber in the territory.

Declining to comment on the controversy with local authorities (who previously claimed that Uber is operating illegally) Walsh revealed that the ultimate vision of the online app while operating in the region is to "make Macau a more livable city" for locals, also stressing that Uber can help boost the city's tourism image.

We usually hear from tourists that they love Macau but getting around to the historical areas and then getting back to the hotel is just very painful.

TRASY LOU WALSH



Trasy Lou Walsh

"We usually hear from tourists that they love Macau but getting around to the historical areas and then getting back to the hotel is just very painful," she told the Times yesterday.

Uber was launched in Macau in October last year as part of its expansion into Asia. While it first operated in the United States in 2010, Walsh noted that it was only in 2013 when

the company started its operation in Asia, with Singapore in its sights.

The general manager admitted that since the online transportation platform has been focusing on primarily expanding in China; in the span of two years it has expanded to between 40-50 cities, with an aim of providing the service to over 100 cities in China by the end of this year.

Although she refused to disclose the number of Uber drivers in Macau, she revealed that the number of drivers is increasing every day. "Driver numbers are not really something that we think are a very good indicator of how our business is growing," she stressed. "Because some drivers can work like one hour a week since we're a very flexible platform. Some drivers can be on-

line for over 40 hours a week. [...] We don't want to give a number to mislead [the media]."

The general manager said they want to maintain the average of a five-minute waiting time for Uber users, seeking to continually shorten the waiting time. She admitted that when Uber first started operation in Macau, the waiting time was 20 minutes.

"Now it's five minutes, so this is a good indicator of how much the business has grown in terms of drivers and riders," she noted.

According to Walsh, the main users of their services are the elderly and children, especially those who live in areas where taxis do not normally pass by.

The legality of Uber's service in Macau has been questioned by groups of taxi drivers and authorities. In November last year, the secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam sated that the service "violates the law and therefore is illegal."

Authorities said that the provision of such services is illegal and the region "has its own legal and public transport systems."

Nonetheless, Uber claimed they have created job opportunities for drivers who used to work in the casino VIP businesses and were affected by China's economic crackdown.

"Uber helped some of them to actually earn a living," said Walsh. "We hope to continue to do better and improve."

Singaporean scholar points out ways to diversify economy

IT remains problematic for the region to achieve the goal of economic diversification and draw investors to non-gaming projects, a Singaporean scholar told the Times yesterday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Pearl River Delta Academy of International Trade and Investment Law 2016 launch yesterday, Henry Goh, associate professor of Law at the Singapore Management University, stressed that the city needs better infrastructures to be effective in attracting investors to the non-gaming market.

Goh said that the city

needs to improve its education system so as to be able to attract investors to industries unrelated to gaming. He suggested that he believes this will take a long time.

The scholar also said that the region's trade and investment exhibitions are only useful to a certain extent. "Unless you have the infrastructure and the capable workforce ready, I don't think investors would come," he said.

He stressed that just because businesses are attending such massive exhibitions in the city, it does not guarantee that they will invest in Ma-

cau.

When asked whether the region has the capacity to train and further educate residents needed to diversify the economy, Goh pointed out the regional competition.

"Well it would be hard because nowadays Hong Kong and even China are already doing a lot of training. So the question is, why would people want to do it in Macau?" he said.

The professor also argued that Macau is "limited" in its aspirations without partnering with neighboring regions, noting that the city could

consider collaborating with other cities in the region such as Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

As the region has very limited land, the expert believes that affiliating with neighboring cities will allow Macau to create a synergy that will lead to a more effective way to diversify and "achieve a lot more than what it can achieve on its own."

Moreover the expert noted that the under-construction Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge is set to attract more visitors to Macau, allowing them to more easily ac-



Henry Goh

cess the region. Goh hoped that the bridge could also be a way to shore up the economy.

The training on international trade and investment law features courses focusing on international taxation, global governance, in-

ternational environmental law and China-India economic order.

The Pearl River Delta Academy of International Trade and Investment Law 2016 will continue with daily sessions until Friday at the city's Cultural Centre. **Staff reporter**



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Solaire Casino VIP entrance



Casino dealers work on their respective games at the Solaire Casino

Lynzy Valles

Solaire conducts brand campaign in Macau to lure Chinese high rollers

AS China's anti-corruption crackdown has driven away Chinese high rollers from Macau, the gambling market in Southeast Asia has been alerted to opportunities to lure away affluent gamblers.

A VIP-focused expansion is occurring, with the openings of Solaire Resort and Casino in 2013 and City of Dreams Manila last year in the Philippines, attracting not only well-heeled players but also junket operators.

Solaire has recently been campaigning its brand through muppies (a form of electronic roadside advertising), which can be found in strategic areas of Macau.

Conde Group, a creative marketing agency in Macau that is responsible for Solaire's brand campaign, disclosed to the Times that the campaign also aims to target Hong Kong visitors and tourists, in addition to Macau residents.

"The muppies used for Solaire campaigns are the most significant ones in strategic areas of Macau, such as business and tourist locations," said Rebecca Choi, director of Conde Group.

Although the Times contacted Solaire through the Group, Choi said that the resort has

declined to issue a statement regarding the targeted market of the campaign.

Choi added that the campaign will last a few months, using a variety of media advertisements including outdoor, print and digital ads.

Macau salaries are really high compared to here. The only benefit we have here is the luxury to be with our family.

ISIDRO MABAET
SOLAIRE F&B SENIOR SUPERVISOR
(FORMERLY WORKED IN MACAU)

Back in 2012, Solaire held a recruitment campaign in Macau, attempting to entice talented Filipino workers to move back to the Philippines.

According to Solaire's previous chief operating officer, Michael French, in an interview with Bloomberg in 2012, the company initially attracted over 400 Philippine nationals from Macau and Singapore to work at its resort and casino.

One of the successful applicants, Isidro Mabaet, who used to work as a food and beverage (F&B) server in Wynn Macau is currently a F&B senior supervisor in Solaire.

Just recently, he admitted that the salary offered to him and the other applicants was not as competitive in comparison to what they had earned in Macau.

"[There are] lots of differences when it comes to salary. Macau salaries are really high

compared to here. The only benefit we have here is the luxury to be with our family," he said.

Several Filipino nationals, who previously worked for Wynn and did not want to be identified, said that they had already adapted to the culture and the attitudes of Chinese gamblers, making it easier for them to culturally adjust.

"There's not much difference [in regards to the working environment]. The usual issue that we saw in Macau is that the locals are sometimes lazy," one of those employees told the Times.

"Another thing is that when we make a mistake here [in Solaire] it's black and white, they don't give considerations, unlike in Macau," said another.

Meanwhile, another Filipino F&B server in Wynn, who also requested not to be identified,

said that some of those who were hired by Solaire are now hoping to go back to Macau due to the high income tax rates in the Philippines.

She also revealed that there is a higher chance that foreign Chinese speakers will be hired in the integrated resort and casino in Manila, as Solaire has seen an increase in its Chinese players.

"We have colleagues who are from Vietnam, Taiwan and Malaysia who applied there and some of them were hired. They were offered PHP90,000 [around MOP16,400] plus house and transportation allowances, so for sure they'll accept the offer," said the F&B server.

Solaire Resort and Casino has yet to disclose whether it is planning another recruitment campaign in the city in addition to its ongoing branding campaign.

Hac Sa beach barbecue site to move to new location

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is conducting renovation works on the barbecue area next to the Hac Sa Beach, as indicated on the IACM website.

The barbecue site has been moved outside its perimeter closer to the entry of Hac Sa Beach, although it is separated from both the parking lot and the road.

According to the IACM, the department expects to improve the commercial environment available to all food



BLOOMBERG

vendors, and also to improve the city's tourism image through the restructuring projects.

The IACM is also carrying out a sewer expansion and traffic diversion project at the Hac Sa Beach parking lot, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Traffic restrictions have been implemented near the Hac Sa Park main entrance. The bus stop has been temporarily moved 65 meters toward the Avenida de Luis de Camoes. Additionally, a few

parking spaces in Hac Sa are currently closed, and will be available to visitors upon completion of the renovation project in September.

The IACM will gradually change the type of plants displayed in the parking lot. New trees will be planted and more benches will be installed in the vicinity.

Leong Kun Fong, member of the Administration Committee of the IACM, said that the IACM began the tree replacement in the area in 2011, having planted more anti-wind and salt-resistant trees, according to a report by All About Macau.



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opinion

Andy Mukherjee, Bloomberg

SINGAPORE PROPERTY GETS A PROP WITH A WHIFF OF BREXIT

For all the damage it's doing to a fragile global economy, Brexit might have some unintended positive consequences. Among them, perhaps, a soft landing for Singapore's wobbly property market.

With hindsight, the seemingly excessive SGD3.4 billion (USD2.5 billion) that Qatar Investment Authority paid BlackRock this month to buy an office tower amid a glut of commercial space could turn out to be a decent diversification, if not an altogether shrewd investment.

This might seem like an odd time to make a case for Singapore property. Office prices on the island peaked more than a year ago, after almost doubling over about a decade. Rents in business districts have fallen 10 percent in the past year. Roughly 700,000 square meters of office space was vacant at the end of March, and another 825,000 square meters of capacity is under construction. The worsening oversupply could easily push vacancy rates, currently 9.2 percent, a lot higher.

Yet Brexit does change the calculations on a relative basis. Large investors like QIA, which has invested USD38 billion in property around the world, are bound to pare their expectations for London real estate following Britain's vote to leave the European Union, and that might prompt some of them to seek yield in rival financial centers.

Hong Kong isn't too appealing, because of concerns about China's economic slowdown and debt overhang. Besides, the exuberant growth in Hong Kong property prices over a decade of China-linked frenzy makes its office market more vulnerable to a slide than that of Singapore.

Tokyo might have been another contender. But a strong yen could undermine the deflation-fighting credentials of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration. The rally in Tokyo property fueled by negative interest rates may not last.

Singapore's commercial property market, on the other hand, could see fresh inflows of capital alongside more obvious beneficiaries in continental Europe such as Frankfurt and Paris. That's more likely, however, to prevent a slump in prices of existing assets, rather than to lead to a rush by developers to build new towers.

Take QIA's purchase of Asia Square Tower 1, which BlackRock was hoping last year would fetch SGD4 billion or more. A 15 percent discount from those levels offers some cushion to the new buyer from lower rents. Even then, the eventual purchase price of SGD29,000 per square meter appears fully valued, given just how active banking-industry tenants like RBS and ANZ have been in shedding space.

A genuine recovery in Singapore's office market may not start before 2019. By then, new construction will be tapering off, and multinationals, including banks, will have greater clarity on where they ought to be expanding to compensate for cutbacks in London. Singapore can lay claim to some of that investment.

For that to happen, though, Indonesia and India - the two large economies in the city-state's neighborhood - ought to be firing on all cylinders, and Singapore has to begin easing its current clamp-down on foreign workers, which is becoming a drag on the island's competitiveness.

What the Brexit vote does is to hand the island a chance to work through its property glut without giving landlords a heart attack. The unexpected prop for Singapore's office market makes Qatar's pricey purchase appear clever, if not quite clairvoyant.

Italy said to weigh USD44b banks injection as Brexit hits

Sonia Sirletti

ITALY'S government is considering injecting capital into some lenders battered by a fresh selloff in the wake of the U.K.'s decision to leave the European Union, according to people with knowledge of the talks.

The government is weighing measures that may add as much as 40 billion euros (USD44 billion), said one person, asking not to be identified because the talks are private. The government may support lenders by providing capital or pledging guarantees, said the person. The amount is still under discussion and no final decision has been taken, according to the people.

Italy's government is seeking to stabilize a financial system, hurt by 360 billion euros of non-performing loans, sluggish economic growth and record-low interest rates after an earlier at-



tempt to set up a bad bank with public funds met with resistance from the EU. The country was among the hardest hit by Friday's market rout that wiped \$2.5 trillion from global equity values, with some of Italy's largest banks dropping more than

20 percent.

"The Italian banking sector's worries are far from resolved," said Jan von Gerich, a strategist at Nordea Bank AB in Helsinki. "The outlook for Italian banks was clouded even before Brexit and the new worries Brexit has created for the banking sector in general further darken the outlook."

Government and Bank of Italy representatives met over the weekend to discuss proposals, while also holding informal meetings with the European Commission, the people said. Italian authorities are monitoring markets and a decision on possible measures to support banks will be taken in the next few days, they said.

Governments are able to provide funds directly to banks under exceptional circumstances of systemic stress such as sparked by Brexit, without breaching state-aid rules. **Bloomberg**

TOURISM

Vietnam hosts over 4.7 million tourists in first half of 2016

VIETNAM has welcomed around 4.7 million tourists in the first half of 2016, an increase of 21.3 percent year-on-year, according to an announcement made yesterday by the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism.

In June alone, the country has received 700,446 international tourists, down 7.5 percent from May and up 29.8 percent year-on-year. During the six-month period, the Vietnamese tourism sector has also seen around 32.4 million domestic visitors.

The country's total tourism revenue from January to June period is estimated to be around 200.339 trillion Vietnamese dong (over USD8.98 billion), up 22.1 percent year-on-year, said the administration on its website.

In 2016, Vietnam set itself the target of welcoming 8.5 million international tourists and 60 million domestic visitors. The country is set to earn 370 trillion Vietnamese dong (USD16.59 billion) from tourism. **MDT/Xinhua**

corporate bits

'SHREK THE MUSICAL' SEEKING LOCAL CHILD TO PERFORM IN SHOWS



The producers of the Broadway hit show, "Shrek The Musical," are now seeking children from Macau to play the role of a young Shrek in the performance when it arrives in the MSAR next month. Auditions will be held on

Saturday, July 2 for the 21 shows that will be held between July 22 and August 7, 2016 at the Venetian Theatre.

"We can't wait for this opportunity to tap into the local talent pool here in Macau and give some young children an opportunity to perform on stage with seasoned professionals," said Tomos Griffiths, executive creative director for entertainment.

"Sands China is committed to bringing the world's best musical theatre entertainment to Macau and supporting local talents in the community," he added.

Applicants must be between the ages of 7 and 10 years olds, no taller than 144cm and must be available for all 21 shows.

CEM HOLDS ANOTHER SEMINAR ON ELECTROMECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) recently held its third annual seminar discussing the electricity supply application procedures and the development plan for local transmission and distribution power network.

According to a statement from CEM, some 30 participants from the Macao Association of Building Contractors and Developers, Macau Electromechanics Professionals Association and Macau Construction Association attended the talk.

Speakers of the seminar presented the application procedures and some vital points to note regarding issues such as the replacement of low-voltage main switchboards.



Aside from debating the future development of the region's transmission and distribution power network, the application procedures of electricity supply in buildings, electric vehicle charging systems and photovoltaic systems were also presented to the partici-

pants of the seminar. The statement concluded that the company would continue to organize related seminars in a bid to strengthen the communication and exchange between members in the electromechanical engineering industry.

Anne D'innocenzio, Dongguan City

INTERVIEW | DAVID LEUNG, ALCO ELECTRONICS

Look inside Alco Electronics Ltd.'s factory in China shows what it takes to succeed as a maker of gadgets for the rest of the world — human precision in tiny tasks and increasingly automated manufacturing, but also flexible thinking and perks to keep the best employees.

Chinese workers in blue coats and caps worked on a production line making tablets during The Associated Press' recent visit to the 2.5 million-square-foot plant. Their tasks can be tedious, such as soldering a connector onto a circuit board. Machines do things like inspect incoming circuit boards and tighten screws on tablets — automation that lowers costs and improves quality. A droning noise signals where tablets are undergoing testing for all functions for eight hours before they're packaged. That's critical to help reduce returns.

Sunroofs keep the production floor lit and reduce energy use.

The company, which counts Wal-Mart Stores Inc. as one of its top five retail customers, gets about 60 percent of its sales from tablets and other computer products. Nearly 70 percent of its annual sales of about USD330 million came from North America. It ships its products under the RCA and Venturer brands.

Alco, founded in 1968 to make AM/FM radios to export primarily to North America, has shifted with market demands. In 1980, it moved production from Hong Kong to China in search of cheaper labor. Due in part to automation and the changing labor market, it has about one-tenth of the employees it had at its peak of nearly 20,000 workers.

The company is now juggling customer demand for affordable but high-quality electronics as it wrestles with escalating labor pressures and other costs in China. David Leung, head of sales for North America, recently spoke with the AP about what's selling, the differences in the

'Chinese skipped all the shopping mall phenomenon, they jumped right into internet selling'

Chinese and U.S. markets, and what Alco needs to do to attract workers.

- So the tablet is hot?

David Leung (DL) - In the U.S., Wi-Fi is everywhere. So any device with the Wi-Fi capability is very popular. Content owners are putting the apps onto the tablet so they can sell directly to the consumer. We work directly with Wal-Mart on Vudu [which distributes movies over the internet to TVs]. The tablet is like a vending machine for your home. In peak times, we can do 40,000 [tablets] a day ... that is if all 200 components arrive on the same day.

- What kind of worker are you hiring?

DL - It is not a shoe factory or a garment factory. In general, we don't need a skilled worker. We need a disciplined worker, a worker willing to learn.

- How are you trying to attract workers given the labor shortage?

DL - Wages alone is not the biggest incentive. It's wages plus perks. We provide classes for

So although our factory is in China, selling in China is a brand-new market for us.



David Leung, head of sales for North America for Alco Electronics

them to learn in their free time. Many workers like to learn Cantonese and English as well. We also have karate classes, cooking classes. We have hired table tennis, basketball and yoga teachers to better their skills. We also host tournaments for volleyball, basketball, table tennis and badminton in our Sport Centre. Since we are now making electric bicycles for Europe, we also have a cycling team.

Whatever the worker likes to do, we will try to find a teacher.

- Where do you sell your products other than the U.S. market?

DL - Canada, Mexico. We ship to South America, Central America. And lately we're making shipments to India.

- What about China?

DL - At the moment, we do not do a lot of business in China. Our product is more geared for the overseas market. We are starting to do some China business. We [started] selling Window tablets in the China market using portals like JD.com. In China, the physical store is not a big thing. They all rely on the internet. So we need to do our product with different packaging that is more suitable for the internet. Many of the streaming portals are not available in China. Even YouTube is not available. Also, Google is not available in China so we have to redo all our software.

China is a very big country. We need to learn about the distribution channel in China. We've

been doing export market selling to the United States for the past 30 years. So although our factory is in China, selling in China is a brand-new market for us.

- How is marketing products in China different from North America?

DL - Online is No. 1 in China. China skipped all the shopping mall phenomenon and they jumped right into internet selling. So in order to sell to China, you have to find the right website. You have to really get into the social network to promote your product. It's not the advertisements on TV that is the most important. It's the advertisement through social networking that is key in the selling of your products. **AP**

China on schedule for launch this year of 2nd space station

CHINA recovered an experimental probe launched aboard a new generation rocket, marking another milestone in its increasingly ambitious space program that envisions a mission to Mars by the end of the decade.

Space program authorities said the spaceship's landing on the vast Inner Mongolian steppe keeps China on schedule to place its second space station into orbit later this year.

The launch of the spa-



A man holds a child as they visit a park with replicas of foreign and domestic space vehicles displayed in Beijing

ceship aboard the newly developed Long March 7 rocket on Saturday was hailed as a breakthrough in the use of safer, more environmentally friendly fuels. The launch also marked the first use of the massive new Wenchang Satellite Launch Center on the southern island province of Hainan.

Since launching its first manned mission in 2003, China has sent up an experimental space station, the Tiangong 1, staged a

spacewalk and landed its Yutu rover on the moon.

Its second space station, the Tiangong 2, is due to be slung into space in September.

Following that, the Shenzhou 11 spaceship with two astronauts on board is scheduled to dock with the station and remain for several days. Administrators suggest a manned landing on the moon may also be in the program's future.

A source of enormous

national pride, China's military-backed space program plans a total of 20 space missions this year at a time when the U.S. and other countries' programs are seeking new roles.

China is also developing the Long March 5 heavier-lift rocket needed to launch the Tiangong 2 and other massive payloads.

China plans to launch a mission to land a rover on Mars by 2020, attempting to recreate the success of the U.S. Viking 1 mission that landed a rover on the planet four decades ago. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum Klaus Schwab (right) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the World Economic Forum in Tianjin

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Top China envoy visits Vietnam ahead of court ruling

A top Chinese diplomat is visiting Vietnam ahead of a ruling by an international court on Beijing's extensive territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The visit by State Councilor Yang Jiechi, who outranks the foreign minister, comes as the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is expected to issue a ruling in a case filed by the Philippines contesting Beijing's claims to most of the South China Sea.

Beijing has rejected the arbitration, saying the territorial disputes should be negotiated directly between rival claimants.

Tran Cong Truc, former head of Vietnam's border committee, said Yang may try to lobby Vietnamese leaders on the issue, but that Vietnam's opposition to Chinese claims to virtually the entire region will not change.

Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh told Yang yesterday that ties between Vietnam and China will remain good despite the territorial disputes.

"We are glad to realize that the two countries' relationship continues its trend of positive development, despite some existing problems that need to be solved," Minh said after greeting Yang.

The two top diplomats also witnessed the signing of a memorandum on cooperation between the two countries' maritime police forces.

The two forces faced off against each other in May 2014 when China placed a giant oil drilling rig near the Vietnamese-claimed Paracel islands off Vietnam's central coast.

The oil rig incident plunged relations between the two Communist neighbors to their lowest point in years. Since then the two countries have been trying to mend ties.

Yang is in Hanoi to co-chair an annual conference on Vietnam-China cooperation. He was to meet with Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong and President Tran Dai Quang yesterday before departing today. **AP**

Beijing a potential winner in Britain-EU breakup

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA is a potential winner if Britain and the European Union rework trade deals and look for investors after a British exit.

Beijing faces a blow from weaker European demand for its exports and pressure to hold its yuan steady in turbulent currency markets. But economists and political analysts say if Britain and the EU split, both sides will look to cash-rich Chinese companies that are expanding abroad — with the possible bonus for Beijing of closer political ties.

"One of the benefits China can gain from 'Brexit' is a stronger and closer economic relationship with the U.K. and even with the EU," said Zhang Lihua, director of the Center for China Europe Relations at Tsinghua University in Beijing. "Both the U.K. and the EU need that kind of cooperation with China under the current circumstances."

Chinese leaders urged Britain to stay in the 28-nation EU and have avoided mentioning possible benefits of a split.

Yesterday, Premier Li Keqiang, the country's top economic official, said Beijing wants to see a "united and stable" EU and a "stable and prosperous" Britain — a possible reference to concern the vote might inspire separatist sentiment in other EU members or parts of the United Kingdom.

"We are seeing increasing uncertainties in the world economy," Li said in a speech at the World Economic Forum in the eastern city of Tianjin. "We need to jointly handle challenges, strengthen confidence and create a stable international environment."

Europe is China's biggest trading partner, and Chinese investors already see the region as more welcoming than the United States, where some acquisitions have been stymied by se-

curity concerns.

Chinese companies own France's Club Med, the makers of Pirelli tires, Volvo cars and Weetabix cereal and football teams Inter Milan of Italy and Aston Villa of Britain. London is the second-biggest center outside mainland China for settling transactions valued in Beijing's yuan.

Britain has technology China needs as the ruling Communist Party tries to evolve beyond low-skilled manufacturing, said Lu Zhengwei, chief economist for Industrial Bank in Shanghai.

Britain has technology China needs as the ruling Communist Party tries to evolve beyond low-skilled manufacturing

"China will benefit from industrial development experience in the U.K.," said Lu. "I do recommend seizing the opportunity to establish China-U.K. free trade to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries."

Closer economic ties could lead to warming political relations, Zhang said.

"The U.K. and the EU may become more friendly with China politically, but this is not what China tries to seek," he said.

Dealing separately with the two sides also might allow Beijing to reach agreements that might have been blocked previously by the need for Britain and Europe to agree, said Liu Yuan-chun, executive dean of the National Academy of Development and Strategy

of Renmin University.

"The political gain for China is bigger than the economic gain," Liu said.

Still, China also faces a risk that Britain's departure might leave other EU members free to take more forceful action on trade disputes including steel.

The EU and the United States accuse China of exporting steel at improperly low prices, hurting foreign competitors and threatening thousands of jobs. Washington imposed anti-dumping duties of up to 522 percent but British resistance blocked the EU from imposing higher tariffs.

In the short run, European uncertainty might depress demand for Chinese goods, but trade matters less to China than it did a decade ago. China is the world's biggest trader but exports as a share of the economy declined last year to 22 percent from 2007's 33 percent.

A more serious problem is downward pressure on China's yuan in currency markets, according to economists.

The British pound and the euro currency used by 17 EU countries have sunk relative to the dollar. As currencies of other developing countries also weaken, the Chinese central bank will be forced to decide whether to let the yuan, also called the renminbi, fall with them or stick closer to the dollar.

Last year, the People's Bank of China spent tens of billions of dollars to prop up the yuan after a change in the mechanism used to set its exchange rate allowed it to fall. That fueled expectations that Beijing was weakening the currency to boost exports and prompted investors to move capital out of China.

If the dollar gains against the yuan, "this could set off a renewed bout of fears over renminbi depreciation and a pickup in capital outflows," Julian Evans-Pritchard and Mark Williams of Capital Economics said in a report. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi (left) shakes hands with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh at the start of a bilateral conference in Hanoi

RELIGION

Fake monks? Buddhist leaders warn NYC tourists to be wary

Michael Balsamo, Associated Press

NEW York City Buddhist leaders are sounding the alarm to tourists: Beware the “fake monks.”

Men in orange robes claiming to be Buddhist monks are approaching visitors to some of the city’s most popular attractions, handing them shiny medallions and offering greetings of peace. They then hit them up for donations to help them build a temple in Thailand, and are persistent if their demands are refused.

“The problem seems to be increasing,” said the Rev. TK Nakagaki, president of the Buddhist Council of New York, a group that represents nearly two dozen Buddhist temples. “They are very aggressive and hostile if you don’t give them money.”

His group has taken to the streets and social media to warn people that the men appear to have no affiliation to any Buddhist temple. “Please be aware,” read one Facebook post, “this is a scam.”

■ Each claims to be a Buddhist monk collecting money for a temple in Thailand, but none could give its name or say where exactly it is located

Along the popular High Line elevated park, one of the robed men handed a couple a shiny, gold-colored medallion and a plastic beaded bracelet. He then showed them photos of a planned temple and barked, “Ten dollars! Twenty dollars!” When they wouldn’t give up cash, he snatched the trinkets back.

Other brightly robed men have been spotted pulling the same routine, albeit more successfully, in Times Square, not far from where costumed characters such as Elmo, Minnie Mouse and the Naked Cowboy take pictures with tourists for tips. Some of the monks were later seen handing wads of cash to another man waiting nearby.

The Associated Press tried to ask more than half-dozen of the men

about their background and the temple they said the donations were being used to support. Each claimed to be a Buddhist monk collecting money for a temple in Thailand, but none could give its name or say where exactly it is located. All the men refused to give their names and ran off when pressed for answers.

The men first started appearing at the High Line, a New York City public park that’s maintained by a private nonprofit group, about three years ago, said Robert Hammond, executive director of Friends of the High Line. But it “became excessive” in the past year, he said, with up to a dozen of the men accosting tourists at once and sometimes grabbing them to demand cash.

Panhandling on city streets isn’t illegal in New York, as long as the person isn’t acting aggressively. But the city’s parks department has a rule that says it is unlawful to solicit money without a permit from the parks commissioner.

When asked about the men, New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver initially said, “I have no idea what you’re talking about.” He later said that if the men aren’t abiding by the law, “the parks enforcement patrol will take care of it.”

But parks department spokeswoman Crystal Howard said parks enforcement officers hadn’t issued any summonses and the men’s actions were “aggressive panhandling,” a violation of state law that would be enforced by police. New York City police say that in the rare cases when someone has called 911 against the men, they were usually gone by the time officers arrived.

A few days after the AP inquired about the men on the High Line, several signs were posted there with photos of them, warning visitors not to give money to panhandlers.

Similarly robed men have been spotted in San Francisco, asking tourists to sign their “peace petition” before demanding cash. In China, authorities said the problem of “fake” monks begging in the streets prompted them to create an online registry of all actual Buddhist and Taoist sites.

In Times Square, the warnings came too late for tourist Rob Cardillo, of Pennsylvania. He gave a robed man USD10 to help out with his temple, without ever asking anything about the temple or what the money would be used for.

“He might be fake, but it’s the thought and I feel it,” Cardillo said as he gripped the gold medallion. **AP**



President-elect Rodrigo Duterte

PHILIPPINES

Duterte ready to clash with Catholic church on birth control

THE Philippine president-elect said yesterday he would aggressively promote artificial birth control in the country even at the risk of getting in a fight with the dominant Catholic church, which staunchly opposes the use of contraceptives.

Rodrigo Duterte, who is to be sworn to the presidency on Thursday, said having many children has driven families deeper into poverty, and he reiterated his recommendation for Filipinos to have three at most.

Known for his profanity-laden speeches, Duterte jokingly threatened to have penises of defiant men chopped off and cited his family planning program as a longtime mayor in southern Davao city, where he has offered cash rewards to villagers who volunteer to undergo free vasectomy or ligation and to doctors who perform the procedures.

“I will reinstall the program of family planning. Three’s enough,” Duterte said in a speech after a flag-raising ceremony in

front of the Davao city hall. “I’ve also been colliding with the church because it’s no longer realistic.”

It was not clear if Duterte would replicate the reward system nationwide.

Duterte praised former President Fidel Ramos, who backed his presidential candidacy, for courageously promoting contraceptives as the country’s first Protestant leader starting in 1992.

Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, also figured in a high-profile spat with the Catholic church for signing a 2012 reproductive health law that allowed the government to

finance the acquisition and distribution of contraceptives after overcoming a legal challenge by opponents.

Many politicians have tried to avoid colliding with influential Catholic bishops in the Philippines in the past by taking a vague position or not aggressively advocating contraceptives use.

Catholic leaders considered the law an attack on the church’s core values. Aquino’s government said it helped the poor manage their number of children in a country that has one of Asia’s fastest-growing populations.

Duterte has had an adversarial relation with the church. During the campaign, Duterte had a tiff with Catholic bishops after cursing Pope Francis due to a monstrous traffic jam during the papal visit in January last year.

Last month, Duterte blasted the local Catholic church as “the most hypocritical institution” and accused some of its bishops of asking for favors from politicians. **AP**

■ I will reinstall the program of family planning. Three’s enough.

RODRIGO DUTERTE



Nirmala George, New Delhi

India joins elite missile tech group controlling global sale

INDIA yesterday joined an exclusive club of countries controlling exports in missile technology, just a day after bemoaning its exclusion from another elite group that governs international nuclear fuel and technology.

Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar signed onto the Missile Technology Control Regime aimed at preventing the unchecked proliferation of missiles and their delivery systems.

The foreign ministry, in a statement issued soon after signing the accession document in the presence of the ambassadors of France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, thanked the other 34 members of the MTCR group for supporting its inclusion.

"India's entry into the regime as its thirty-fifth member would be mutually beneficial in the furtherance of international non-proliferation objectives," the statement said.

Admission in the MTCR was seen as the next step for India in legitimizing its nuclear energy and missile programs after it conducted atomic tests in 1998 that alarmed the international community.

The MTCR restricts the proliferation of missiles, rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles, or



Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar (left) receives membership papers for the Missile Technology Control Regime from French Ambassador Alexandre Ziegler (second left) Netherlands' Ambassador, Alphonsus Stoelinga (third left) and Luxembourg's Charge d'Affaires, Laure Huberty, in New Delhi

drones, and the technology for systems capable of carrying a payload of 500 kilograms for at least 300 kilometers, as well as systems intended for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction.

In 2008, India signed a landmark civil nuclear deal with the United States giving it some ac-

cess to nuclear materials and technologies.

Since then, India has been pushing for its inclusion in the various elite groups that control the export of nuclear materials and regulate technologies relating to conventional, nuclear, biological and chemi-

cal weapons.

India still hopes to secure support for joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group, despite strong objections from China.

Last week, at a plenary meeting of the nuclear group in Seoul, India's membership to the 48-nation group that controls access

to sensitive nuclear technology was shot down after China raised procedural hurdles.

India, still smarting over being denied entry, on Sunday hit out at Beijing, saying that the issue of its membership of the nuclear group was not going to go away.

External Affairs ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said New Delhi had taken up the issue with Beijing at multiple levels.

"We are going to continue discussing this with China. This is going to be an important element of our discussion with China. We will continue to impress upon them that relationships move forward on the basis of mutual accommodation of each other's interests, concerns and priorities," Swarup told reporters in New Delhi.

China is not a member of the MTCR, however. Beijing's application to join the MTCR is pending, leading to some analysts in New Delhi to say India could use it as a bargaining chip to leverage its entry into the nuclear group. **AP**

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SCOTLAND

Similar frustrations for Trump and Brexit voters



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

Jonathan Lemire & Jill Colvin, Maybole

At the heart of the campaign that led Britain to vote to leave the European Union was a desire to regain independence lost amid a globalized world. It's the same kind of feeling that Donald Trump rode to become the presumptive Republican nominee in the U.S., where he campaigns to put "America first" and "make America great again."

"I love to see people take their country back. And that's really what's happening in the United States," Trump told reporters this weekend during a visit to his golf resort in western Scotland.

The anxiety that drove the stunning "Brexit" decision has been brewing for at least a decade in the United Kingdom, as waves of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe arrived and the global economy was plunging into recession. In the years since, right-leaning leaders have stoked populist concerns about their impact on wages, as well as fears about the loss of ethnic identity, which runs deep in parts of largely white rural England and Wales.

"There's a real feeling things have changed and they've changed too fast," said Muriel MacGregor, filling up her car at a BP station on her way to work as a clerk at a hotel in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The move to divorce the UK from the 28-nation bloc and Brussels was celebrated by those who felt the changing country has lost its way

MacGregor, 52, said that, unlike many of her friends, she proudly voted for "leave. [...] This isn't the country I remember from growing up. I don't know exactly what happens next. I don't think anybody does. But I really feel like we needed something different, because this isn't working," she said.

Britain's vote shattered the stability of continental unity forged after World War II and sent markets across the globe tumbling. But the move to divorce the U.K. from the 28-nation bloc and its government in Brussels was celebrated by those who felt the changing country has lost its way since linking up with the rest of Europe.

"Absolutely wonderful, best news ever. We want England — or Great Britain — to come back how it was years ago,

and it's going the way that we want it to go," said Allen Laurence, 65, a vendor at the Billingsgate Fish Market in East London. "I am pleased, very pleased, for the country overall."

Their voices echo the millions of American voters who have flocked to support Trump. The billionaire businessman has tapped into the same concerns about a too-quickly-changing country that has left too many behind, and he's pledged to halt illegal immigration and bring back manufacturing jobs lost to factories overseas.

Many see his "Make America Great Again" slogan as a vow to return the country to a time when they believe America was the undisputed world leader. In President Barack Obama, they see an American leader too quick to apologize for his country.

"I want us to take America back," Shirley Sharpe, a Trump supporter from Greensboro, North Carolina, said this month. Sharpe, 61, who works as a caregiver to her elderly father-in-law, said that she's been dismayed by the country's direction under Obama.

"We have all been just wiping up the dirt. And it's like — we need to take our country back for us," she said. "We've got to take care of ourselves before we take care of immigrants or somebody else. We've got to take care of our own."

For Chad Benson of Dallas,

Georgia, it's time for America to reassert its greatness.

"I think what separates Donald Trump from the other candidates is this: He is pro-American," said Benson, 40, who works in the power industry. "He's proud to be an American. He wants Americans to be proud to be Americans again."

Benson complained that Obama "seems to put other countries before the American people."

Of particular resonance in the U.S. has been Trump's approach to immigration. Voters across the country frequently cite Trump's plan to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico and his pledge to deport all of the estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally as the reasons why they were first drawn to the candidate.

For Jose Portillo, 55, of Los Lunas, New Mexico, Trump's immigration plan is central to his appeal. A union member who works in the freight business, Portillo was a lifelong Democrat until he changed his registration this year to vote for Trump. He said he's fed up with people who are in the country illegally, and argues that they take advantage of the system as he works hard to play by the rules.

"There's too many deadbeats living off the system," said Portillo, who works an overnight shift. "I wish I could start building a broom with steel bristles so he could start cleaning house."

Lanhee Chen, who served as a policy adviser to 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, said there were undeniable similarities between the sentiments in both countries, including deep concerns about the impact of foreign workers. But he cautioned that key differences remain.

"The U.K. election was ultimately a referendum on policy and on that sentiment," he said. The U.S. election is a personality contest right now."

For Trump, however, the parallels are clear.

"People want to take their country back," he said. "They want to have independence, in a sense. And you see it with Europe, all over Europe, you're going to have more than just, in my opinion, more than just what happened last night." AP

LONDON

Treasury chief tries to calm fears over referendum fallout



Chancellor George Osborne

BRITAIN'S Treasury chief sought yesterday to ease concerns about the vote to leave the European Union, saying the economy is as strong as it could be to face the uncertainty — even as a survey showed many companies are looking to move business out of the country.

In his first public appearance since Thursday's referendum, George Osborne stressed that Britain's economy is in a far better position than it was at the start of the 2008 financial crisis.

"It will not be plain sailing in the days ahead," he said. "But let me be clear. You should not underestimate our resolve. We were prepared for the unexpected."

The leaders of Germany, Italy and France will be huddling in Berlin to discuss the vote, trying to hone a common message that negotiations need to get underway quickly on the exit so as not to continue the uncertainty.

Questions remain about exactly how the exit would happen, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said yesterday that there will be no informal talks on conditions until Britain invokes Article 50 of the EU treaty, which will trigger the process for leaving. Prime Minister David Cameron has said he will resign and his successor, to be chosen by the fall, should be the one to navigate that process.

In the first direct reflection of such uncertainty on business confidence, a leading business group says 20 percent of its members plan to move some of their operations outside of the U.K.

The Institute of Directors said yesterday that a survey of its 1,000 members showed that three out of four believe that Britain's exit from the EU, known as Brexit, will be bad for business.

The pound hit a new 31-year record low, dropping another 3.3 percent to USD1.3227. Stock markets also declined across Europe. AP

Panama Canal opens USD5b locks, bullish despite shipping woes

FIREWORKS exploded as a huge container ship made the inaugural passage through the newly expanded Panama Canal yesterday [Macau time], formally launching the Central American nation's multibillion-dollar bet on a bright economic future despite tough times for global shipping.



The Chinese-owned Cosco Shipping Panama went through the Atlantic locks at Agua Clara in the early morning, sailed the 80-kilometer passage to the Cocoli locks near the capital and passed into the Pacific in the evening, stewarded by tugboats and cheered by dignitaries and exuberant crowds of thousands.

The USD5.25 billion project went online nearly two years late after construction delays, labor strife and apparent cost overruns, but officials were still bullish and in a celebratory mood as they declared the expanded canal open for business. "This is an achievement that all of us Panamanians should

be proud of," President Juan Carlos Varela said at the inaugural ceremony on the outskirts of Panama City. "Today marks a historic moment for Panama, for our hemisphere and the world."

"This new transit route is the tip of the iceberg in making Panama once again the logistics center of the Americas," canal

administrator Jorge Luis Quijano said. "And it represents a significant opportunity for the countries of the region to improve their infrastructure, increase their exports."

Crowds that began gathering before dawn lined both sides of the canal waving flags, partying to salsa music and watching videos on giant screens. Authori-

ties said about 30,000 people and eight foreign heads of state were attending.

"It's a one-time experience, a great achievement," said Felicia Penuela, a homemaker from Colon province. "Panama is showing the world that even though it is a small country it can do great things."

The Cosco Shipping Panama is a 48.2 meters, 300 meters behemoth that is one of the modern New Panamax class of mega-vessels that are seen as the future of global shipping and will now be able to use the canal. It carried some 9,000 cargo containers during the inaugural voyage and now heads to South Korea.

The waterway's capacity doubles with the new locks, and canal authorities are hoping to better compete with the Suez Canal in Egypt and tap new markets such as natural gas shipments between the United States and Asia.

"The Panama Canal, with this

expansion, is an important player not only for regional maritime commerce but worldwide," said Oscar Bazan, the Panama Canal Authority's executive vice president for planning and commercial development. "The canal is a winning bet."

Authorities said that 85 percent of the 166 reserved crossings scheduled for the next three months are for container ships. Container cargo accounts for nearly 50 percent of the canal's overall income.

Panamanians at the ceremony expressed hope that the expansion will help the economy in a country where about 25 percent of the people live in poverty, something that Varela echoed in his remarks.

However, the party comes amid a lull in global shipping due to the drop in oil prices, an economic slowdown in China, which is the canal's second-largest customer, and other factors that have hit the waterway's traffic and income. **AP**

AD

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what's ON


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 BY JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm Daily (No admission after 5:30 pm;
 Except on Mondays, open on public holidays)
 VENUE: Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida,
 No. 95 C-D, Macau
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

ARTS IN THE MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30 pm,
 closed on Wednesdays, opens on public holidays)
 ADMISSION: free
 VENUE: Travessa de António da Silva, No. 10
 (near Lilau Square)
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

BLUE ROOM IN THE SKY
 - EXHIBITION BY BLUE CHAN

TIME: 10:30am-6:30pm
 (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)
 UNTIL: June 30, 2016
 ADMISSION: Free
 VENUE: 10, Calçada da Igreja de S.Lazaro, Macao
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS
 - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS
 OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (No admission after 5:30;
 Closed on Mondays; Free admission on Sundays)
 VENUE: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
 ADMISSION: MOP5
 ORGANIZER: Cultural Affairs Bureau
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

THE ENCHANTING RED BOAT

TIME: 10am-6pm (no admission after 5:30 pm; closed
 on Mondays; open on public holidays; free to public on
 15th of every month)
 UNTIL: October 9, 2016
 ADMISSION: MOP15
 VENUE: Praceta do Museu de Macau 112
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

CAFÉ SOCIETY

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on public holidays)
 UNTIL: June 30, 2016
 VENUE: Rua de Abreu Nunes 14B Edf. San Pou R/C - A
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 6307 3797
 FACEBOOK: The Perfect Moment

Offbeat

**US: WIFE OF NATION'S LOWEST-PAID
 GOVERNOR TAKES WAITRESSING JOB**

The waitress bounded with a cup of chowder and a plate of fish and broccoli.

It was Ann LePage's first double shift at McSeagull's, a bustling restaurant touting double-wrapped bacon scallops and views of Boothbay Harbor.

The wife of Maine Republican Gov. Paul LePage had kept a low profile for the first few weeks of her summer job. But then her husband told a crowd at a recent town hall that his wife took a job to "supplement" his USD70,000 salary, the lowest of any U.S. governor.

The LePages live with their dog, a Jack Russell terrier mix named Veto, in the Augusta governor's mansion and bought a \$215,000 Boothbay home two years ago. The governor recently tried but failed to increase his successor's salary to \$150,000, above the nearly \$135,000 average for all 50 state governors in 2015.

Ann LePage said being a waitress is "something I've always, always wanted to do."

Her daughter Lauren made \$28 an hour last summer at McSeagull's. LePage said she spent years taking care of her mother, who long suffered from scleroderma and passed away in October.

Now it's time to follow through on her interest, LePage said, adding: "I know she'd be proud of me."

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
15:00	UEFA EURO 2016 - Round of 16: Italy - Spain (Repeated)
16:50	UEFA EURO 2016 - Round of 16: England - Iceland (Repeated)
18:40	Helena's Shadow (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:10	Sports
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:15	TDM Interview
21:45	Happy Endings S3
22:10	Helena's Shadow
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	Sports (Repeated)
01:00	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

23 JUN - 29 JUN



INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

ROOM 1
 (2D) 2.30, 4.45, 9.30 pm
 (3D) 7.15 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich
 Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,
 Bill Pullman
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 120min

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

ROOM 2
 (2D) 2.30, 4.30, 9.30 pm
 (3D) 7.30 pm

Director: James Bobin
 Starring: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp,
 Helena Bonham Carter
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 113min

KIDNAP DING DING DON

ROOM 3
 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Wilson Chin
 Starring: Ivana Wong, Alex Fong, Kabby Hui,
 Bill Chan
 Language: Cantonese (Cantonese/English)
 Duration: 98min

NOW YOU SEE ME 2

ROOM 1
 2.30, 4.45, 7.15, 9.30 pm

Director: Jon M. Chu
 Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo,
 Woody Harrelson
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 129min

MACAU TOWER

23 JUN - 07 JUL

INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE

2.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30 pm

Director: Roland Emmerich
 Starring: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum,
 Bill Pullman
 Language: English (Cantonese)
 Duration: 120min

this day in history


**1958 ALGERIA PRISONERS FREED
 TO WIN MUSLIM SUPPORT**

France has ordered the release of 30 Algerian political prisoners in a move aimed at winning Muslim support over French plans for the colony's future.

General Charles de Gaulle has already unveiled proposals for local elections in Algeria - and for a referendum of all French citizens on changes to the constitution which would give him far-reaching powers as president.

He was invited back as French prime minister on 1 June to deal with the civil war in Algeria which was threatening to spill over into France. General de Gaulle was viewed as the only man capable of ensuring the obedience of French generals in Algeria.

The crisis in Algeria reached a head on 13 May when an army junta seized control of Algiers and General Raoul Salan announced that the army was in charge of the country's destiny.

There have been a growing number of casualties in the war between those who wish to see Algeria remain a French colony and the Muslim nationalists who want the colony to break its ties with France.

At a meeting of the Council of Ministers in Paris today plans were discussed for limiting the powers of the French military authorities in Algeria.

It is understood the leader of the insurrection, General Salan, will remain in control but only temporarily. A new military commander in chief is to be appointed to replace him and he is to be relieved of his civil powers.

During a visit to Algeria earlier this month, the General spoke of giving equal rights to all Algerians whatever their race or creed, whether they were French settlers or Muslims.

He referred to the Muslim rebel forces who had put up "a brave fight" and had to be brought back "within the French fold".

He also promised everyone would have a vote in the local elections. Until recently, pressure from the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) would have made it impossible for Muslims to express their opinions freely.

The General is returning to Algeria later this week.

Reports from Algiers suggest General Salan and his ruling Committee of Public Safety are making a number of demands. There are also claims that 100 or so "undesirables", members of political parties and civilian officials, have been expelled.

A statement issued by the group made clear the insurrection was only suspended and "the spirit of 13 May" would spread to mainland France unless General de Gaulle pushed ahead with Algerian integration.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

General de Gaulle went on to become the first president of the fifth republic in December 1958.

His initial plan to end the civil war and create an Algeria closely linked to France in which Europeans and Muslims would join as partners met fierce opposition.

In September 1959 General de Gaulle dramatically reversed his stand and used the term "self-determination" for the first time. He envisioned majority rule in an Algeria formally associated with France.

In 1961 Mr de Gaulle began talks at Evian which led to an agreement for Algerian independence.

In July 1962 the country was declared independent. French officials estimate the eight years of terrorism and warfare leading to independence cost 350,000 lives - Algerian sources put the figure much higher at 1.5 million.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your parents are affecting your activities today, even if they're not really part of your life anymore.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your good energy spills over into your mood and lifts you up, at least a bit.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're in the mood for a bargain - though that could just mean not shopping at all!

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your mood is terrific and your energy levels are topped off - so get busy on something exciting!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your inner warmth is making life sweeter for friends and family, so make sure that you're communicating with them clearly.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 A friend comes to you looking for a favor - but it may turn out that they can do more for you than you can for them.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You've got to stick to your own business today - try not to let anyone distract you or drag you away for their own purposes.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's a good time for socializing, especially with those of a like mind.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You need to adjust to the situation - you can't just barrel through on your own this time.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Be open to new ideas - you need to make sure that you're not just going through the same old motions.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you've got pets, they need you today - maybe a lot more than usual!

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your feelings for friends and family are heightened today - and they come right back at you!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

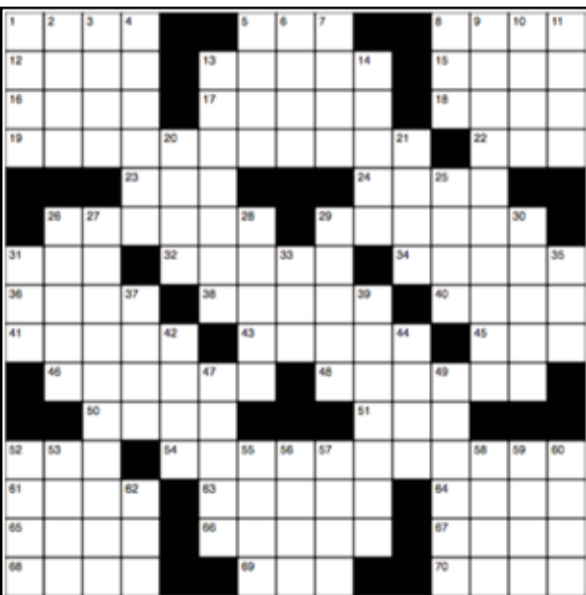
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Western Indians; 5- Take a load off; 8- Old Italian money; 12- Cry of a goose; 13- Speed contests; 15- Draft rating; 16- Movie-rating org.;

DOWN: 1- Resistance units; 2- Drink to excess; 3- ___ even keel; 4- Moved over ice; 5- Kemo ___; 6- Desktop picture; 7- Nipple; 8- Mauna ___; 9- Restlessness;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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

Real estate listings for various properties in Macau, including Nova Taipa, Family apartment, Va Nam Unit B, St. Paul Ruins, Bauhinia Court, Modern Apartment, Tou Un, and Houston Court.

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

EURO 2016 | ROUNDUP

France, Germany and Belgium reach quarterfinals

FRANCE, Germany and Belgium sealed their places in the quarterfinals of the European Championship on Sunday [and yesterday, Macau time] as three of the pre-tournament favorites lived up to their promise.

There was a scare for the host nation after Ireland scored a second minute penalty, but Antoine Griezmann struck twice after the break to give France a deserved 2-1 victory in Lyon.

While France was made to work hard to advance, Germany had no such difficulties in a polished 3-0 victory over Slovakia, while Eden Hazard inspired Belgium to what ended up as a crushing 4-0 win over Hungary.

The goals and the quality of the football over the three games were a marked improvement on the dire performances witnessed on Saturday when Poland, Wales and Portugal advanced.

The relief was palpable at the Stade de Lyon after France finally overwhelmed an Ireland side that had led through Robbie Brady's spot-kick, after France midfielder Paul Pogba bundled Shane Long to the ground.

Ireland chased for every ball and worked tirelessly to



Belgium's Eden Hazard (right) celebrates scoring his side's third goal during the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between Hungary and Belgium, at the Stadium municipal in Toulouse

defend its slender lead. But Griezmann's two goals in the space of three minutes midway through the second half saw the natural order restored, and a red card for Shane Duffy in the 66th minute all but ended the contest.

"When Ireland took the lead it made us a bit more uncomfortable in the first half," France coach Didier Deschamps

acknowledged. "They showed a lot of enthusiasm, but we had to dig deep, get through the situation and get in front."

France's reward is a quarterfinal next Sunday [Monday, 03:00] at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis.

Germany scored early and never looked back against a Slovakia side that had surprisingly beaten Joachim Loew's world champions in a friendly last month.

Jerome Boateng broke the deadlock after just eight minutes in Lille with a deflected shot, his first goal in 63 appearances for Germany.

Mesut Ozil missed a penalty shortly afterward, the first by a German player at a European Championship since 1976. But

Mario Gomez stabbed home Germany's second just before the break after a clever cutback by Julian Draxler, who then volleyed home the third midway through the second half.

"Now the games that we're looking forward to are coming," Gomez said. "They're why we came to the European Championship. Of course we want the title. And for that you have to beat such teams."

If Slovakia proved to be a relatively easy proposition, the same cannot be said of Germany's next opponent in the quarterfinal to be played on Saturday [Sunday 03:00] in Bordeaux.

Hazard may be coming off a very mediocre season with Chelsea, but he lit up the Sta-

de de Toulouse on yesterday.

After Toby Alderweireld headed Belgium into a 10th minute lead, Hazard turned victory into a rout in the closing stages.

He began by surging past Hungary's defense on the left side and sending over a low cross for substitute Michy Batshuayi to steer home in the 78th minute — just two minutes after coming on.

■ The goals and the quality of the football over the three games were a marked improvement over previous dire performances

The Chelsea playmaker then followed up by scoring a spectacular solo goal, breaking down the left on a counterattack before cutting inside, skipping past three Hungary defenders and curling a shot into the bottom right corner.

Substitute Yannick Ferreira Carrasco struck the fourth in added time as Belgium lined up a quarterfinal against Wales on Friday [Saturday 03:00] in Lille.

"We should have been 3-0 up after the first half," Belgium coach Marc Wilmots lamented. "We kept the game 1-0 too long. We needed too many chances, and in big games we usually don't have so many chances."

There could be no such complaints about Hazard.

Asked if it was his best performance for Belgium, Hazard simply said "Yes," before breaking into a smile. **MDT/AP**

LATEST RESULTS

Switzerland	1 (4)	1 (5)	Poland
Wales	1	0	N. Ireland
Croatia	0	1	Portugal
France	2	1	Ireland
Germany	3	0	Slovakia
Hungary	0	4	Belgium

EURO 2016 | ANALYSIS

Sunday schedule gives France a chance at Euro 2016

Graham Dunbar, Paris

All times expressed are Paris local time (GMT+2)

ON any given Sunday, a rested France team will play at the European Championship.

In tournament soccer where a team's matches typically come every four days, France's schedule is more like a club team.

On Sunday, June 19, France drew 0-0 with Switzerland to ensure first place in its group.

That earned France a match against Ireland in the round of 16 exactly one week later. The hosts won 2-1. Next Sunday, France will return to Stade de France for a quarterfinal match against either England or Iceland.

That leisurely route through Euro 2016 compares favorably to the relatively hard schedule for Portugal — a possible opponent in the final on another Sunday, July 10. The team led by Cris-

tiano Ronaldo is now on a Wednesday-Saturday-Thursday program for its equivalent matches — three in eight days instead of the 15 days for France.

Portugal had only two full days of rest after a 3-3 draw with Hungary on Wednesday, which left Ronaldo and his teammate in third place in Group F.

In the round of 16 on Saturday, Portugal was rewarded for a cautious and often spoiling per-

formance with a 1-0 win over Croatia in extra time.

"We know we have not enough time to recover," Portugal midfielder Joao Mario said before facing Croatia. "But if you get to the knockout stage, you always feel energized."

Ireland coach Martin O'Neill did not see it that way after being ousted by France.

Like Portugal, the Irish had played its final group match on Wed-

nesday, three days after France had completed its group.

"It is incredible. It is really incredible," O'Neill told British broadcaster ITV after seeing his players tire in Lyon and lose a lead they had held since the second minute. "Three days is far too much, it is genuinely too much, and it took its toll on us in the second half."

Ireland expended a lot of energy late into Wednesday evening — in a

Lille stadium made humid by the retractable roof being closed — to score an 85th-minute winning goal against Italy that it needed to advance.

"Physically it was very, very demanding. We definitely got the short straw in that aspect," O'Neill said of match schedule designed by UEFA.

"France, it looks as if it was geared for them to win their group, which they did. Well done

Tales Azzoni

LIONEL Messi's surprising decision to stop playing for Argentina could damage his legacy with the national team and fans back home.

If Messi sticks to his announcement, made in the heat of the moment shortly after Argentina's penalty shootout loss to Chile in Sunday's [yesterday, 08:00] Copa America final, Argentina will be left dwelling on the fact that it was not able to win any significant title despite having one of the best players of all time.

Many fans back home didn't like the fact that he thrived in his adopted country Spain but failed to consistently produce brilliant performances with the national team.

Some national team fans resorted to social media, calling their biggest star a quitter and saying that the 29-year-old would still be young enough to at least try to help Argentina win the coveted title in the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Messi moved to Barcelona in 2001 when he was 13 and never seemed to be as welcome at home as he was in Spain with the club that made him the star he is today. His connection with Barcelona grew stronger over the years and some fans back in Argentina were bothered by it, especially when success continued to elude the national team.

"I think this is best for everyone. First of all for me, and then for everyone," Messi told the Argentine network TyC Sports not long after missing a penalty kick in the shootout. "I think there's a lot of people who want this, who obviously are not satisfied, as we are not satisfied reaching a final and not winning it."

Messi was clear about his intentions but a change of heart cannot be ruled out considering he was speaking after just falling short of the title in heartbreaking fashion.

them," the Ireland coach said. "It will sound from here now as if that's an excuse [for losing] and that's not meant to be."

UEFA said the schedule it uses was well established to spread a maximum of seven games for the two finalists into a 51-match program over 31 days.

"The calendar is a consolidated pattern used in other 24-team tournaments, including previous World Cups," UEFA said in a statement.

Still, the 31-day program applies only to France, which began on June 10. Portugal started against Iceland on June 14 and is looking at

a 27-day tournament to reach the final.

However, one aspect of the schedule could work against France and coach Didier Deschamps as they seek to match the 1984 European Championship and 1998 World Cup teams which won titles on home turf.

Because France is in the bottom half of the draw, it would play in the semifinals on a Thursday — possibly against Germany — and have only two days off before the final.

It is a quirk of a schedule that spreads quarterfinals over four consecutive evenings, each starting at 1900 GMT, yet pushes

the semifinals into Wednesday and Thursday of the last week.

A lesson of the 1982 World Cup, when both semifinals were on Thursday before a Sunday final, shows it can be challenging.

France faced West Germany in the later kick off on a hot evening in Seville, Spain, and played an epic, grueling semifinal to a 3-3 draw after extra time. The Germans won the penalty shootout, and faded in the second half of a final that Italy won 3-1.

That is a risk France will surely take at Euro 2016 if it is playing on July 10 — a Sunday. AP



Argentina's Lionel Messi waits for trophy presentations after the Copa America Centenario championship soccer match

MEANWHILE IN AMERICA...

Messi's retirement from Argentina could hurt his legacy

"It's been four finals, it's not meant for me," Messi said.

Messages sent to Messi's agents seeking further comments yesterday were not immediately answered.

If Messi doesn't reconsider the decision and indeed ends his international career without a major title, he will fall further behind former great Diego Maradona in the always lively discussion in Argentina about who was the best player of all time, Maradona or Messi.

Some of Maradona's best moments came while wearing the jersey of Argentina, which he

led to the World Cup title in 1986 and to a runner-up finish in 1990.

Messi played in three World Cups, taking the team to the final in 2014 but playing a lackluster game in the loss to Germany, when he missed an easy scoring chance early in the second half that could have changed the outcome.

Messi's only triumphs with Argentina came at the 2005 Youth Championship, a tournament played with under-20 squads, and the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, when he helped the team win the gold medal. He

lost three Copa America finals (2007, 2015 and 2016) and was on the team eliminated at home in the 2011 quarterfinals of the South American competition.

"That's it, I've already tried enough," he told TyC. "It pains me more than anyone not being able to be a champion with Argentina, but that's the way it is. It wasn't meant to be."

With Barcelona, it has been nothing but success for Messi, who led the Spanish giants to four Champions League titles and three Club World Cup trophies. He also won eight Spanish league titles, scoring 453

competitive goals in 531 games, including a league-record 312.

He is Argentina's career leading scorer with 55 goals in 113 international appearances.

Argentina's next competitive match is a World Cup qualifier against Uruguay in September, but now it's uncertain what kind of team it will have then, as other players from Messi's generation may also decide to leave the national team.

Messi, meanwhile, is expected to return to preseason with Barcelona in Spain, where it should be another successful season for him at the club level. AP



France coach Didier Deschamps (right) celebrates at the end of the Euro 2016 round of 16 soccer match between France and Ireland, at the Grand Stade in Decines-Charpieu, near Lyon

opinion

Our Desk
 Renato Marques



**ABOUT THE RULES...
 AND THE EXCEPTIONS**

As someone once said, "the less educated people are, the more rules they have." This quote suggests that education is somehow opposed to regulations. Is this really true? I wonder...

But before I start, I must say that I originally thought about writing something different. My idea was to simply make a list of rules, or better, prohibitions in the style of: "Things people cannot do in Macau's public swimming pools," but since this column is limited to 600 words, I quickly changed my mind as I wouldn't be able to fit in even half of them.

Still, I kept the topic on rules: the rules we follow, the ones we don't follow, the ones we request legislators to add and the ones we simply want to scrap from the regulation books.

Business magnate Richard Branson once said, "You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing, and by falling over." His different approach suggests that experience plays a main role in the learning process.

In my opinion, it is all about respect and it does not matter if you are talking about rules for swimming pools, school activities, work, relationships, religion, sports or politics.

You can have totally different visions of the world, but if you respect the viewpoints of others, even if you don't agree with them - I would say you had walked halfway toward your goal already.

And thinking about this, I would say that what is lacking most of the time is not rules but respect for others in the understanding that "me" is as important as "you," and "me," together with "you," are stronger and more capable than "me" and "you" alone.

So the problem is not the fact that you are drinking or eating something in a public space, let us say a public swimming pool, for example. But instead, if the way you do it (drink or eat) causes harm, discomfort or stress or any kind of negative consequences for the others, then it is a problem.

The same applies for a bus frequency timetable, which may state that a bus would come every 10 minutes. This is not because it is a rule for it to come every 10 minutes but because people are waiting for the bus every 10 minutes in order to go on with their lives and if it does not come on time but 20 or 25 minutes late, that might be enough to create a problem.

The same happens for the "noise law," which was created to give some "peace" to people, especially in residential areas. The law is defined by rules that state the amount of noise you can or cannot make within a certain time. It is great because it is "universal," but it does not take into consideration that people do not always work during the day and rest during the night, working during the weekdays and rest on the weekends. There are exceptions, and in this city, I would say that the exceptions should be in a very high number since many people work on shifts at all time of the day.

Well, in that case, we need to add something else that needs to be respected.

In the novel "Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austin written in 1811, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood are two sisters living with the consequences of life (and death). The sisters' highly contrasting personalities separate them making one very rational and the other very emotional. The problem is only solved in the end when both of them find their own... balance.

**THE SINGAPORE AIRLINES JET CATCHES
 BUZZ FIRE, BUT ALL PASSENGERS SAFE**

Singapore Airlines said yesterday there were no injuries when a jetliner caught fire after returning to Changi Airport because of an engine warning. The Boeing 777-300ER was on its way to Milan when it turned. It said the aircraft's right engine caught fire after Flight SQ368

touched down more than four hours after taking off. "The fire was put out by airport emergency services and there were no injuries to the 222 passengers and 19 crew on board," Singapore Airlines said. The passengers were transferred to another aircraft, it said.



Station	Air quality	
Roadside	10-30 Good	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

**After Dalai Lama met
 Lady Gaga, China
 warns of his motives**



The Dalai Lama greets Lady Gaga (right)

CHINA warned people to be aware of what it said are nefarious motives of the Dalai Lama after he met with Lady Gaga on a trip to the U.S. and spoke about love and compassion.

"The purpose of his visits and activities in other countries is just to promote his proposal for Tibetan independence," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said yesterday.

Beijing regularly vilifies the Tibetans' spiritual leader as a political figure who advocates splitting the Himalayan region of Tibet from the rest of China. The Dalai Lama says he simply wants a higher degree of autonomy under Chinese rule. On Sunday, before

speaking at a conference in Indianapolis of American mayors, he met Lady Gaga.

“We hope that people from the int'l community can be fully aware of [the Dalai Lama's] true colors and nature.”

HONG LEI,
 FOREIGN MINISTRY

The official website of the office of the Dalai Lama reported that Lady Gaga interviewed him in an exchange streamed live over Facebook. The singer asked how to help young people with self-esteem issues or who harm themselves and he said "paying more attention to inner values like love and compassion are the right approach."

Asked about the Dalai Lama's meeting with Lady Gaga, Hong said: "We hope that people from the international community can be fully aware of his true colors and nature."

The Dalai Lama also met with President Barack Obama two weeks ago, drawing condemnation from China. AP

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES President-elect Duterte says he will aggressively promote artificial birth control in the country even at the risk of getting in a fight with the dominant Catholic church, which staunchly opposes the use of contraceptives. More on p12



SPAIN's center-left Socialist party rejected acting PM Mariano Rajoy's proposal to form a "grand coalition" with his conservative Popular Party a day after it won the country's unprecedented repeat election. PP won 137 seats in Sunday's vote, which was still short of the majority in the 350-seat Parliament.

BREXIT Angela Merkel says she understands Britain may need 'a certain amount of time' to begin Brexit negotiations. Merkel's spokesman rejected 'informal' exit talks before the UK files formal notice of leaving the European Union.

MARKETS European stocks and the pound fall further as concern grows over the potential economic costs of Britain's vote to bring its country, the world's fifth-largest economy, out of the European Union.

NEW ZEALAND is poised to toughen its disclosure rules for offshore trusts in the wake of the massive data leak known as the "Panama Papers." Tax expert John Shewan yesterday released a report recommending a big increase in the amount of information disclosed when a foreign trust sets up, as well as increased annual reporting requirements and enforcement.

USA A record 43 million Americans are expected to travel this Independence Day weekend, with the overwhelming majority driving, according to AAA, a car lobbying group and one of the nation's largest travel agencies. This tops the joint record set last year. Lower gas prices, strong consumer confidence and a generally healthy domestic economy have led more families to take trips this summer.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Wong Maye-E



North Korea. Men and women work in rice fields in eastern Kangwon province. Its capital, Wonsan, was one of the cities chosen to be developed into a summer destination for locals as well as tourists.